



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 12 FEBRUARY 2023

6TH 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
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E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
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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

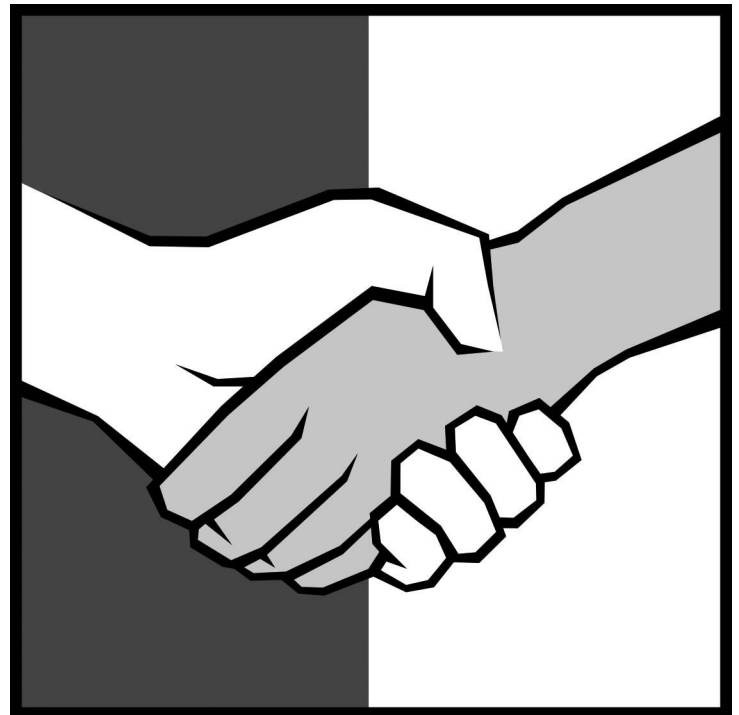
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

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.



Jesus is telling us in this Sunday's Gospel never to put style ahead of substance. To enter the Kingdom of God we need to be authentic: people of the heart and not people who live by appearances, as did the scribes and Pharisees. Like many in our world today, who are quick to judge and condemn, they prided themselves in knowing and policing the letter of the Law while ignoring the spirit of the Law, which is truth, justice and healing.

Sacred Heart Cathedral sits on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and their continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past, present and future, and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

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

Sixth Week of Ordinary Time, Year A

Monday—13th February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—14th February

Memorial of Sts Cyril and Methodius

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:15am Mass @ Stockton School Mass
(all welcome) **note the CHANGE for this week

Wednesday—15th February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—16th February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—17th February

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—18th February

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—19th February

7th 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*

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

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



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Cor 3:16-23

Mt 5:38-48

FROM THE MODERATOR

Welcome to Fr Raphael



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am very happy to welcome Fr Raphael Madukwe from Nigeria to our City Pastoral Region. Fr Raphael was ordained 20 years ago, is 50 years old and will be residing in the Cathedral Presbytery with Fr Paul, Anton and myself for the next few months while he completes required induction processes for newly arrived overseas clergy. Within a couple of weeks, and once he has completed his initial statutory compliance registrations, he will be assisting Fr Paul and myself in ministry here. Raphael is a very pastoral and spiritual priest and we are most



fortunate that he has come to serve in our Diocese. So, please join me in welcoming him and please keep him, along with the rest of our clergy, in your prayers.

Love
Fr John

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

But I now say to you...

There is a distinct pattern to the teaching examples Jesus provides: 'You have heard it said ...'; 'but I now say to you...'. This was a common method of teaching in Jesus' day and is often used as an example to suggest that Jesus was regarded as a Rabbi in his day. It is a typical rabbinical method of interpreting scripture. The rabbi quotes the teaching (you have heard it said...) and then offers an interpretation or reinterpretation of that teaching (but I now say to you). While it is an unfamiliar teaching style for us today, it would have been common in Jesus' time.

WE 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 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

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT:

Meets 15th February to begin the Diocesan Lenten Program available at: <https://tinyurl.com/mnlent23>

We resume Hatch, Match, & Dispatch after Easter!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS YOU!



St Vincent de Paul is urgently seeking volunteers to hand out food vouchers and hampers to the needy in our community. We offer flexible times to work around people's availability and any amount of time you can give will make a difference to those calling for

assistance. If you would like to be involved, please call Sarah Kemp 0490255100 or conference member Fran Barber 0431525595

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Marie O'Regan OP

ANNIVERSARIES: Joan Cubis, Maureen Fenwick, Imelda Wilkinson, Ethel Casey, Irena Ivanovic, Judith Fleming, Reg O'Brien, Samuel Broad

SICK: Joseph Howes, Peter Kefcecek, Roslyn McGovern, Patricia Quayle, Christine Dowling, Margaret Broad

****We have removed names that have been here for over six weeks. Call the office if the name needs to be returned to the list.**

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.

TAIZE SERVICE

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



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**, The Junction. 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

CatholicCare Social Services Community Pantry food donation bins have been placed in the Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary's Star of the Sea Church. These are blue flip-top bins with our flyer on the lid, suggesting the types of foods that could be donated.

We are appealing to the parish community to support people in need in our wider community by donating non-perishable food items. These donated items are put into our 'Community Pantry', from which we are able to provide emergency food hampers. We are desperately low of all foods in our pantry at the moment as we have seen an unprecedented need lately for this service. Ideal foods to donate are: UHT Milk, Breakfast cereals, Rice, Pasta, Pasta sauce, Sweet and savoury biscuits, Instant coffee, Tea bags, Canned soups.

BISHOP MICHAEL ROBERT KENNEDY

Bishop Michael Kennedy will be installed as our next Bishop on Friday 17 March 2023. @ 6pm



ASH WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY MASS TIMES

8:15am	Mass @ The Cathedral
9am	Mass @ Mayfield West
12 noon	Mass @ The Cathedral
5.30pm	Mass @ Tighes Hill

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have an hour a week you can spare to enhance the life of another?

Mercy Services are currently looking for volunteers throughout our diocese to provide social support for some of our more isolated community members.

Activities such as Bus lunch outings, transport to medical appointments, assisted shopping, going out for a cuppa, or even to regularly visit someone's home and have a chat.

If this sounds like something you would like more information on, please call **Aine Beard** on 0439 584 257 Tuesday- Thursday or email aine.beard@mercyservices.org.au

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. Download it from the dio website or:

<https://tinyurl.com/mnlent23>

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

Robert Charles Bartholomew

Jean Rosario Belcher

Gwenneth Bennett

Anthony Bookallil

Beryl Jean Clarke

Marie Forrest

Edna Jean Hancock

Michael Henessy

Ronald Joseph Jarrett

Czeslaw (Cec) Kizeweter

Xuyen An Le

Patricia (Trish) Leishman

Alan James Long

Fiore (Frank) Monaco

Stan O'Brien

Kathleen O'Neill

Roger Saunders

Robert Smith

Gregory Smith

Toni Van Schyndel

Clare Alice Withers

Joan Woodcock

Eternal rest grant unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer for the Inner City region will be held on 3rd March, 2023 @10am in St Augustine's, Merewether.

SACRED @ SEVEN

Sacred @ Seven is held to attract young people for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with a time for prayer, a reading of the Gospel and a time for reflection both in silence and with music.

It is an opportunity for young people to draw aside in a judgement free space; exploring the hidden treasures of spending time together with each other and with the Lord and allowing the Word of God to speak to hearts.

Join Fr. Peter Street, Parish Priest of Forster-Tuncurry as he presides over the first Sacred @ Seven in 2023.

Date: Wednesday 15 February 2023

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

****opportunity for a shared meal following the event****

Enquiries or RSVP:

Kate kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au P: 4979 1329

PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH

Date: Tuesday 21 February 2023

Time: 10:15am for 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West followed by complimentary pancakes in The Southern Cross Hall

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will be launching the Caritas Australia Project Compassion Lenten Appeal at a special Shrove Tuesday Liturgy presided by Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Greg Barker.

In 2023, we are being called to step up and make a difference "For All Future Generations".

Our world is hurting. With escalating conflicts, rising cost of living, poverty, homelessness, climate crisis, loneliness, re-gathering in a post Covid world, we want and need to make a difference. Lent comes as an opportunity to prepare our hearts to be more compassionate, more generous, and more loving of our neighbours.

As a community of communities, we welcome and invite all members of our Clergy, Leaders, Chaplains, School Leaders, Students, Parishioners, Religious Orders, Catholic organisations, staff across our Diocese and wider community to gather "For all Future Generations" this Lent. All in attendance will be called up to receive a project compassion appeal box during the Liturgy.

To commemorate Shrove Tuesday and the launch of Project Compassion, pancakes will then be served in The Southern Cross Hall for all.

Please RSVP your attendance by using the Eventbrite link: <https://PC2023.eventbrite.com.au> or by email to Kate kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au

We look forward to seeing you there.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 5 March @ 6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss *Exiles* by Jane Harper. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email the office



THE CHUCKLE

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.



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!

ENROLMENTS FOR 2023 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A child's catholic faith journey began with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues with the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The preparations for these sacraments in the Inner Newcastle Parish run between February and June of every year and are designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2023. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2023 program. If you are interested in being a part of the program this year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/>

For more information please contact the office on 49791101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

The program launches with welcome ceremonies this weekend.

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER



A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number

expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance.

We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.

Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate



PREPARING FOR EASTER

The Parish Lenten Group will be meeting @ 9.30 am starting Thursday, 23 February in the Parish Centre and continue the weeks of Lent. Please see Gwen Haggerty (4967 5010) if you are interested in joining the group as booklets need to be ordered.

REFLECTION

Fr Michael Tate

Truth-Telling

I seem to remember some lines from a poem I learnt at school: 'Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to deceive.'

To guard against deceptions, many societies and organisations, including the Church, require a person to swear an oath to bolster their assertion that they are telling 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'.

But, we have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ... instead let your "yes" mean *yes* and your "no" mean *no*. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

The early Church took this prohibition extremely seriously. It was only when the Church and State became entwined three hundred years later that that policy changed. The Church preferred to avoid tension with the political authority which required oaths as a supposed guarantee of truthful speaking.

The Church was weak, whereas Our Lord was strong. When He was challenged by the High Priest to swear by the Living God whether He was the Christ, Jesus simply replied: 'The words are yours', refusing to invoke the Living God. (Matt 26:63-64). Aren't we meant to imitate Jesus?

'Yes or No.' Our Lord tells us: '... anything more than this comes from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is the beginning of the prayer which is Jesus' gift to his community. It is our privilege and right as adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. That is the way in which Our Lord wants us to *use* the name of God. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an *abuse*.

It is clear that Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two tiered way of speaking the truth. Anything more by way of pious veneer devalues plain speaking. Straightforward, unadorned language will do.

Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person *truthes*.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. Such relationships are easily fractured or

soured by lying. At the community level, a society will soon break down if the words of its members cannot be relied on.

It is shocking, but true, to realise that in this respect, secular society is more in conformity with the Sermon on the Mount! At least it allows for observance of Our Lord's injunction. For example, Parliamentarians are offered the choice of an oath or an affirmation in taking up their duties in the Chamber. The Courts offer the same choice, and if the accused makes the affirmation, no adverse inference can be drawn by Judge or jury.

And the Church? The Church needs to listen to the epistle of St James. It was written within living memory of the Sermon on the Mount and is astonishing in recalling this passage almost verbatim, urging it on to a new generation of disciples.

St James, a relative of Our Lord and leader of the Church in Jerusalem, writes, 'Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no so that you may not fall under condemnation.' (James 5:12-13)

The Church needs to put itself under the authority of the Sermon on the Mount, or rather under the authority of the Divine Teacher. Then perhaps it will find itself able to teach the rest of the Sermon with greater credibility, a greater chance of being heard.

The Church needs to hear for itself the final great imperative in this Gospel: 'Teach them to keep *all* that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)

© 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.

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. Commencing February 8.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071

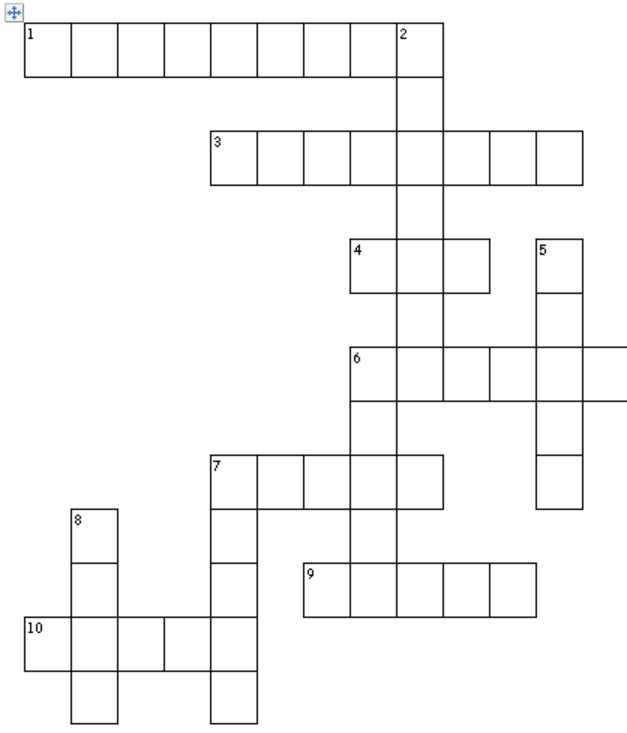
For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

CROSSWORD

Make peace before offering your gift to God

Mt 5:23-24



Across

- 1: followers of Jesus
- 3: to recall a memory
- 4: our Father in heaven
- 6: 'cats' is to 'cat' as 'people' is to '_____'
- 7: the priest breaks the bread at the _____
- 9: to go away from
- 10: to willingly give something

Down

- 2: a person we may or may not know
- 5: the opposite of back
- 6: when there is no more fighting or war
- 7: very mad
- 8: something we give, like a present

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

We follow the law of God

Sin 15:15-20
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 33-34
Cor 2:6-10
Mt 5:23-24

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

Try to find these words:

altar
angry
commands
death
disciples
gift
glorious
mature
mysterious
offer
peace
respects

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading: Sir 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:6-10

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before
the ages began.*

Gospel Acclamation: See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the
kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 5:17-37

*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am
speaking to you.*

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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 TIGHES 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

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

A beautiful statement attributed to St. Augustine says: "Those who sing pray twice". A song by Celtic Thunder claims: "All God's creatures got a place in the choir, some sing low and some sing higher, some sing out loud on a telephone wire, some just clap their hands!"



We have a place for you in the Cathedral Choir! We sing every Sunday at the 9:30am Mass. Choir practice is Thursday evening at 6pm and again Sunday morning at 8:45am.

Why not join us for Lent and Easter? Ash Wednesday is February 22. Join the choir on February 23 and learn the music for the Easter Triduum on April 6, 7, and 8. It's an amazing experience!