



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 21 MAY 2023

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel
Fr Raphael Madukwe
Deacon Kevin Gadd

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

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.



As we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven this Sunday, and look forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit next Sunday on Pentecost, let's not forget that great commission Jesus gave to His disciples (and also gives to us): to share the Good News of His love for all people. And let's also specially pray at this time for the boys and girls in our sacramental program who will be Confirmed by Bishop Michael over this coming week.

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)

Seventh Week of Easter, Year A

Monday—22nd May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—23rd May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

6:30pm Confirmation @ Stockton

Wednesday—24th May

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians

(Australian National Patronal Feast)

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

6:30pm Confirmation @ The Cathedral

Thursday—25th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—26th May

Memorial of St Philip Neri

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—27th May

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

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—28th May

Pentecost Sunday, 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)*

3:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion @ Mayfield West

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Pauline Burgess rsj (Audrey)

ANNIVERSARIES: Sr Beverley Zimmerman rsj, Doris Zimmerman, Jim Ryan, Laurel Murray, Maria Giustina Oddi, Mary Elizabeth Dwyer, Winifred Rose Fitzgerald, Irene Licata, Kevin Lynch, Neil Sattler, Anne Gilroy, Doris Power, Eileen Russell, Natsnet Tecle,

SICK: Aaron Parkes, Grayson Peers, Frances Gardiner, Peter Kefcecek, Roslyn McGovern, 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.*

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

Leo Burke

Beryl Cofteros

Lorraine Driscoll

Mary Duggan

Kathleen Gibson

Monica Hayes

Joy Patricia Jarrett

Mary Noreen Long

Alice Martin

Krystyna Mazalo

Ian Edward McDonald

Cary McNabb

Laurel May Murray

Nola Margaret Phillips

Frank Keith Pilgrim

Sandra Rufo

Henrietta Vujeva

Elaine Iris Wilson

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

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/68191395109>

Password: 316071

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR A

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13

Jn 20: 19-23

OPEN DAY AT TIGHES HILL SUNDAY 21ST MAY

Community Garden open day Sunday 21st May 2023 with 10.00am painting plant pots. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill (access via path on Union Street). Contact Lawrie on 0419 447 217.

Church open day with historic photos and memorabilia 10.00am-3.00pm Sunday 21st May 2023, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Cnr Union St & Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill. Contact Lawrie on 0419 447 217.

Angelus and pray with Mary for world peace (including consecration to Immaculate Heart of Mary) 12noon, Sunday 21st May 2023, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Cnr Union St & Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill. Contact Lawrie on 0419 447 217.

Free sausage sizzle (sponsored by Catholic Community Fund) 1.00pm Sunday 21st May 2023 in Community Garden at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill (access via path on Union Street). Contact Lawrie on 0419 447 217.

Interfaith service for creation 3.00pm Sunday 21st May 2023 in Community Garden at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill (access via path on Union Street). followed by afternoon tea. Contact John on 0400 171 602.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

ST JOSEPH'S, THE JUNCTION and MARY IMMACULATE, TIGHES HILL:

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), can be placed in the basket at the back of **St Joseph's Church**, The Junction and in the foyer of **Mary Immaculate Church**, Tighes Hill. 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. The St Joseph's community kindly requests that you do not donate peanut butter.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL and ST MARY'S, NEWCASTLE:

Since June 2022, CatholicCare Food Programs have made up 138 emergency food hampers and 150 Christmas hampers for people in the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie area, all from donated food items. This year we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of requests we have received for emergency food hampers, especially from families with young children. Our hampers are given as a one off 'hand up' (not a 'hand out') and are made up completely of donated food.

If you would like to donate, any of the following types of non-perishable items would be most gratefully received: UHT milk, cereal, jam, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned veggies, fruit, soup, fish, meat, dried pasta, rice, pasta sauces, teabags, coffee, biscuits, crackers, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner (even the travel sized ones from hotels), deodorant. The food collection bins are at Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary's Church, Newcastle

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 4 June @ 6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss *The Switch* by Beth O'Leary. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email the office



VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

Meets May 24 @7pm via Zoom for Lectio Divina
Contact the parish office on 4979 1101 to join

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

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



THE NEWCASTLE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

is hosting a Pentecost celebration in thanksgiving for the birthday of the Church. The day will start with a talk on the Acts of the Apostles, lunch and a Mass with prayer ministry afterwards. The event will be **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Gipps St Carrington on Sunday 28 May at 11am-2:30pm.** Everyone is welcome. Please bring a plate to share for lunch. Contact Wayne Caruana 0466 631 394.

THE CHUCKLE

Father Jude answers the phone.
-Hello, is this Father Jude?
-It is
-This is the ATO. Can you help us?
-I can
-Do you know an Edward Peter McMichael?
-I do
-Is he a member of your congregation?
-He is
-Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?
-He will



Scriptural Context

Not the only Ascension

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 4 June: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5.00pm – 6pm *followed by a shared supper.*

THE CHOSEN EXPERIENCE – SEASON 2

We invite you to join us in soaking up the sights, smells, and tastes of 1st Century Palestine as we view the second season 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 join us to share a meal, watch and discuss the episode. The Chosen Experience commences on 27 April at 6pm in the Murray Room. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-chosen-season-2-tickets-595299666327>

LOUD SKY

Loud Sky is a powerful collaborative art exhibition featuring five Hunter-based artists who have created new works responding to stories of survival. These stories were uncovered through the Royal Commission into institutional response to child sexual abuse in the Hunter region in 2016. The exhibition opens at The Lock Up in Newcastle on Friday 31 March and runs until 21 May 2023. More information is available at <https://thelockup.org.au/loud-sky/>

RIBBON INSTALLATION AT SACRED HEART

The field of ribbons at the side of Sacred Heart Cathedral is part of the Loud Sky exhibit. Their purpose is remembering those impacted by institutional child sexual abuse. The ribbon flowers were made by survivors, friends, and family, community and church members.

'ANOINTED':

MGL SISTERS PENTECOST RETREAT INTENSIVE, 24-28 MAY

Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service through inputs, discussion, and practical workshops. Join us for 5 days live-in at Mount Carmel House, Varroville. More info & register: www.trybooking.com/CFBREF

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

34 Kenrick St, The Junction (the old Presbytery) is a share-house owned by the parish, with four independent living quarters. Unit 3 is currently vacant and available for student accommodation. It has a bedroom, bathroom and living room. Common areas of the building - the kitchen, laundry and dining/lounge rooms - are shared with other female occupants. The unit would suit a university student, or newly employed person, looking for independent accommodation in Newcastle. If you know anyone seeking accommodation, please pass on our contact details. Inquiries to the parish office on 4979 1101 or email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

AN INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT WEBINAR

Join Fr Frank Brennan, SJ, AO and Vicki Clark OAM as they explore the planned referendum suggesting an alteration to the Australian Constitution that establishes a First Nations Voice. Frank and Vicki will outline the long road that has brought us to this historic moment in Australian history and cut through the political rhetoric to clarify how 'the Voice' will enhance the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – and all Australians. A Q&A session will follow.

Date: Wednesday 24 May 2023

Time: 5pm

Location: Zoom Webinar

Cost: Free. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/5ykudr4v>

SORRY DAY WEBINAR

Caritas Australia is pleased to invite your parish community to our Sorry Day Webinar with survivors from Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. In this special event, you will hear from Uncle Widdy (#36) and Uncle Bobby (#24), two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home. Caritas Australia's First Australians Programs team will also speak about what truth-telling and intergenerational healing means to our partners.

Date: 25 May 2023

Time: 11am -12noon

Location: Zoom Webinar Please register at www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

coming to a Church near you.



NOTICE TO PLANNED GIVERS - THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR IS COMING!

Planned Giving Tax Receipts: Parishioners who require a tax receipt for planned giving for the 2022/2023 financial year must notify the Parish Office **before 30th June 2023.**

Please submit requests in writing by one of the following methods:

Email to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au: Use the wording, "Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt" and include your name and envelope number.

Planned Giving Envelope: Write on your weekly envelope, "Tax receipt required".

Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2023. If you make a request after that date you will not be eligible for a receipt, nor for a tax deduction in relation to your planned giving contributions. This is because there is a designated sum that can be attributed to planned giving receipts and, once this distribution has occurred on 30 June 2023, no further allocations are possible.

The 'designated sum' provision also means that the claimable amount for each giver decreases when more people request a receipt. We therefore request that if you do not intend to claim a tax deduction, please do not request a receipt.

For those who do not claim a tax deduction but would like their contribution acknowledged, we can provide, on request, a letter confirming your contribution total.

THE APP

The Diocese has a wonderful app that shows Mass times across our region. The app also shows the readings for the day! It's really worth downloading. Type "Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle" into the App store.

PAINT AND PRAY WITH MARY THIS MAY – Saturday 27 May – MacKillop Centre, Charlestown

Join us this May as we honour and pray with Mary through the practice of painting and reflection. Participants will be guided step by step to create their own Marian icon and invited into contemplation and prayer through this process. You will need to bring an apron, BYO snacks and drinks for the afternoon.

Cost: \$35 for materials -participants will take home their own framed Marian icon.

Spaces are limited, booking is essential.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/paint-and-pray-may-2023-tickets-595235353967>

SAFEGUARDING

Do you know about safeguarding? This week we begin a ten-part series addressing each of the Safeguarding Standards.

The first standard, **COMMITTED LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND CULTURE**, has 6 criteria.

The safeguarding of children and adults is embedded in the entity's leadership, governance, and culture

Criteria 1.1

There is a public commitment to safeguarding that takes a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

* This component obligates us to follow the approved policies and to make these visible and available. For more information, read the poster in the foyer of our churches.

Criteria 1.2

A culture of safeguarding children and adults is championed and modelled at all levels of the entity from the top down and bottom up.

* The culture of safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This component requires the formation of a safeguarding committee who are responsible to "oversee effective implementation". The formation of The Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) who is responsible for the development of policies and standards has ensured that each entity within the Australian church operates consistently.

Criteria 1.3

There is a public commitment to safeguarding that takes a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

* Do you know how to report suspected abuse? Our website has information on how to contact the Office of Safeguarding

Criteria 1.4

The entity's Code of Conduct sets clear behavioural standards towards children and adults.

* This criterion includes *"individuals who are elderly, are living with disability, are suffering from an illness, or who are 'at risk'; individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; ... and, children and adults of diverse sexuality."*

Criteria 1.5

The entity's risk management plan focuses on preventing, identifying, and mitigating safeguarding risks to children and adults.

* In coming weeks you will hear about our risk management plan and what it means for you.

Criteria 1.6

Personnel understand their obligations on information sharing and record keeping for safeguarding and professional standards.

* The committee is working to ensure best practice for our Parishes.

2023 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Over 65 individuals in the sacramental program will receive the sacrament of Confirmation this week. Please pray for these children and their parents as they journey toward this wonderful Sacrament. You are cordially invited to come along to the ceremonies on May 23 in Stockton and May 24 at Sacred Heart Cathedral—both commence at 6:30pm.

A central component of their preparation is the completion of a works of mercy project, completed by the children and their families together.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Admonish the sinner
4. Comfort the afflicted
5. Forgive offences
6. Bear wrongs patiently
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. House the homeless
5. Visit the imprisoned
6. Visit the sick
7. Bury the dead.

Pope Francis added an 8th corporal work of mercy: care for our common home

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 21 - 28 MAY

This year's theme is: "Do good; seek justice." (Isaiah 1:17)

Isaiah challenged God's people in his day to learn to do good together; to seek justice together, to rescue the oppressed together, to defend the orphan and plead for the widow together. The prophet's challenge applies equally to us today. How can we live our unity as Christians so as to confront the evils and injustices of our time? How can we engage in dialogue, increase awareness, understanding and insight about one another's lived experiences?

These prayers and encounters of the heart have the power to transform us – individually and collectively.

Let us be open to God's presence in all our encounters with each other as we seek to be transformed, to dismantle the systems of oppression, and to heal the sins of racism. Together, let us engage in the struggle for justice in our society. We all belong to Christ. More info:

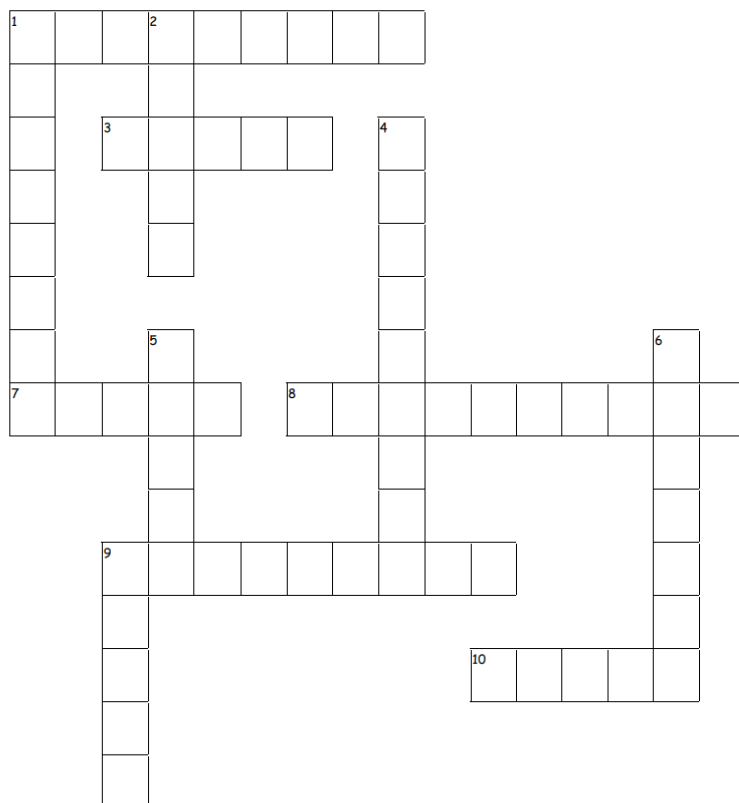


[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023 \(catholic.au\)](https://catholic.au/Week-of-Prayer-for-Christian-Unity-2023)

CROSSWORD

Clap your hands and shout to God

Acts 1:8-11
Ps 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8
Eph 1:17-21



Across

- 1: followers of Christ
- 3: strength
- 7: Jesus sits on the _____ side of God
- 8: praised God
- 9: the disciples returned to this city
- 10: glad

Down

- 1: find, gain knowledge
- 2: Jesus was taken up into a _____
- 4: extraordinary, great
- 5: the opposite of black
- 6: before ascending into heaven,
Jesus led his disciples to this town
- 9: our Saviour

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Clap your hands and shout to God

Acts 1:8-11
Ps 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8
Eph 1:17-21

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

Try to find these words:

Bethany
cloud
disciples
discover
happy
Jerusalem
Jesus
power
right
white
wonderful
worshipped

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390, E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit their website for further information

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

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.



BULLETIN MESSAGES

If there's something you think should be included in the bulletin, please email it to the office or directly to Anne: anne.millard@mn.catholic.org.au. I'm VERY grateful for your input. If you write to me, please sign your name so I can write back.

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDIATION CENTRE, 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, offers meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am – and has done so for the last 25 years, in which time many hundreds of people have taken up this prayer form. After meditation on Fridays Lectio Divina, a personal interaction with Sacred Scripture, is offered. Through both practices we open ourselves to the fullness of life; we come to know ourselves by knowing that we are known and loved by God. For more information: Carmel Moore rsj -0412122297 - or just come.

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