



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 5 MARCH 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel
Fr Raphael Madukwe

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.



When we go through tough times with little relief in sight, what do we need most? Hope! Reassurance! We need to know there is light at the end of the tunnel. Given the opposition Jesus and His followers were facing from the scribes and Pharisees, and Jesus' prophecy of His forthcoming passion and death, the Transfiguration was their assurance they were on the right path, and there was true light, life and glory at the end of the road.

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)

Second Week of Lent, Year A

Monday—6th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—7th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton **CANCELLED

9:15am School Mass @ St Peter-in-Chains School
Stockton (all welcome)

Wednesday—8th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—9th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—10th March

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

6:00pm Stations of the Cross @ The Cathedral
(POLISH)

Saturday—11th March

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—12th March

Third Sunday of Lent, 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: Mollie Hofman, Marie James, Marie Therese Maslen, Reg Rees, John Kelly, Eileen Howard

ANNIVERSARIES: Hugo Perera, Mary Helen Vaas, Winifreda Fernando, Alexandra Gracz, James Francis Tait, Kathryn Allan Oultram, Laureen Connors, Leonie Witt, Jean O'Brien

SICK: Roslyn McGovern, Peter Kefcecek, Roslyn McGovern, Patricia Quayle, Christine Dowling, Carlo Rossi

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.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The first reading for this Sunday tells us something about Abram (Abraham), but it tells us more about the plan of God. It is a picture of God's choice of one family among many and of the good fortune and fame with which this family will be blessed. God's directives require profound faith on Abram's part. He is being asked to sever himself from the most fundamental ties that an individual has – the ties of origin. Actually, it was God's plan to start something new through Abram. What would be his response? No questions were asked; no long period of preparation is suggested. The tone of the entire ancestral narrative is set: God directs and the people of God respond.

The psalm opens with a statement that reflects the basis of ancient Israel's faith in God. This faith is rooted in the truth of God's word, in the faithfulness of God's works, in the justice of God's covenant, and in the steadfastness of God's love. These four attributes encourage the people to place their trust in God. The fear of the Lord is the posture of respect with which one stands before the awe-inspiring God. The psalm ends with a final reference to covenant commitment or loving-kindness. Because of this bond, God will act as a protecting shield, warding off dangers and bestowing kindness and blessing.

Paul exhorts Timothy, his disciple, to suffer the misfortunes that come from fidelity to the gospel. Paul is not here thinking of the hardships that stem from the ministry. The call of which he speaks is the call to holiness that is extended to all. The hardships are those that accompany righteous living. The hymn that follows outlines what God has done for us and what Christ has done on our behalf. Though grace comes to us from God, it comes to us through Christ Jesus. Thus

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

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



Christ is the mediator through whom God blesses us. Christ's saving action is described as twofold: he destroyed death; and he brought life and immortality to light. This gospel is indeed glad tidings.

The gospel narrative recounts a theophany, a self-revelation of God. The once popular interpretation of this as a post-resurrection story read back into the time of the public ministry of Jesus has been challenged by most commentators today. Rather, they believe that it describes an insight into the identity that was his during his public life. Thus the transformation was a change that took place when Jesus' inner reality shone forth and transfigured his outer appearance. Moses and Elijah, the representatives of the law and the prophets, confirm Jesus' authority and the legitimacy of his teaching. While these men converse with Jesus, the voice from the cloud speaks to the apostles. They are the ones who seem to need the identification of Jesus and the directive from God.

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PREPARING FOR EASTER

The *Parish **Lenten** Group* meets @ 9.30 am next **Thursday, 9 March** in the Parish Centre and continues during the weeks of Lent. Please see Gwen Haggerty (or ph 4967 5010) if you are interested in joining the group.

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CANDIDATE FORUMS – 8 AND 9 MARCH

On 8 and 9 March the Hunter Community Alliance will host two Candidate Forums to hear how our Hunter candidates will address community concerns about climate change and housing. The event will see people share stories and expertise about housing, homelessness, and climate change. The group will present policy proposals that they have developed this year to help solve and alleviate these pressures. Then the Alliance will negotiate those proposals with Hunter region candidates for the NSW election and seek commitments to make them happen.

You can register for one or both of the following forums:

Wednesday 8 March: Wallsend, Cessnock, Maitland and Port Stephens: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-forum-for-affordable-housing-and-climate-action-march-8th-tickets-482325898747>

Thursday 9 March: Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Charlestown and Swansea
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-forum-for-affordable-housing-and-climate-action-march-9th-tickets-482336169467>

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 or 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.

ART AND SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Date: Thursday 23 March, 9am-3pm

Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre

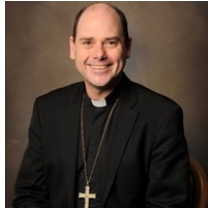
Cost: \$25 per person

To register go to:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshop-march-2023-tickets-532521174167

BISHOP MICHAEL ROBERT KENNEDY

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



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR 2023/2024 CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE ARE NOW OPEN

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- ✧ become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
- ✧ grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- ✧ realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- ✧ be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- ✧ grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 2 May 2023, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol.

To find out more about the Christian Formation Course, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT:

Meets 8th March to continue the Diocesan Lenten Program. To access the program document, copy and paste or type the following address into your web browser:

<https://tinyurl.com/mnlent23>

VATICAN COUNCIL II 60TH ANNIVERSARY – EXPLORING ITS KEY DOCUMENTS IN 2023

The Second Vatican Council promulgated sixteen major documents. The reception of those documents, and all that flows from them, continues to be the work of the Church in every place and through every unfolding year and decade.

What are these documents and what wisdom do they reveal to us today? An enjoyable way to read and reflect on these texts is in the tradition of a book club, or 'document club' in this instance. In 2023 you might consider forming a document club in your parish with a focus on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The Diocesan Liturgy Council (DLC) has prepared a simple reading plan that anyone can use to guide their own 'document club' and can offer support in getting started.

It is hoped that several document clubs may spring up throughout this year. To bring our document clubs to a close the DLC is looking to host an in-person 'fun' gathering on Monday evening 4 December 2023. To receive your invitation, you may like to send the names and email addresses of your document club members to sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au.

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



SISTERHOOD CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Sisterhood conference is a weekend for women aged 18 + to grow in their faith and encounter a community of like minded Catholic women committed to their faith.

The conference will be held at The Tops Conference Centre at Stanwell Tops 17-19th March. This is a live in weekend. Places are limited.

For more information visit www.sisterhood.org.au or email info@sisterhood.org.au

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ex 17:3-7

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Jn 4:5-42

HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF SYNODALITY - FREE ONLINE COURSE OFFERED BY BOSTON COLLEGE

Through an online platform you will have access to a series of pre-recorded videos during the months of February and March 2023.

"Synodality is not the chapter of a treatise on ecclesiology, and even less a fad, a slogan or the new term to be used or manipulated in our meetings. No! Synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission." Pope Francis

To register go to: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>

WAY OF THE CROSS – SUNDAY 26 MARCH

This year, following over 55 years of local tradition, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will once again celebrate the Ecumenical Way of the Cross on the grounds of Toronto Parish, Kilaben Bay on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Picking up the theme from this year's World Youth Day (WYD) – "Mary arose and went with haste" – we will join with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary. We will journey with creative retellings of Mary's story as shared by women from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches. This prayerful experience will be supported by our school communities and local WYD pilgrims.

People will start gathering at St Joseph's Toronto from 2pm at the Community Centre. The event will start at 3pm, afternoon tea will be provided.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE MARCH 2023 PROGRAM

The Divine Retreat Centre will host several retreats in March, they include:

- Lenten Growth Retreat – 17 to 19 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Patrick's Wallsend – 20 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Luke's Revesby – 21 March
- One Day Pilgrimage – 26 March

For more information, visit
www.divineretreatcentre.org

THE CHUCKLE

I decided to give up complaining for lent.
I'm not happy.



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 launched last week. There's still time to sign up.

FINDING OUR PURPOSE—WITH A PINT

Calling all young people in the Diocese for 'Pint with a Purpose!' Come and join us at the Sydney Junction Hotel as we reimagine the journey together.

Date: Monday 6th March 2023

Time: 6pm

Location: Sydney Junction Hotel

GOSPEL FOCUS A NEW VISION

Peter sees the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us

REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard

Three key people of the Old Testament are given to us in today's readings: Abram, Moses and Elijah. Unfortunately most of what we know about these men is fairly sketchy. Who can blame the young children, then, who wrote down the following answers in an exam on the Old Testament?

'Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth was to always humour thy father and mother.'

The Jews of Matthew's community, however, would have been able to remember by heart every detail about Abram, Moses and Elijah. These men remain the Jews' greatest heroes. The first hearers of the Transfiguration story would have immediately made all the connections between Jesus' story and Abram, Moses and Elijah's experience of God on a mountaintop, where each has a life-changing encounter with the presence of God and is illuminated in every way. Each of them is called by God to fulfil a special task and so descend from the mountain with the strength to see it through.

Matthew is especially interested in the story of Moses. One of the refrains of the entire Gospel is that Jesus is the New Moses, the fulfilment of the law and the light that illuminates the darkest night. As interesting as the similarities are between Moses on Sinai and Jesus on Tabor, the differences are even more revealing for us on our Lenten journey.

Moses goes up the mountain alone, Jesus takes companions with him who share in the experience and witness to it. The face of God is hidden from Moses whereas on Tabor Jesus is given to us as the face of God for the world. On Sinai Moses receives a code of law and is told to make sure the people obey it. On Tabor Jesus receives a proclamation of God's love and we're told to listen to him. While Moses' face shines, Jesus' whole body is transfigured with light. Moses descends to enforce the law; Jesus comes down to die that we might live.

Just when some of us think Lent is a grim season of self-denial, the Church gives us the story of Jesus' Transfiguration to put our sacrifices in context. The only reason we deny ourselves anything or commit ourselves to actions of service for these 40 days is to grow more deeply in love with the God who loves us

into life. Penance is not meant to attack our self-esteem, it's intended to help us sort out what really matters, to cast some light in the darkness of our lives and to focus on the relationship which gives meaning and purpose for this world and the next.

The God of Mount Tabor is not interested in each of us feeling isolated as we fulfil the letter of a legal code. He wants all of us to have hearts that listen to the Gospel of love so that we can gain the power to transform the world through the sacrifices of our daily lives.

On a much gentler scale, Sunday Mass is meant to be a weekly mountaintop experience for us where we hear God call us by name and confess his love for us; where we feel re-energised for the commission we have to bear his light to the world. In this context anything we can do this Lent that helps remove the blocks in our full response to his love, must be worth effort.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

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!

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

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

I will bless you and make you into a great nation

Gn 12:1-4a
Ps 33:4-5, 20 & 22 R.v.22
Mt 17:1-9

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

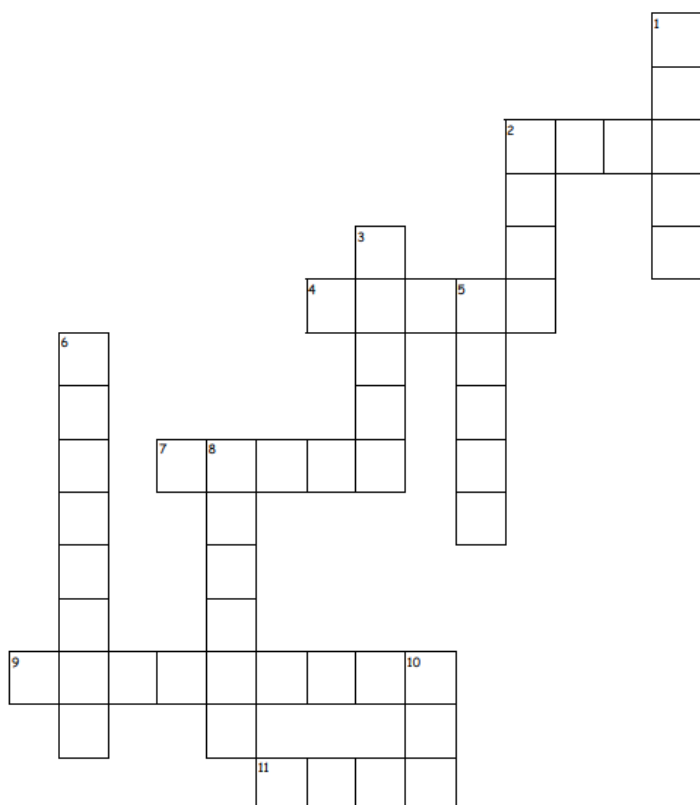
Try to find these words:

Abraham
cloud
country
family
famous
good
James
John
mountain
relatives
sun
voice

CROSSWORD

Jesus' face shone like the sun

Mt 17:1-9



Across

- 2: level, even
- 4: hearing someone speak is to listen to their...
- 7: the brother of John
- 9: followers of Jesus
- 11: he was with his brother and Peter

Down

- 1: the disciple who was also known as Simon
- 2: the front of your head
- 3: he appeared along side Jesus and Elijah
- 5: the disciples heard God's voice coming from where?
- 6: the disciples witnessed the transfiguration at the top of a ...
- 8: scared
- 10: the brightest light in the sky

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Gen 12:1-4

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading: 2 Tm 1:8-10

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

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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

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.

LIVING gospel

'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.