



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 22 JANUARY 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, YEAR A

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell

Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction

PO Box 6, The Junction 2291

P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644

E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)

Tuesday and Thursday

Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)

Monday

Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
0448463679

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.



Somewhere in our consciousness, we all want to be part of something great: to make our mark on history in some way. And for those men who became the Lord's Apostles, it was no different. It seems John the Baptist had promoted the coming of the Messiah so well, that when each of them got their call –

Simon, Andrew, James and John received their call in today's Gospel – they jumped at the opportunity, leaving homes, families and businesses, without hesitation, to follow Jesus.

We might wonder how their families felt about this. In the enthusiasm of their response, had they left home and family without a goodbye? Would they ever see their dear ones again? We are not sure. But what we *do* know is the Apostles in answering the call of Jesus, joined themselves to the greatest undertaking in all history: throwing open the doors of Paradise to peoples of all nations. In *our* answering the Lord's call to *us* in *our* time, we are also part of this.

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 PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Third Week of Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday—23rd January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—24th January

Memorial of St Francis de Sales

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—25th January

Feast of The Conversion of St Paul

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—26th January

Australia Day

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (note change of time for Australia Day)

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—27th January

9:50am Rosary for Ukraine @ The Junction

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—28th January

Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas

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—29th January

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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 and on the Diocese website*

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rosemary Williams (Melbourne)
Sr Mary Martina Bell rsj, Maria Rohr, Thelma Roll

ANNIVERSARIES: Maureen Burke, Msgr Allan Hart, Matthew O'Dowd, Sr Colleen Casey rsj, Colleen Winterford, Bernard Hogan, Bernadette Flannery, Kenneth Crittenden, Bertha Roche, Terry Griffiths, Will O'Neill,

SICK: Roslyn McGovern, Patricia Quayle, Christine Dowling, 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 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.

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

2023 LENTEN REFLECTION

FINDING LIGHT WITHIN THE DARKNESS

Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, Finding Light within the Darkness. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community.

This resource will be available at the end of January.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13;

1 Cor 1:26-31

Mt 5:1-12

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Israel is depicted as the servant of the Lord, and it is through this people that God will be glorified. The verb suggests that God boasts through Israel. There is probably a reference to the exile here, and it will be the mission of the servant to bring the people back to the Lord. The spectacular return of the scattered exiles and their re-establishment as a people will be seen as the work of God. The mission that originally focused on the rebirth of one nation is then broken open to include the salvation of all. This is what 'light to the nations' suggests.

The psalm response speaks about thanksgiving for release from some difficulty; dedication to God who is the saviour; and personal witness in the midst of the community. The psalmist does not repudiate the sacrificial system, but insists that God desires an interior commitment that will result in a life of righteousness and faithful worship. The response closes with the psalmist standing before the worshipping assembly and publicly proclaiming the wondrous acts of salvation that God has accomplished. The subject of this public proclamation is the justice or righteousness of God. The psalmist contends that commitment to God and reliance on God's adherence to covenantal promises will assure blessing.

The Letters to the Corinthians are some of the most important Pauline correspondence that we have. Paul begins his self-identification by applying to himself the designation 'apostle'. The word means one who is sent by another, sent with a commission. Paul states that he was called to be an apostle; the initiative was not his. Moreover, he is an apostle of Jesus who is called the Christ (the anointed one). This means that Jesus, the one who died before Paul came to know him, called Paul and sent him out as an apostle. In these three short verses we see the outline of Paul's Christology. He considers Jesus the Christ or anointed one, and he proclaims that Jesus is the source of the sanctification and well being of others.

The gospel reading includes John's report of the baptism of Jesus and his interpretation of that event. He identifies as Jesus the Lamb of God, most likely a reference to the Suffering Servant found in Isaiah 53:7-10. Calling him the Son of God is an allusion to Jesus' divine character. John then contrasts Jesus and himself, as well as the efficacy of their respective baptisms. John baptised with water; Jesus will baptise with the Spirit, a reference to the prophetic promise of future cleansing with water and the gift of God's spirit (cf. Ezek 36:25-26). While John may well have perceived Jesus as the fulfilment of messianic expecta-

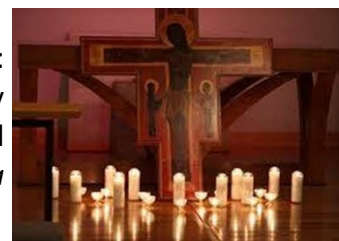
tions, it is unlikely that he would have expressed this faith in Christian theological terms. The writer of the gospel has given John the faith that we now profess.

STOCKTON Conference of St Vincent de Paul would like to express our sincere thanks to our parishioners for their wonderful contribution to our Advent collection, which went towards our Christmas Hampers, and for their generous donation of \$495.00 towards our Christmas Appeal. Also a **Very Big Thankyou** to the children, parents and teachers of St Peter's Primary School for their wonderfully generous collection of tinned goods and specialty items that made our Christmas Hampers to Stockton families in need, something truly special this year.



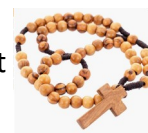
TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday February 5:
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic Church Tighes Hill
5.00pm – 6pm *followed by a
shared supper.*



ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

Pray the Rosary from 9.50am on Fridays at
St Joseph's Church, The Junction.



BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 5 February @ 6:15pm:

Bookclub meets to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email the office

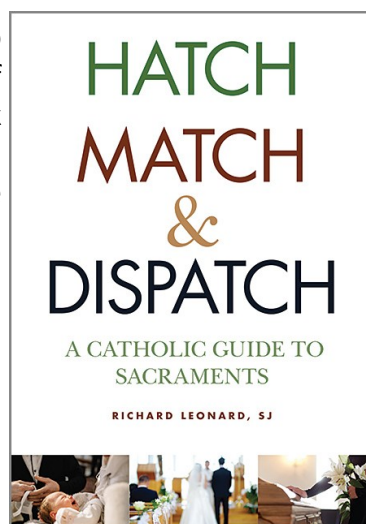


VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT:

Returns 8th February to discuss chapter 1 of Richard Leonard's book "Hatch, Match, Dispatch: A Guide to the Sacraments."

The book is available from Paulist Press

[https://
www.paulistpress.com/
Products/0650-9/hatch-
match-and-dispatch.aspx](https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/0650-9/hatch-match-and-dispatch.aspx)



REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate
The Voice of Jesus

There are certain news readers or presenters on the radio or TV one wants to switch off: something in the voice grates. Others, one could listen to endlessly: something about the tone is so attractive.

Jesus' voice must have sounded fascinating: something about it perfectly vocalised his attractive and fascinating personality.

It gave true voice to who he was, and this is what proved so alluring to those four fishermen, two sets of two brothers.

It is an extraordinary situation.

These men were running successful fishing operations, family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and *called* them, the Gospel says, *at once* they left their boats and followed him.

Immediately, they allowed this stranger to wrench them out of their place in society, in the commercial life of the Sea of Galilee. Without any further ado, they gave up their status as independent and settled businessmen and became dependent itinerants.

How did this come about?

They were Jewish. Their Jewish scriptures and tradition would have prepared them, filled them with longing and expectation for the Messiah. They were in a state of readiness.

Then, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God, for whom they had been listening.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' *

Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything, abandoning their livelihood, for the chance to have *their* souls contoured along the same lines.

And then, the call: 'Follow me...', the call not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

At some stage, you will hear his fascinating voice, and a decision will be required: a decision of faith.

'Come, follow me.' The faith required is not a peculiar sort of knowledge about this or that. 'Faith' is setting out on a journey in the hopeful conviction that *this* Jesus *is*

the person who wants to set me on the Way which is most life giving,

the person through whom I can receive divine mercy,

the person in whom I can share victory over death,

the person by whom I am called to participate in Divine life.

The Nazarene is calling.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John are also beckoning: 'Take the risk of joining us. Let us together follow the sound of that voice which reverberates throughout all creation, the sound of that voice which perfectly articulates Divine Truth and Beauty, the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ.'

* John O'Donohue, *Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*, Bantam Press, p.246.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? PEOPLE IN DARKNESS

The passage from Isaiah that is quoted in the gospel, speaks of the people who dwell in darkness. The passage is addressed to the Jewish tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali – two of the twelve tribes. These two tribes lived in the northernmost part of Palestine and their lands were surrounded by Gentiles. Any non-Jew was regarded as living in darkness because they did not have the light of 'truth', but these two tribes also dwelt in darkness because they were surrounded by it. Regardless, the passage asserts that all who dwell in darkness (Gentile and Jew alike) will receive a great light.



WE GRIEVE

We all grieve

Experiences of grief are stepping-stones in our human journey

'We Grieve' is an opportunity to explore our understanding of change, loss and grief

We have all experienced so much change and loss these last three years because of COVID and the normal rhythm of life.

Seasonal changes in nature provide us with rich insight into how life is constantly evolving. This eternal cycle of change and loss offers a message of hope.

Using the Seasons for Growth educational program as the foundation for this 3-hour session we invite you to join the conversation – to share and learn together, to gain some new insights or perspectives, and to move towards healing and growth.

All are welcome: family, friends, neighbours ...

FACILITATOR: Benita Tait

DATE – TIME - VENUE

Wednesday 1 March 2023 @ 5.30 – 8.30 PM

OR

Saturday 4 March 2023 @ 2.00 – 5.00 PM

Both held in the Toohey Room @ Cathedral House,
841 Hunter St Hamilton (beside the Sacred Heart
Cathedral)

REGISTER & ENQUIRIES: by 17 February 2023

P: 4979 1101

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

**“When we lose someone
we love,
we must learn
not to live
without them,
but to live with the love
they left behind.”
(unknown)**



BECOME AN SRE VOLUNTEER

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator?

This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics.

You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries team on 4979 1200.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Repent

Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel repeated a cycle of behaviour. When their relationship with God was strong, they upheld the covenant and they prospered. They would forget that their prosperity lay in being in right relationship with one another and with God and so they would neglect those relationships. They would turn so far away that some tragedy or oppression would befall them. Out of their despair they would recognise their need for God and they would 'repent' and re-establish their relationship with God. Jesus' call to repent is a call to looking at the relationship with God in a whole new way.

PEW LOOKING FOR GOOD HOME

There is a 4 metre meranti timber pew at Christ the King Mayfield West if anyone wants it. It has been put outside.

THE CHUCKLE

Little Eddy and his mum were digging for fishing bait in the garden. Uncovering a many-legged creature, Eddy proudly dangled it before his mom.

“No, honey, it won't do for bait,” she said.

“It's not an earthworm.”

“It's not?” Eddy asked, his eyes wide. “What planet is it from?”



REFLECTION

From Darkness to Light Sue Robb

Today's readings are filled with contrasts: rich and poor, darkness and light, division and unity, withdrawal and leadership. Speaking to us today, Isaiah offers the image of rich nations being humbled. He foretells the coming of a savior from the poor, lowly land of Galilee. The second reading revealed the division in the early church as the newly baptized searched for their identity, aligning themselves to the one who baptized them. Paul had to remind them that the fledgling church had only one leader, Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ. Paul boldly challenged the people of Corinth, and challenges us today, to be "perfectly united in mind and thought." In our Gospel, we hear that Jesus (who was, indeed, perfectly united in mind and thought with God) withdrew after hearing of John's imprisonment, moved to Capernaum, and from there began calling forth those who would be his disciples. Finally, Psalm 27 proclaims "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?" We can imagine David, and even Jesus, calling out to the Lord in their darkness and fear. Two millennia later, we continue to call upon God to lead us out of our darkness.

In our human experience, it is difficult to truly know the strength of the light unless we have experienced some form of physical, emotional or spiritual darkness. We can't know the peace of unity without experiencing the pain of division. We can't know the impact we can have on one person or on our world without seeing the emptiness caused by solitude and scarcity. Historically, division has had disastrous results—think of elections!

Following in the footsteps of Isaiah and Paul, luminaries such as Mahatma Gandhi, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and today, Pope Francis have shown us that we can live lives of peace and unity. Our challenge is to find methods to apply them in our country, in our communities, in our workplaces, in our homes, in our places of worship, and most importantly, within ourselves.

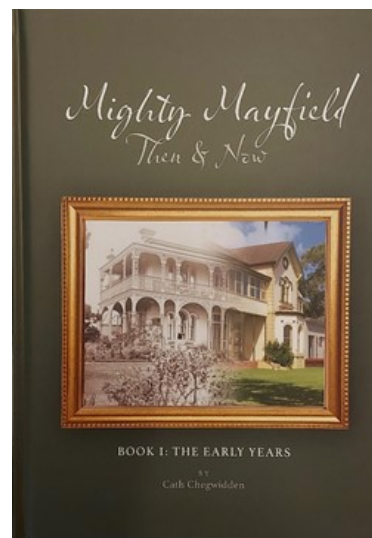
When we truly examine our hearts, where do we dwell? Do we dwell in the darkness that is ignorance and self-righteousness? Do we go through our days with an "us vs. them," or "mine vs. yours" mentality? Do we withdraw and hoard our God-given gifts and treasures from those who truly need them? While we are dualistic by nature, God is not an either/or God. God is a both/and God.

In today's readings, God meets and walks with us in

the darkness, in the division and in the solitude, calling us to light, unity and action. In the busyness of our days, how often do we ignore God, who is constantly and lovingly calling us to this wholeness?

Throughout our lives, the tension between dark and light, division and unity, withdrawal and leadership is one way God draws us into a deeper relationship. As we go forth this week, let us look at our lives and contemplate how God is calling us from our own physical, mental or spiritual darkness into light, from our unthinking words and actions that divide to words of peace that have the power to heal and mend relationships. And let us to consider the gifts and talents we can share with others who are struggling.

How many of us can honestly say we are "perfectly united in mind and thought" with one another and with God? That is today's challenge.



**MIGHTY MAYFIELD.
THEN AND NOW.**
Book 1: The Early Years,
a book by Cath
Chegwiddden.

Available at Davis Shoe Store, Blooms Chemist, Mayfield, and MacLeans Book store and other bookstores—it's a great read!

from the perspective

the first called

What must it have been like for those first four disciples Jesus called? The fact that they were fishing means that they had not been chosen to continue studying the Torah beyond childhood and had not been chosen by a rabbi to be his followers. Even as young men, these four were has-beens and had no hope of a rabbi asking them to be his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus appears and calls them to follow him. A life that had passed them by suddenly opened up before them! Of course they dropped everything and followed.

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The people have seen a great light

Is 9:2-4
Ps 27:1, 4abc
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17
Mt 4:17-23

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

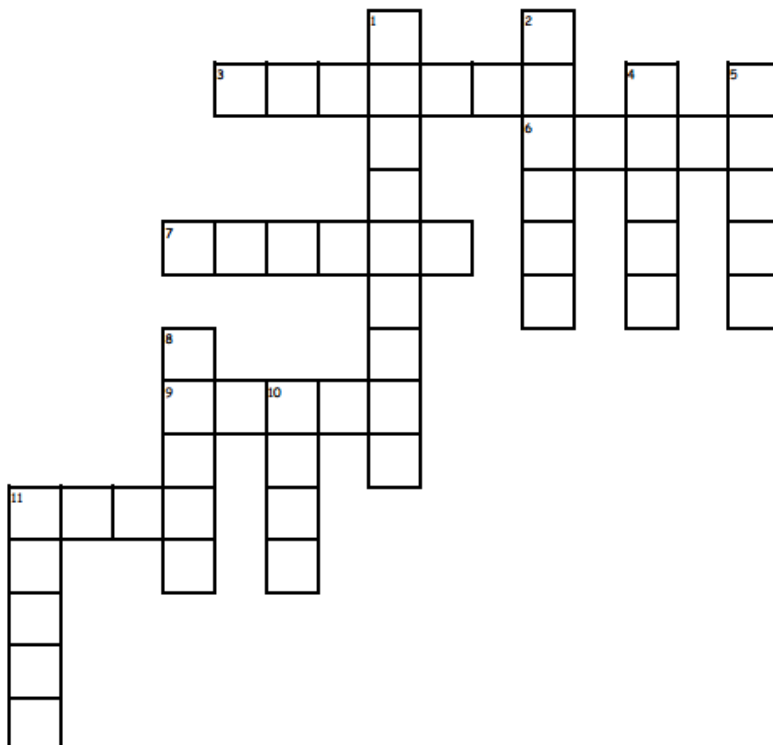
Try to find these words:

agree
argue
broken
cross
fishermen
Galilee
good
heaven
James
lake
light
Peter

CROSSWORD

The people have seen a great light

Is 9:2-4
Ps 27:1, 4abc
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17
Mt 4:17-23



Across

- 3: Jesus walked along the shore of this lake
- 6: the opposite of disagree
- 7: wrecked, in need of fixing
- 9: to disagree in an angry way
- 11: a large body of water

Down

- 1: people who catch fish
- 2: God's kingdom of eternal life
- 4: the wooden structure used in a crucifixion
- 5: Simon, the fisherman, was also known as _____
- 8: The brother of John who was also a fisherman
- 10: not bad
- 11: the opposite of dark

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading: Is 8:23 – 9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. (R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 4:12-23

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

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Australia Day Mass

Thursday 26 January

9:30AM

Sacred Heart Cathedral

SAVE THE DATE: TORONTO MEN'S WEEKEND

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: www.menalive.org.au

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.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHERS HILL

This is non-denominational and everyone is very welcome. Please come.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start

WHERE: Mercy Offices

20 Union Street

(Next door to Mercy Services)

Off street parking available

The Meditation session begins with short guided relaxation exercises then we have a reading from Fr. John Main which leads into 20 minutes of silent meditation

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!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice

The World Day of Prayer is 3 March, 2023 @10am in St Augustine's, Merewether.