

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 31ST MARCH 2024 SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION, YEAR B

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel
Fr Anthony Coloma
Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi
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

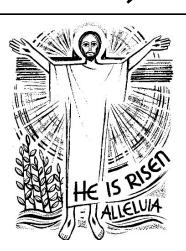
Anne Warren (Business Manager)
Tuesday and Thursday

Daloras Howes (Administration)
Thelma Dickson (Administration)
Elul Tecle (Administration)

Dr Anne Millard (Music, Liturgy, Sacraments)

Promotors of Safeguarding

Fr John Lovell p: (02) 4979 1106 Gail Lovell P: (02) 4979 1256 Anne Millard P: (02) 4979 1252



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If not for God revealing Himself to us through His Word, whose Paschal deeds opened the doorway to eternity for us, where would we be now? Nowhere! Jesus' death and resurrection has given light to the blind, hope to the hopeless and eternal life to all who will accept it. Today we have been given a reason to be eternally grateful. With the angels let us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Fr John

Other Contacts

Bereavement Team: Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret

Newton, Anne Millard P: (02) 4979 1252 **Mercy Pastoral Team:** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm

0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

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)

Octave of Easter, Year B

Monday 1st April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

Tuesday 2nd April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:15am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 3rd April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Christ the King, Mayfield West

Thursday 4th April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton (Anointing Mass)

Friday 5th April

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's (Anointing Mass)

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @

The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 6th April

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 7th April

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

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)

** No Mass this weekend

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

and on the Diocesan website

** The Vietnamese Mass is now celebrated fortnightly

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Second Sunday of Easter Year B

Acts 4:32-35 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20: 19:31



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: John O'Brien, Marie Smith, Robert Stanko

ANNIVERSARIES: Charlie Hart, Dorothy Armitage, Pat Fitzgerald, Georgia Spinos, Charlie Walsh, Catherine Walsh, Eileen Bleakley, Corazon G. Manlapaz, Margaret Campbell, Pam Hill, Betty

Haggerty

Perera, Dionisio Di Santo, Tui Innes,
Marko Kefecek, Ronoel Diwa, Jolina
Joyce Saranillo, Maureen Dwyer, Angela
Cottier, Joshua Zalanardo, Rosa Silivinec, Harry
Melville, Doreen Mason, Elaine Johnson, Stewart
McKinnon, Mark Caesar, Peter Kefecek, Carlo Rossi,
Neil Thomas, Kathryn Gray, Emilie Tseronis, Josephine
Diwa

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 Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in March:

At Sacred Heart

Louise Anne Balzer Frank Gibson
Francesco Bufi Keith Martin
Verona Cable Terence O'Beirne
Edward Caelli Peter Francis O'Si

Edward Caelli Peter Francis O'Sullivan Warren Cunningham Wesbrook (Wes) Smythe

Michael Edward Delaney Coz Sphiris

Veroncia Ellicott Anna Maria Stefanson Betsy Gadd-Ardesch Bill Van Schyndel Thomas (Jack) Wakely

At St Joseph's:

Eleanora C Bertoss Barry Lewis John Gordon

Carmel Blair Joyce Johns

Muriel Boekenstein Kenneth McDonnell

Kathleen Booker Jack Muldoon
Della Brain Yvonne Pryde
Ellis Brown John Sowerby
Thelma Doohan James Struck
Megan Evans Paul Wallace
Margaret Fleming Win Young

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

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of myself, my fellow clergy and the office staff of our City Pastoral Region, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and holy Easter. My thanks to



all those who have helped with the decoration of our churches for Holy Week and with the planning and celebration of our paschal liturgies during this time. Over this Easter season we are welcoming a number of people into full Communion with us. Let's congratulate them and keep them in our prayers.

We also keep in our prayers those children who have enrolled in our Sacramental Program for 2024 and look forward to being Confirmed and receiving their first Eucharist over the coming months. A special thanks to our sacramental coordinator Dr Anne Millard for her wonderful work in coordinating this.

In the coming weeks, I will be calling for volunteers to form an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Team for our region, to guide and accompany adults who express an interest in joining our Catholic faith. Formation will be provided for those who would like to become part of this team.

You may have also noticed in recent editions of our Sunday bulletins, EPIC (Everything is Possible in Christ) - a young adult faith-sharing group (for anyone aged between 20 and 40). Our thanks go out to Jenifer and Deon for leading this wonderful new initiative, and a number of other young people who are already supporting it with their participation. We pray it will continue to grow and prosper as more young people hear of it.

Fr Paul and Fr Anil will be going on leave over the coming month, visiting loved ones in India and having a well-earned rest, so we pray they will have a safe and enjoyable break.

Wishing you all every grace and blessing.

Love

Fr John

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

The Hunter Community Alliance brings together diverse communities, environmental groups, unions, and religious organisations to advance the common good and achieve a fair, just and sustainable future for the region.

The Founding Assembly is the next milestone of the HCA's four-year journey of listening, training, preparing, and organising. We are encouraging representatives from every Parish to come along so the broader community can witness our commitment to the common good, the dignity of the human person, solidarity, the preferential option for the poor, stewardship of creation and subsidiarity.

The Founding Assembly will take place April 10th, 6:30pm-8:30pm at the University of Newcastle Great Hall, Callaghan. Register here:

https://events.humanitix.com/hca-founding-assembly

DIOCESAN LIBRARY

Save the Date! Friday 31 May

Join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Library which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Christian Library opened in 1957.

This celebration will be followed by a reimagined TWEC dinner which will acknowledge the legacy of Sisters of St Joseph and explore our future journey. More details will be shared soon.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Library is open for patrons at 12 Tudor Street, Newcastle West.

Opening hours:

Mondays - 10am to 6pm

Fridays – 10am to 6pm

Saturdays 10am to 2pm

Events:

5 April – Storytime from 10.15am to 11am

5 April - Formation Friday - Easter from 1pm to

2.30pm

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

EASTER REFLECTION by Richard Leonard SJ

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the

importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

AN EVENT CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF TERESA BRIERLEY

You are invited to join us in celebrating the ministry of Teresa Brierley on Friday 12 April.

After almost 20 years with the Diocese, Teresa has resigned from her role as Director Pastoral Ministries. We're looking forward to recognising Teresa and acknowledging her significant work for the diocese and our community before she finishes in April.

Please find the event details below:

Date: Friday 12 April

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Location: Southern Cross Hall (841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West) RSVP: By 4 April, at https://teresabrierley.eventbrite.com.au Registering is essential.

SING TO THE LORD

Sing to the Lord is a cantor training and formation opportunity for all members of the faith-

ful. We are looking for everyone who loves to sing and would like to have a go. To find out more and express Interest use the following link or QR Code:



https://forms.office.com/r/7CGYdeXGZw

CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY CANCER CARERS FASHION PARADE

Join the Cancer Carers for their next Fashion Parade on Friday 5 April from 11am. It will be hosted at St Columban's Church Hall on Church Street in Mayfield. Admission is \$15 and includes a light lunch. RSVP by Tuesday 2 April to Evelyn 4950 9440 or Suzanne 4950 8235.

WOMEN OF THE WELL: WEEKEND RETREAT

Rest, reflect, release and reconnect at the next Women of the Well Weekend Retreat. It starts on Friday 19 April (ending Sunday 21 April) and will be hosted at St Joseph's, Kincumber. Cost is \$125. For more information or to register, visit

www.womenofthewell.com.au/events/gatherings-at-the-well

IRELAND PILGRIMAGE THE WAY OF MERCY

In 2024, Maitland-Newcastle Diocese will be journeying to Ireland to explore "The Way of Mercy". Embark on a soulful 15-day Irish spiritual journey, drawing inspiration from Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Traverse Dublin's sacred sites and the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry, immersing yourself in Ireland's rich religious legacy. Marvel at the majestic Cliffs of Moher, pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Knock. This pilgrimage covers seven captivating cities of Ireland, instrumental in building the foundations of our Christian faith.

As we journey together we will take time, to pray, reflect and care for one another. The spirit of Mercy, compassion, respect, justice, reconciliation, hospitality service and courage will be reflected upon each day in our journeying together.

Date: Thursday 26 September – Saturday 12

October 2024

Contact: Erin McCort (Pilgrimage Coordinator)

erin.mccort@mn.catholic.edu.au

CHILDREN'S MISSION PARTNERS:

The collective efforts and generosity of the Tighes Hill Catholic community will be celebrated at the monthly morning tea in April, after a significant fundraising milestone was achieved recently. Following the 8am Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Catholic Mission is inviting locals to celebrate the achievement of \$50,000 worth of donations, from parishioners over the past three decades. There also will be an acknowledgement of the individual efforts of long-term Tighes Hill resident and parishioner, Margaret Crockett. She has been collecting the funds from different parishioners, recording them in her exercise books and passing the funds on to Catholic Mission, for its work with children in need around the world. All are invited to join the community for morning tea, after Mass on Sunday, April 21.

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat returns April 3 for episode 2 of The Chosen. To participate, please email the parish office.



BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 7th April @ 6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss Willow Man by Inga Simpson. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDITATION 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.

BEREAVEMENT

Margaret Beard, a parishioner of Stockton, is a member of the recently formed Bereavement Team for the City Region. Should you know of anyone in need of care or counselling, please make contact with Margaret.

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.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL & 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.

EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Are you aged between 20 and 40? Are you interested to share your faith with like-minded young adults? Then our new faith sharing group might be for you! We meet Thursdays @ 7pm in the Cathedral precinct. Email Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au to find out more.

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.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 7th April Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5.00pm – 6pm followed by a shared supper.



THE CHUCKLE

The Easter Bunny got fleas. Now he's Bugs Bunny.



ENROLMENTS FOR 2024 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 are 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

"TILLING THE CHURCH: THEOLOGY FOR AN UNFINISHED PROJECT". ZOOM DISCUSSION

While Father Richard's visit in 2023 was short, he last left our Diocese with riches which we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

We will continue the discussion in 2024!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project" chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 17 April: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

To register go to: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary will be held on the first Saturday of each month @ 1pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. For more Information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.



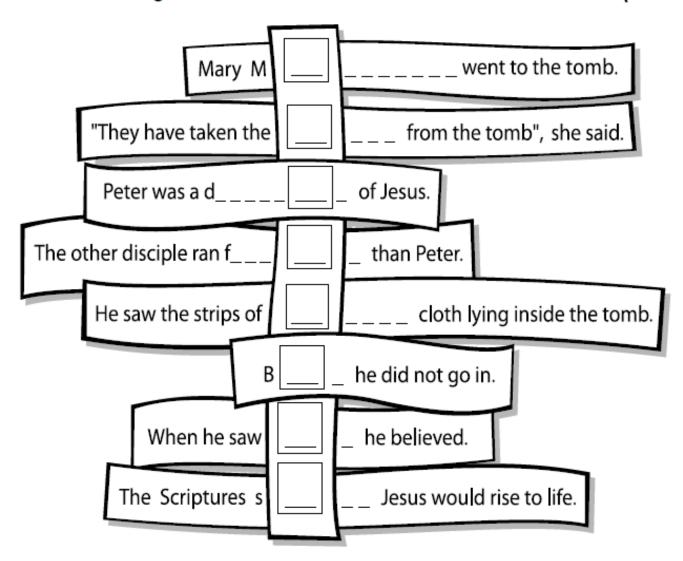
All who have faith in Jesus will have their sins forgiven

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Easter Sunday, Year A, B and C [N01EASUI_2004_WS3.rtf]

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TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

- (R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
- Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
 Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
- The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
 I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
 This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled,

hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;

shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

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

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

Penny Banister (*Principal*) Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 3315

W:www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

St Peter's Primary School

Michael Punch (*Principal*)
Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

P:(02) 4928 1861

W:www.stockton.catholic.edu.au