

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 17TH DECEMBER 2023 THIRD 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

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (Reception & Administration) Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Anne Warren (Business Manager)
Tuesday and Thursday

Thelma Dickson (Administration) Monday-Friday

Elul Tecle (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



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The name given to the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, which means **rejoice**. Amidst the various crosses we must carry in our daily lives and the many troubles of our world, the Lord is inviting us to reflect on the many good things we have received, especially the gift of His only begotten Son, and to see these as a sign of His immense and unwavering love for us. *Fr John*

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

Promotors 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)

3rd Week of Advent, Year B

Monday—18th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—19th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—20th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral 9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

 $5:30 pm \ 2nd \ Rite \ of \ Reconciliation \ @ \ The$

Cathedral

Thursday—21st December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

6:00pm Choir Practice @ The Cathedral

Friday—22nd December

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition, Adoration, and Reconciliation

@ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—23rd December

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation) *Cancelled

this week

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

Sunday—24th December

Fourth 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

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

5.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

5.30pm @ The Junction

6.00pm @ Mayfield West

7.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

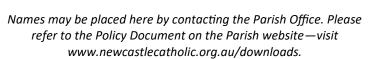


PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Clement (Sonny) Fitzsimmons,

Anniversaries: Sr Clare Tobin rsj, James Maher msc, Matthew Forman, Des Howard, Stephen Howard, James (Jim) Bridges, George & Mary Bridges, Maxwell, George & Patrick Bridges, Catherine Horner, Marion Bridges, Manuel Zaunders, Mary-Lou Alexander, Mary Ethel Sattler

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



BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 4th February @ 6:15pm:
Bookclub meets to discuss That Bligh
Girl by Sue Williams (postponed from December). 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:

20th December: 4th week of the Advent Program

We then take the month of January off. We begin the series The Chosen in February.

To participate, please email the parish office.

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a series that 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 the transformation of each of his first followers.



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.

CLERGY NEWS

Bishop Michael Kennedy this week appointed Fr Raphael Madukwe as Assistant Priest in the parishes of Booragul, Boolaroo-Warners Bay, St Joseph's Toronto, as well as St John Vianney Morisset, effective 31 January 2024.

Mr Christopher Voigt (currently Parish leader at Toronto) is the successful candidate for a newly created position of Manager Bishop's Office.

Fr Anil Kuchipudi and Fr Anthony Coloma are appointed as Assistant Priests for the Newcastle Inner City Pastoral Region. Fr Anthony will continue his school chaplaincy roles.

Mr Anton Perera will continue his discernment/ formation for ordination at Taree under the direction of Fr Kevin Corrigan.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Christmas Eve – 24 December

5.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

5.30pm @ The Junction 6.00pm @ Mayfield West

7.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

<u>Christmas Day – 25 December</u>

Midnight @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

7.30am @ St Mary's 8:00am @ Tighes Hill 9:00am @ Stockton

9.30am @ Sacred Heart Cathedral11:00am @ The Junction (Italian Mass)11.30am @ Cathedral (Polish Mass)5:00pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

5:00pm @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

*Please note that Christmas Eve is a Sunday, so the regular 5pm Mass @ The Cathedral will not take place. Instead, it will be 5:30pm and the Vigil for Christmas Eve.

There is NO Vietnamese Mass on Christmas Eve @ Mayfield West.

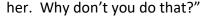
St Stephen's Day 26 December

8:15am Sacred Heart Cathedral

11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

THE CHUCKLE

Wife says: "Our new neighbours are so in love. He kisses her, stroked her hair and hugs



I said, "Because I don't know her that well yet."

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.

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



REFLECTION By Richard Leonard

Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent *Laudete* Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way *Gaudete* Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel John the Baptist is the model of humility, opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied, waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did.

In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Just like Farmer Fleming or Lord Randolph Churchill, he could not have known the implications of what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

No wonder we have him as our focus on *Gaudete* Sunday. And so may we all rejoice today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.

© Richard Leonard SJ

CHRISTMAS CONCERT @ SACRED HEART

The Newcastle Tudor Singers, directed by Dr Anne Millard, present "Favourite Things: Christmas Music we love" **Sunday December 17 @ 2pm.**



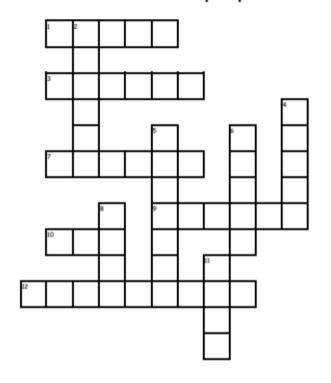
Christmas music we love

Dr Anne Millard, director Marcia Wall, piano Patricia Woods, soprano The Hunter Bell Ringers



Is 61:1-2 Lk 1:47 & 49, 53-54, R, Is 61:10b 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:19-28

I have been chosen to prepare for the Lord



Across

- 1: to have no war or fighting
- 3: the opposite of brother
- selected
- 9: a sandy place where not much grows
- 10: the number before two
- 12: an important religious group at the time of Jesus who strictly obeyed Jewish law

Down

- 2: John was asked if he was the Messiah,
 - E____, or the Prophet
- 4: before all others
- 5: people who lead
- 6: John used this to baptise people
- 8: twelve months
- 11: the Lord sent Isaiah to tell the good _ _ _ _

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

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Is 61:1-2

1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:19-28

Lk 1:47 & 49, 53-54, R, Is 61:10b

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

I have been chosen to prepare for the Lord

Ε M Т Ε D Ι Ι ٧ Ζ Н У Ε С Ι Ν S Ε S Ι W 0 D A C Ε Q J 0 Ε R Ζ Ρ G F C Ρ J D S В R S C 0 S Ε T J Х Н Ν Т W У Ε Ε R R У R Α У Ι J C E S Ι S Т Ε R Α D Α 0 L Ε S Z X V R N L В R Ι G Ι X F W X W Z У У В W T Ε R 0 F R W Ζ J D Ν R Κ С У D M Н G D S Ε S R 0 Ν О Q Ζ Ε R Т В P X J L В E Ε S Ι S У Κ

Try to find these words:

chosen
desert
Elijah
first
leaders
news
one
peace
Pharisees
sister
water
year

FOOD BASKETS 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.), can be placed in the basket at the back of **St Joseph's Church**, The Junction and in the foyer of **Immaculate Heart of Mary 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.

ST MARY'S, NEWCASTLE:

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.

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

gospel focus

Same but different

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery - it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John's gospel greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS



When the song of the angels is stilled and the star is gone from the sky.

When kings and the princes are home and the shepherds are back

with their flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to heal the broken hearted,
to set prisoners free,
to heal the cities,
to unite families,
to build the nations and feed the poor,
to wage peace and make music in the heart.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Appeal launched last 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!

USED STAMPS FOR MARY MACKILLOP TODAY (MMT)

"Mary MacKillop Today" is helping the poorest of the poor with <u>used stamps</u>. Please leave any used stamps in the box provided at the entrance to St Joseph's Church The Junction, or drop them off at the office. Money raised through their sales provides access to learning opportunities for the poorest communities in Australia and internationally.

2024 - LENTEN REFLECTION - TRANSFORMATION THROUGH REVELATION

During the season of Lent, we are called to look deeply at the human condition, just as Jesus, the Son of God, experienced. We are reminded during this time of hardship, suffering, and ultimately dying that we must stretch ourselves. We must pray and fast from whatever is taking hold of the fullness of life. This time calls for personal reflection and encourages us to look out with missionary eyes to intentionally give to those in need.

To access our Diocesan Resource, Transformation Through Revelation, please visit https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6680/0003733-dio-2024-lenten-program-06.pdf

SIMBANG GABI MASSES

Our Filipino community celebrate their annual Christmas Simbang Gabi novena of Masses in the Sacred Heart Cathedral each night at 7.30 pm from Friday 15th to Saturday 23rd December 2023.

Everyone is welcome. At each Mass a collection plate will be passed around to support the Cathedral.



This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose - a celebratory colour - and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2023 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A child's catholic faith journey began with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues by 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 is designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2024. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2024 program. If you are interested in being apart of the program this year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramentalenrolment-form/

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

ST PETER'S CHURCH CLEANING

There will be a Working Bee at the church on Wednesday 20th at 9.00am for a final clean before Christmas. 'Many hands make light work' Hope to see you there!

THANK YOU

After 26 years of true and loyal service, Rose Jones (Corrigan) is retiring from St Peters' School Office. On behalf of **St Peters' Church Community**, past and present, we would like to extend to you our sincere thanks for your generosity of time, service and cooperation over all those wonderful years. You will be sadly missed. Our best wishes for a wonderful well earned retirement.



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday, 20th December @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

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

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10 (R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

- My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
- 2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)
- 3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pause for silent reflection.

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand) **Alleluia**, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

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

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Acclamation

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Primary School

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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