



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2022

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Monday, Tuesday, Friday
Maryanne Hewitt (*Reception & Administration*)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)
Tuesday and Thursday
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office
Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
0429 923254
St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.



*The persistence of the widow
is the heart of today's Gospel.
She constantly pleads for what she needs.
So too will God hear the cry
of those who call on him.*

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—17th October

Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

2:00pm Funeral Liturgy for Istvan Varga @ Mayfield West

Tuesday—18th October

Feast of St Luke

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

2:00pm Funeral Mass for Michael Collins @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

Wednesday—19th October

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—20th October

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

10:30pm Funeral Liturgy for Moira Burke @ The Junction

Friday—21st October

9:50am Rosary for Ukraine @ The Junction

10:15am Mass @ The Junction ** Cancelled this week

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—22nd October

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—23rd October

MISSION APPEAL WEEKEND

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

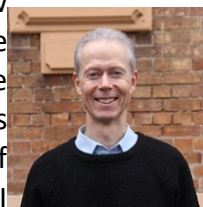
5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

*Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—
www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton*

FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear friends, Over these next few weeks our Year 12 students will be sitting for their HSC exams. For these young people, and for their teachers and parents, it's the culmination of years of preparation and study. So, I ask that you specially keep them in your thoughts and your prayers.



Over the next 2 weeks, I shall be away on annual leave and would like to take this opportunity to thank those of our retired priests who will be helping out with Masses in our region during this time, especially Fr John Tobin and Fr Kevin Kiem. I am also grateful to Fr Greg Arnold for filling in over these last 2 weeks with Fr Bob Searle being away. In some of our churches you may see collection bins from Catholic Care or Vinnies asking for donations of non-perishable food items. If you see one of these bins and are able to contribute in this regard, it would be greatly appreciated.

And, as we approach the first anniversary of Bishop Bill Wright's death next month (13th November), we continue to pray that we will soon receive an announcement regarding the appointment of a new bishop for our diocese.

Love,
Fr John



PRAYER FOR HSC STUDENTS

We pray for our Year 12 HSC students as they begin their Higher School Certificate Examinations.

Lord, we ask that our students feel your presence during the HSC exam period. We pray that you give them calm nerves and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold them in the palm of your hand. Bless them with keen understanding, retentive memories and the ability to grasp questions correctly. We pray that you will send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge. We ask this through Christ our Lord

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19

2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18

Lk 18:9-14



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Karen Varnum, Esme Kelly, Errol Marshal, James Meighan, Violanda Rossetti, Evon Karanges

ANNIVERSARIES: Frank Fois, Michael Karanges, Elva Margaret Searle, Jennifer Hickey, Tom White, Tony Magriplis, Jack Gale, Mary Whalan, Jim Cathcart, Zoe & Kevin Lawler, Arthur Richards, Martin Crittenden, Maurice Crittenden, Merv Guillier

SICK: Helen Tumbers, Phil Bawden, Madge Humphries, Ronnie Jennings, Eileen Howard, Eva Grant, Colin Bryant; Maureen Sunman, Maree Halbert, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Peter Skinner, Tiani Bishop, Tom Parker, Sam and Margaret Broad, Ronald Watt

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

BEQUESTS

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region of Parishes continue its important mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, you might consider including us in your Will. You would just need to specify which parish or parishes you would like to help with your bequest. Thank you!

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

Meets via zoom on October 19 for Lectio Divina
Join us @ 7pm via Zoom. All welcome!

FOOD BASKET FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food e.g. (Vegemite, cornflakes or breakfast foods, sugar, packet or tin soup, sardines, tea, coffee, tin fruit etc but NOT PEANUT BUTTER), can be placed in the basket at the back of St Joseph's Church. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. Thank you
Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523/4967 2998
Collection baskets also at Tighes Hill.

BEYOND THE WALL: STORIES OF LGBTIQ+ SPIRITUALITY & TRANSFORMATION

Saturday 29 Oct. 2022, 10:30AM - 12:30PM
Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland
Bookings essential: www.trybooking.com/CBWHI
For more information contact:
LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

PRAYER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW BISHOP

Shepherding God

you reveal your way of unfailing love
in the image of the Good Shepherd
who seeks the lost,
shows compassion
knows and is known by the sheep
and lays down his life for them.

We your people of Maitland-Newcastle
are without a bishop to shepherd us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit
who moves through this great south land,
inspire the choice of our new Bishop,
empower his 'yes'

and open our hearts in hospitality and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us
Mary MacKillop of the Cross pray for us

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th November @

6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss *The Bullet that Missed* by Richard Osman. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

BOOK CLUB

IN NOVEMBER

WE REMEMBER



In November, we take time to pray in a special way for those who have died.

On Wednesday—All Souls' Day (2nd November):

5pm Remembrance Mass & Columbarium Liturgy @ Sacred Heart Cathedral.

We offer Mass to remember those whose funerals were celebrated in Sacred Heart Cathedral this year. After Mass, we will move to the Columbarium to remember and pray for all those whose mortal remains rest in the Columbarium area.

On Friday (4th November):

10.15am @ St Joseph's. Remembrance Mass for family members of those whose mortal remains rest in the St Joseph's Columbarium

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation is available at **Sacred Heart Cathedral: Usually Fridays** from **11am** until **11.55am** and on Saturdays from **about 10.30am** until **11am**. Other times available by appointment.

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays, either during or after our Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

A **Sacramental Preparation** process runs each year in the parishes for children wishing to complete the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation as part of the community of the parishes of the Region. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

For adults who wish to become part of the Church, the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** for those who have not been baptised, and the process of **Reception into Full Communion** for those who have been baptised in other churches. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

Weddings are celebrated by arrangement with at least three (and preferably more) months notice. Please contact the Regional Office for more details, or visit the website.

A DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

As the liturgical calendar leads to Year A and the Gospel of Matthew, we are excited to have Dr Michele Connolly rsj Associate Professor of Biblical Studies Catholic Institute of Sydney, visit the Diocese. The day will include both presentation and discussion around the literary structure, organisation, history and intended audience of the Gospel of Matthew.

Issues for Interpretation, comparison with other Synoptic Gospels; the ancient historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds and Matthew's prominent themes will be explored.

Several pieces of scripture will be unpacked and interpreted on the day.

Date: Thursday 10 November

Time: 9:00AM – 3:30PM

Where: Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

Cost: \$25 (includes Morning Tea and Lunch)

Registration: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-day-on-the-gospel-of-matthew-tickets-413966584197

REFLECTION

Keep Praying

Persistence! That's a customary explanation given for the point to the Gospel story; only the way we have often presented it is to cast the judge in the role of the God-figure. Consequently, in our usual dramatic portrayals, God is implicitly the one who is slow to listen to the pleas of a poor and vulnerable widow — a woman without a husband, without status, without income, without security. According to this account, God only grants the woman her claims because she pesters him to the point that God loses his patience and reluctantly gives in. Persistence triumphs!

But there's a problem with the picture this story paints. The judge, the God-figure, does not come across as someone we would want to emulate. The Gospel story tells us that he neither "feared God nor respected any human being." Beyond that, the sense we get is that God is someone to bargain with, or pester to the point of wearing him down.

Fr. William Bausch, in the publication *Hungry, And You Fed Me*, suggests another possible way to understand this story. The question he asks is: "Why not see the widow as the image of God?"

So if the widow is now pictured as the God-like figure, it becomes possible to arrive at a whole new meaning for this parable. From this perspective the message is still about the importance of persistence, but the persistent one is now presented as that person who — often against all odds — keeps resisting injustice, keeps renouncing discrimination, keeps opposing bigotry in all its dimensions.

The widow, then, takes on the role of a Rosa Parks, a person who endured until justice was achieved. The original meaning of the Gospel passage is still maintained, only now it becomes the constant commitment to seek justice wherever it is being denied. This stance then insists we refuse to relent in our requirements to provide our children with adequate education. It insists that all of us demand that our prisoners are treated with respect, that our elderly are able to afford an adequate pension, that our planet is respected as a God-given gift.

It's a story about persistently hungering and thirsting for justice. The problem, though, is that throughout human history, multitudes have begged God to grant relief to those who are burdened with pain and sorrow. And yet injustice remains. Peace seems

hopeless. Bigotry persists. As a consequence, many lose heart. They find that perseverance in the face of repeated horrors is one of the greatest challenges that human beings have to face. ...

For years now I have heard the word 'Wait!'... This 'Wait' has almost always meant 'Never.' We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that 'justice too long delayed is justice denied.'" Today's Gospel story ultimately becomes the Christian answer to the painful reality of justice delayed and denied: namely, that God's plan for a kingdom of justice and peace will eventually be accomplished. In the meantime, we are called to "pray always without becoming weary."

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Different View

Convincing God

Does this teaching about the need for continual prayer mean that God needs to be convinced of our cause? Does a one-off prayer not get heard? Is God swayed by the force of numbers? Can the prayers of ten people carry more weight than the prayers of one? All these questions miss the point of the parable. It is not God who needs our prayers, but we who have to recognise, through prayer, our need for God's mercy and gracious love. The constancy of prayer is not to convince God but to remind ourselves of our dependence upon God.

THE CHUCKLE

Seen while passing by a church:

"Get in touch with God by knee mail."



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

The Interfaith Dialogue will explore leadership within different faith communities. Join us as we explore what is the same or different – and what we can learn from each other. This is an opportunity to join the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council and other faith communities. The event is being hosted at the Mackillop Pastoral Centre (7 Milson Street, Charlestown) from 6.30pm to 9pm on Thursday 3 November. A light supper will be served, for catering purposes, please register online by 31 October. Register here: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/interfaith-dialogue-tickets-410277560227

DIOCESAN REFLECTION DAY ON OUR SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS

You are invited to attend the Diocesan Reflection Day on our Spiritual Foundations marking the anniversary of Bishop Bill's death. To be held on Saturday 12 November, 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start and finish at 3.00 pm. There are various locations to choose from including, Victor Peters Suite-Newcastle West, San Clemente High School - Mayfield, St Pauls High School - Booragul, Catherine McAuley College - Medowie, St Joseph's High School – Aberdeen and St Clare's High School – Taree.

The six hubs will allow people to gather together in a close by location and enjoy fellowship with each other. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea and lunch with those attending.

The reflection purpose will be:

- To gather and reconnect with our diocesan people
- To pray, reflect and engage with one another
- To reflect with our diocesan foundational principles
- To renew our sense of community after months of restrictions

Registration is open now. It will close on Monday 7 November.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/diocesan-reflection-day-on-our-spiritual-foundations-tickets-433215227407>

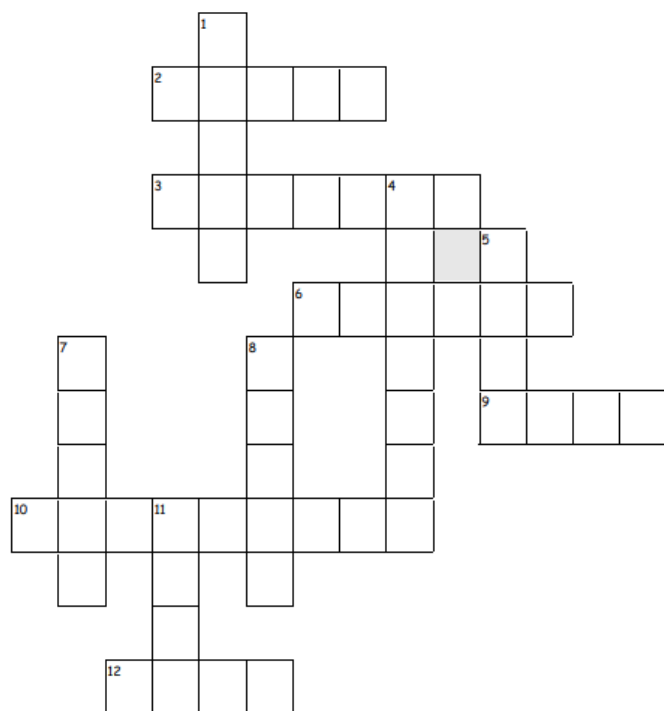
CARITAS AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of the Caritas Australia Newsletter is out now. Be inspired by several different stories. It's available here: www.caritas.org.au/media/itfpfgxg/caritasnews_spring-2022_digital-fa-1.pdf

CROSSWORD

Keep praying and God will help you

Lk 18:1-8



Across

- 2: someone who passes judgement
3: keep safe from harm
6: selected
9: speak to God
10: worried
12: to be afraid of something is to have _ _ _ _

Down

- 1: rush
4: bent, not straight
5: to lend a hand
7: a person whose husband or wife has died
8: a tale
11: to look after something or someone

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Preach God's word to all

2 Tm 4:1-2
Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5 R.v.3
Lk 18:1-8

H I N S T R U C T Q C A R E
D G B T W I T N E S S W E L
B U F M X U Z Q J U I N L S
F J R X Q H H B T D K I H J
X Q D Z S P O P U L A R E J
W E J U D K F J P I I Y K B
O O Y K S J H R O W S I N S
A O S W W H J K U I P R A Y
E A L U D P H J J D S R Y I
K L I V I N G H F O Q S O J
X K K I N G P U C W Z K H N
P Q F S Q S F R L A M L D P
R L K O G C R R J U D G E Q
F E A R Q A X Y J U N H S F

Try to find these words:

care
fear
hurry
instruct
judge
king
living
popular
pray
sins
widow
witness

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF MINISTRY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE: BR. DAMIAN PRICE RETREAT

The Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People is hosting a retreat on Saturday 29 October 2022 with Br Damian Price. Attending guests will have the option to attend a second Strategic Vision Planning Day on Sunday 30 October from 10am-3pm at the Newcastle Diocese Meeting Rooms. Br Damian Price is a Christian Brother of the Oceania Province; he has worked in youth ministry for years. The retreat will be based on the following words from Pope Francis:

"An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelisers thus take on the "smell of the sheep" and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. An evangelising community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be."

For more info or to register, visit:
www.eventbrite.com.au/e/diocesan-council-for-ministry-with-young-people-br-damian-price-retreat-tickets-418380706957

THE CHOSEN EXPERIENCE – SEASON ONE

We invite you to join us in soaking up to the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine.

We welcome you to join us to view the first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ.

The Chosen is a series which brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness such a transformation of each of his first followers.

Each Thursday evening during October and November join us to share a meal, watch and discuss the episode. The Chosen Experience commences on October 6 at 6pm in the Murray Room, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West, we hope to see you there.

To register to go: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-experience-tickets-413816475217>

AMeN caMiNo INFORMATION SESSION

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

Dates for 2023: June 17-21, July 8-12 & August 5-9

An online Information Session for people interested in attending the aMeN caMiNo in 2023 will be hosted on 9 November from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/amen-camino-information-session-2022-tickets-412683817407>

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? A PARABLE ABOUT GOD

When Jesus tells the parable about the widow and the judge, he is actually painting a picture about God for his disciples. This is not to suggest that God needs to be worn down by persistence, but rather it is a description of what God is not. If such a wicked and unjust judge can eventually be worn down, how much more quickly will God respond to a just cause? Yet the parable is told to reinforce the need to pray continually. The continuous prayer is not to wear God down – like the judge – but rather to demonstrate the genuine need.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Sacred Heart Cathedral Columbarium whose anniversaries occur in October:

Nash Azzopardi

Gwen Burke

Bernard Francis Callaghan

Leslie John Dodds

Reginald Gilbert

James Haggerty

Kevin Hittit Hinit

Mark (Walter) Kearney

Anthony Keelan

Andrew Mainey

Aleksander Maliszewski

Sandra Martin

Thelma Martin

Terence Murray

Ivy Petherbridge

Hilda May Pilgrim

Ian Ray

Kathleen (Mardi) Rooney

Judith Sphiris

Brian Trenaman

Peter Tynan

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 16:6,8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading: Ex 17:8-13

*As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel
had the advantage.*

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 120. R. v.2

- (R.) Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. (R.)
 2. May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. (R.)
 3. The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. (R.)
 4. The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. (R.)

Second Reading: 2 Tm 3:14 – 4:2

*This is how the people of God become equipped
and ready for every good work.*

Gospel Acclamation: Heb 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 18:1-8

God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other
across the Diocese from your own home.
God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and
then through artist's images of the Gospel message.
Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

NEVER LOSE HEART

Luke's community lives at a time when hope for an
imminent return of Jesus is fading. The initial
enthusiasm of faith is wearing thin with the constancy
of living in a society where Christian values are odd.

The images in the parable are strange. The community
is presented as a helpless widow. In the patriarchal
society of that time, a woman without a male provider
would be the most powerless. God is portrayed as a
judge having neither a religious nor a social sense of
responsibility. So the parable begins with one
absolutely in need, with nothing to offer, and one with
no sense of any moral claim to respond to the
woman's need. The judge eventually gives in to the
widow purely out of concern for himself, as the
translation reads, 'She will worry me to
death' (literally, 'punch me in the face'! ... The
reasoning is that if this unjust person will do the right
thing for someone he doesn't care about, then surely
we can trust that a loving God will do the right thing
for us. Even though prayer seems to go unanswered,
don't give up on God.

The images point to the humanness of prayer. A
woman wants justice. A judge wants peace. Prayer is a
simple activity we can take part in anywhere and
anytime. I often pray when I'm out walking or driving
for in these times of solitude it is easy to begin a
dialogue from my heart and let God know my current
concerns. There's no need to save up prayer until
you're in a holy place, or a prayerful position. Bring
God into your daily activities and discover God as
friend.

© Mary Coloe

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, on Wednesday at
7.30am and Friday at 11.00am. All are welcome,
including new meditators.