



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

St Benedict's 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 3RD DECEMBER 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

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: newcparrish@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*)
Tuesday and Thursday

Thelma Dixon (*Administration*)
Monday-Friday

Elul Teckle (*Administration*)

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

Other Contacts

Bereavement Team: P: (02) 4979 1252

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office



Have you ever stayed up all night waiting for the dawn? Or gone to a mountain-top or the seaside to see the sun come-up? The Jews in the Old Testament spent centuries anxiously awaiting the Messiah, and 2000 years later we await His second coming, when we believe He will be arrayed in glory, put an end to injustice and war, and set everything right. It's with this spirit of anticipation that we enter the season of Advent. *Fr John*

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

Promoters of Safeguarding

Fr John Lovell p: (02) 4979 1106

Gail Lovell P: (02) 4979 1256

Anne Millard P: (02) 4979 1252

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)

1st Week of Advent, Year B

Monday—4th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—5th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—6th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—7th December

Memorial of St Ambrose

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:30am Mass for Bishop's Staff

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

2:00pm Funeral Mass for Ted Jordan @ St Joseph's

6pm Choir Practice @ The Cathedral

Friday—8th December

Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition, Adoration, and Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

12noon Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Hour of Grace @ St Joseph's

Saturday—9th December

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

Sunday—10th December

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Pet 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michelle Webber, Sr Helen Apthorpe OP, Edward (Ted) Jordan, Moya Dwyer, Carlo Cristobal

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Sweeney, Joan Sullivan, Frank Rabbitt (Snr), Pat Croke, Molly McKay, Kathleen Bryant, Ron Crittenden, Hilda Crump, Lance Nichols

SICK: Joshua Zalanardo, Cooper James, Jim Eves, Rosa Silivinec, Neil McGoldrick, Sr Rosemary Jackson rsj, Gerard Pearce, Harry Melville, Doreen Mason, Elaine Johnson, Christine Timbrell, Stewart McKinnon, Mark Caesar, Peter Kefecek, Carlo Rossi, Neil Thomas, Kathryn Gray, Emilie Tseronis



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.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 3rd December @ 6:15pm:

Bookclub meets to discuss *That Bligh Girl* by Sue Williams. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. We are using the Diocesan Advent program. If you'd like to join us just for Advent, there's room!

The program for December is as follows:

6th December: 2nd week of the Advent Program

13th December: 3rd week of the Advent Program

20th December: 4th week of the Advent Program

To participate, please email the parish office.



OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in December.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Mario Cannavale	Kevin Fuge
Aileen Joyce Carey	Louis William Harris
Kathleen Mary Cashman	Margaret Ireland
Joan Cunningham	Anthony (Tony) Losurdo
Bertha Docherty	Helen O'Sullivan
Paul Ferry	James Savage
Maria Franceschi	Patrick Scott
	Margaret Tuxworth

At St Joseph's

Frank Hawkins Jnr	Joan Payne
Ernst Koch	Byeena Winifred Saxby
Cecily Clare Leslie	Pat Skehan
Margaret McGlynn	Patricia Margaret Smith
Athol Moore	Joseph Timbs
Kevin Smith	Grace Hickey
Robert Wakely	Harold Casey
Stan Walters	Kelvin Davis
Dorothy Wilson	Mary Doyle
Franz Schmuck	Bill Edser
Noreen Heaney	Alan Fogarty
Rodger Ryan	Maree Green

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

BLESSING

May you always have enough happiness to keep you sweet;

Enough trials to keep you strong;

Enough success to keep you eager;

Enough faith to give you courage;

Enough determination to make each day a good day!

SAFEGUARDING

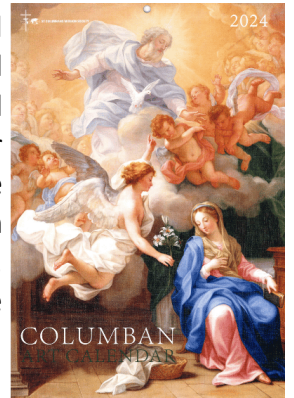
The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390, E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au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

NEW OFFICE STAFF

Over the last year two staff members (Maryanne Hewitt and Jade Simonsen) left the office to pursue other opportunities. This week, we are delighted to welcome two new staff members: Thelma Dixon and Elul Teckle. Please make them welcome and be patient as they learn their new roles and get to know everyone!

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

This iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. The calendars are available through St Vincent de Paul for \$10 each. They can be purchased from the office



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.

ACU PUBLIC LECTURES ON LITURGY

In the lead-up to the 60th anniversary of Sacrosanctum Concilium (the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II, 4 Dec 1963), the ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present an exciting public lecture:

Acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian Rev Professor John F. Baldovin SJ (Boston College) who will deliver a FREE public lecture live in person on ACU's Melbourne Campus on Sunday December 3, 2023, 5pm-6.30pm AEDT on the topic of "A Liturgical Reform in Peril? Sacrosanctum Concilium sixty years on." Fr Baldovin's public lecture will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Further information and registration details for this unique and valuable event can be found above and at the following link: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/news-events-and-resources>

We look forward to welcoming you to this very special event marking this important milestone anniversary.

For more information please contact: CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au.

REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might watch the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We

place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch out tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!

© 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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS @ SACRED HEART

The following concerts are scheduled at Sacred Heart Cathedral in December:

Hunter Singers and Hunter Trebles performing highlights from the 2023 repertoire, with some Christmas cheer!

Sunday 3 December @ 2:00 PM

Newcastle and Hunter Multicultural Choral Society presents their special annual Multicultural Christmas Concert. This year marks the group's 45th year!

Sunday December 3 commencing at 7pm

The Australian Voices celebrates their thirtieth anniversary by sharing the wonders of Australian choral music with the nation! **Thursday December 14 @ 7pm.** Tickets Adult: \$30.00, Concession: \$15.00, School Student: FREE!

<http://www.theaustralianvoices.com/>

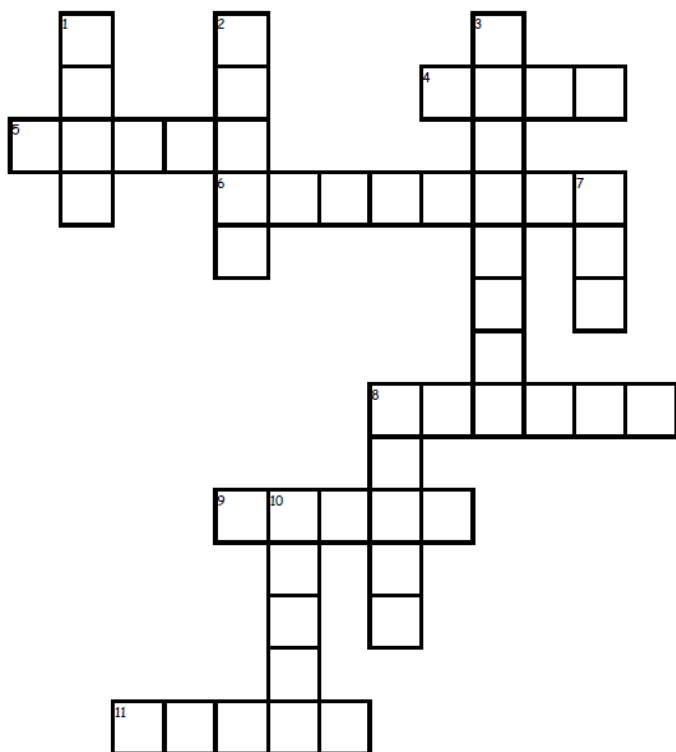
The Newcastle Tudor Singers, directed by Dr Anne Millard, present "Favourite Things: Christmas Music for Everyone"

Sunday December 17 commencing at 2pm.



Image by Freepik

We wait for Christ's return



Across

- 4: nice to others
5: a type of building people live in
6: when a man goes away he puts these people in charge
8: to go back from where you came
9: talk
11: you do this when you go to bed

Down

- 1: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You don't _____ when the time will come'
2: the Lord Jesus Christ will _____ you with peace
3: the middle of the night
7: the opposite of daughter
8: prepared
10: to have no war and fighting

We wait for Christ's return

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

Try to find these words:

bless
house
kind
know
midnight
peace
ready
return
servants
sleep
son
speak

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOUR OF GRACE

12 noon to 1pm, 8th December

Devotions to Our Lady of Grace, Rosa Mystica

@ St Joseph's, The Junction

During the period 24th November 1946 to 8th December 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Pierina in a little church in Montichiari, Italy, eleven times. On the first appearance, the Blessed Mother told Sister Pierina that She wanted to be known as the Mystical Rose and that an Hour of Grace should be kept at noon, 8th December, in all the Catholic Churches of the world.



Come to the Hour of Grace, open your heart and be guided by the Holy Spirit, place your requests from your heart to the Mother of God, Our Blessed Mother, Immaculate, Rosa Mystica.

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

ST JOSEPH'S MEN NEWCASTLE

Join the St Joseph's Men's Group on Saturday 16 December, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Mackillop Parish (17 Milson Street, Charlestown) for a fun evening of free pizza, drinks, and games! Connect with fellow men in the community and enjoy a great time together. Contact Curtis on 0477 106 108.

THE CHUCKLE

I hired a handyman and left him a list of 6 tasks. When I got home he'd only completed tasks 1, 3, and 5. Turns out he only does odd jobs.



LIVING THE GOSPEL

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Appeal launches this weekend. With more and more vulnerable people experiencing poverty and on the brink of homelessness this Christmas, we urgently need your help.



Your donation can help provide the emergency assistance families, and many others, desperately need to survive, and the long-term support they need to build better futures. Please help!



Have you thought?

Beginning Advent

The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet – the same colour as used in Lent. In recent years, some parishes have moved to a more blue/mauve colour for Advent to try to distinguish it from the season of Lent.

REFLECTION

BY DIANE BERGANT CSA

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then move beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

Last month, our region was audited against its compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the audit. Thanks to all who helped clean up our spaces and make them compliant and welcoming. Thanks to those who were interviewed. And thanks to all those who prayed for us during the process. We will hear back in a few weeks as to how we did! The journey has been really valuable for all of us involved. We know our Churches as safe places to be. Many thanks everyone! *The Safeguarding Promoters*

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.

ADVENT 2023:

WITH ANTICIPATION AND JOY

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. With Anticipation and Joy is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now, and to be changed by it.

To access the resource, go to:

https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6563/0003487-dio-advent-reflection-book_2023.pdf

gospel focus

The Doorkeeper

The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter.

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

Gospel Acclamation *(Please stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

We pause for silent reflection.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,

Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*all bow*)
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father
almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and
Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Acclamation

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall
yield its increase.

OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Primary School

Karen McGinlay (*Principal*)

Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291

P:(02) 4961 2827

W:www.merewether.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Primary School

Ann Jackson (*Principal*)

Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291

P:(02) 4963 3009

W:www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au

St Columban's Primary School

Danielle Reed (*Principal*)

Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 3315

W:www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

St Peter's Primary School

Mark Konik (*Acting Principal*)

Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

P:(02) 4920 1736

W:www.stockton.catholic.edu.au