



# 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 16TH JUNE 2024

### 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 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](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)  
W: [www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au](http://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 Teclé (*Administration*)  
Peter Davies

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

#### Promoters 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



In explaining the Kingdom of God to his listeners, Jesus paints images that are ordinary snapshots for his immediate listeners. For example, he uses salt, lamp, vineyard, yeast, weeds, a person

scattering seeds on the field, among others. I think, and I may be mistaken, Jesus is not trying to simplify the richness of God's Kingdom but rather is reminding us how the Reign of God operates even in the ordinariness of our lives. The transcendent God reveals God's immanence in life's regular rhythm. The question for us now is this: how have we seen God's reign in the ordinary movements of our very own lives?

Fr Anthony

#### 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)

*11th Week of Ordinary Time, Year B*

Monday 17th June

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 18th June

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 19th June

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

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

Thursday 20th June

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 21st June

*Memorial of St Aloysius Gonzaga*

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @  
The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 22nd June

*Memorial of Sts John Fisher and Thomas More*

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 23rd June

*12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*) \*\*

\* *Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—  
[www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton](http://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton)  
and on the Diocesan website*

\*\* The Vietnamese Mass is now celebrated fortnightly

## PRAYER REQUESTS



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Callum Drinkwater,  
Genowefa Stefanczyk, Brian Walker

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Clare Hazelman, Caitlin Howden,  
Leo McGovern, Alice Howland, Gath Wallace,  
Nieva Luciano, Alec & Peter Mather, Hazel McDonald,  
Brian Bailey, Leonardo Diwa, Sr., Danilo Diwa

**SICK:** Neil McGoldrick, John Woodward, Loreta  
Habulan, Peter & Bev Woods Leeton, Lisa Woodland,  
Maria Therese Perera, Tui Innes, Marko Kefecsek, Jolina  
Joyce Saranillo, Maureen Dwyer, Angela Cottier,  
Joshua Zalanardo, Rosa Silivinec, Harry Melville,  
Doreen Mason, Elaine Johnson, Mark Caesar, Peter  
Kefecsek, Carlo Rossi, Neil Thomas, Kathryn Gray,  
Emilie Tseronis, Josephine Diwa, Ronoel Diwa, Loreta  
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](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*

## OUR BELOVED DEAD

***Speak the name of the dead and they will live forever.***

We remember those in our Columbaria whose  
anniversaries occur in June:

At Sacred Heart

Reginald Bennett

Coral Dawn (Diri) Cooke

Joy Doran

Clifford Ellicott

Barry (Appo) Garside

Leo Ireland

Helen Elizabeth McLachlan

Basil O'Brien

Moira O'Brien

Herbert Presland

Michael (Mick) Rabbitt

Colleen Ray

Clyde Henry Rowley

John Ruggero

John Shearer

Stanley Wenman

Noela Margaret Yazbeck

At St Joseph's:

Vaudrey BRUYN

Paul BYRON

John CAVENAGH

Robert CRAIG

Yvette DAVIS

Christine DOWLING

Elaine GROOMBRIDGE

Ethna HARVEY

Ena HAWKINS

Helen Margaret HUMPHRY

Ronald John JAMES

Kenneth George LANE

John Augustus LARKIN

Mark Joseph LEWIS

Eileen MOORE

Dolly O'MALLEY

Eric & Coralie PARKINSON

Lynette PUNSHON

Greg RADECKI

Richard Joseph WAKELY

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

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Job 38:1, 8-11

2 Cor 5:14-17

Mk 4:35-41



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

## TIGHES HILL NATIVE BEE HIVE

The Parish's Community Garden next to the Tighes Hill church is keen to get a hive of stingless native bees. The wild hive of European bees that lived there was killed due to the varroa mite. The native bees are mite resistant and will be great pollinators. They don't produce enough honey for humans - just enough to get the hive through the hard times. The cost is about \$700 for bees, hive and stand. Please consider making a donation at the GoFundMe appeal:



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE

Expressions of Interest for 2024/2025 Christian Formation Course are now open.

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

- The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units
  - All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation
- By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:
- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
  - grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
  - realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
  - be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
  - grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 23 July, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more, go to [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/)

## PARISH LUNCHEON

Parish Luncheon at *Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether* @ 12.30pm on Monday, 17th June. All welcome. Inquiries to Maureen (Tighes Hill) on 0412 673151.

## BIBLICAL EXPLORATIONS:

### MOSES AND THE EXODUS

The exodus was one of the fundamental events that came to define God's people. It's not much of an exaggeration to say that the rest of the Bible was written as a reaction to God's decision to rescue Israel from Egypt in the exodus. Understanding the exodus helps unlock the whole Bible. Even the gospels draw on the exodus. In this subject, we'll raise some of the key questions about the exodus and think about the different ways that people have interpreted the book of Exodus. We'll also think about what the book of Exodus means in a Christian context and how the gospel writers used Exodus ideas to make sense of Jesus' life.

RSVP by 8 June to attend at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or in your parish.

Dates: Thursdays 20 & 27 June

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/6WZSV8CTnT>

### FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

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.

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Seed on the land

*The first parable in the gospel passage describes the unerring work of the kingdom. It is like the seed that almost magically transforms into a fully grown plant that may be harvested – apparently without any external forces. Of course, we know that plants need to be fed, watered, weeded and nurtured to ensure their proper growth. However, the kingdom of God works in our lives in a similar way – if we feed and nurture it, the kingdom will produce a great harvest. Even if we don't pay it attention, the kingdom is present and acting in our world.*



## 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

## 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.

## 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.



## WEDNESDAY ROSARY

Pray the Rosary each Wednesday immediately after 8:15am Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.

## EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Meet Thursdays @ 7pm in the Cathedral precinct. Join us June 27, to view episode 3 of the series *The Chosen*. Anyone aged between 20 and 40 is cordially invited to join the group.  
Email [Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au) to find out more.

## VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets June 19 to discuss Episode 7 of *The Chosen*. To participate, please email the parish office.

Watch the episode here:

<http://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683594340>

## PRAYER GROUP

Junction Prayer/Discussion Group Monthly meetings occur on the last Thursday of each month at 9:30am in Parish meeting room.

## TAIZE SERVICE

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

You can read about it in the Aurora article "A spirit of joy, simplicity and reconciliation" available in the Diocesan website: <http://mnnews.today>



## BOOK CLUB

**Sunday, 7th July @ 6:15pm:** Bookclub meets to discuss *What Happened to Nina?* by Dervla Mctiernan. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



## COMMUNITY KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

As we enter winter, more people in our community will need help. CatholicCare's Community Kitchens can be accessed by anyone who needs a warm meal or support. Five locations operate across the Hunter and Mid-North Coast. including:

- Hamilton South: Every Wednesday, 12pm to 1pm at 29 Fowler Street, Hamilton South
- Newcastle: Every Saturday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm (6.30pm to 7.30pm during Daylight Savings) at Civic Park, King Street, Newcastle
- Toronto: Every Thursday, 5pm to 6.30pm at 97 The Boulevard, Toronto

## STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE EVENTS

The Diocesan Resource Centre and Library were officially opened and blessed by Bishop Michael Kennedy at the end of May. The library is open three days a week and offers several events each month. Find out what is on offer by regularly checking the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library)

The opening hours are as follows:

Mondays and Tuesdays – 10am to 6pm  
Saturday – 10am to 2pm

## ORDINARY—NOT ORDINARY

A reflection by Anne Millard

Here we are in Ordinary Time—rather an unfortunate name, isn't it? We can't be blamed for thinking there's nothing special about it. It's ordinary. But that's not the liturgical meaning at all. While the dictionary definition of ordinary is "with no special or distinctive features; normal", liturgical Ordinary comes from the Latin term *ordinalis*, meaning 'numbered' or 'ruled'.

Between the spectacular feasts of Easter and Christmas are the 33 or 34 weeks of Ordinary Time that contain stories of Jesus' earthly ministry and some of the major events of the Gospels we know and love: miracles, parables, the calling of the twelve, the sermon on the mount, the bread of life discourse. This week is the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The first part of Ordinary Time began after the feast of the Epiphany and ended when Lent began on Ash Wednesday. Now we're in the second part of Ordinary Time, which began the Monday after Pentecost and will conclude on the First Sunday of Advent, with the beginning of a new church year.

Ordinary Time in the church is recognizable mostly by what we don't have. There are no special decorations. The music is neither pared back (like Lent or Advent) nor spectacular (like Christmas and Easter). The liturgical colour is green. It's all sounding rather ordinary, isn't it? So, what do we do with this ordinary business? Well, nothing could be better to shake up our thinking than this Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus tells us that from small things, big things grow. Maybe the message is that the majority of our lives are spent in the ordinary. A heck of a lot of curried sausages fill the weeks between the dinners with turkey and all the trimmings.



## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCHES NOW

### THE CHUCKLE

My wife complains that I never buy her flowers.

I didn't even know she sold them!



## NOTICE TO PLANNED GIVERS USING ENVELOPES PLEASE COLLECT YOUR SETS FOR THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR

**Planned Giving Envelopes will be available in all Churches** from the weekend 15/16 June 2024.

We've placed your envelopes at the Mass Centre you usually attend. If you find they're not available, please contact the Parish Office on 4979 1101, or email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au), and we will locate them for 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 2023/2024 financial year must notify the Parish Office **by Friday, 28 June 2024.**

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

**Email to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 immediately following 30 June 2024. 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, 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.

### 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

## THE SOWING OF THE SEED

In Australia, so far as I know, a farmer ploughs the land and *then* plants the seed. In Galilee, the farmer scattered the seed on the old field and therefore on tracks which people made walking across it after cropping, on thorny areas, and also on what he hoped was good soil. He *then* ploughed in the seed.

It is a wonder that anything grew, and generally the return was about 7:1. In a previous parable Jesus had spoken of the Kingdom he was inaugurating as if it would turn out to be like a bumper harvest of up to a hundredfold.

What would such a harvest mean for a peasant tilling the rocky soil of Galilee? It would mean release from the endless servitude to a landlord, generation after generation. It would mean liberation, not only from hunger, but from the power structure which was quite content with a permanent underclass of subsistence farmers.

In other words, Jesus was telling his listeners that God's Kingdom would turn the world as they knew it 'upside down'. As Mary sang in the Magnificat: 'The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.' Power structures would be shattered by the impulses of the Gospel to create a society where there was a just distribution of the world's resources.

Naturally, the peasant farmers of Galilee wanted to know 'when' and 'how'. We want to know the 'when' and the 'how' of the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' answer to them, and to us, is basically: 'It is not for you to know. Just get on with the sowing of the Gospel seed. Something will happen with the seed you sow, something out of all proportion to your part in the process.'

Our Lord pictured this by contrasting the tiny mustard seed and the mustard bush which he even exaggerates into a tree in which birds could find shelter!

In this parable Jesus says: 'Be patient, allow the creative power of God to work in the earth and the small seed will be "raised up".'

When did God's creative power work in the depths of the stony ground so that the Gospel Seed was raised up? The answer is, of course, in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And what effect did this have? We read in the Acts of the Apostles concerning the early Christian community that 'The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.' (Acts 2:44)

In other words, the social system was being subverted by the power of the Gospel. A more just distribution of resources was taking place in the immediate aftermath of the proclamation of the Resurrection by Peter on the Feast of Pentecost.

I think it is very telling that a little further on in the Acts of the Apostles we read: 'The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no-one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.' (Acts 4:32-33)

There is a correlation between the commitment of Christians to a just distribution of the world's resources and the proclamation of the Lord's resurrection. Only if the commitment is authentic and real will the proclamation be powerful and effective.

So,

let us lead lives with an authentic dimension of social justice,

let us get on with sowing the seed of the Gospel whenever we get the opportunity,

let God get on with germinating that seed with the power of the Resurrection so that

the Tree of Life may grow to such a height that all peoples 'can shelter in its shade.'

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

## PARISH VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

**Tuesday 18 June 2024**

**9.30am to 12.30pm (Lunch Provided)**

***Murray Room, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle 2302***

All parish workers are required to attend ***Safeguarding Training in Parishes*** within 6 months of commencing in their role and every 6 years thereafter.

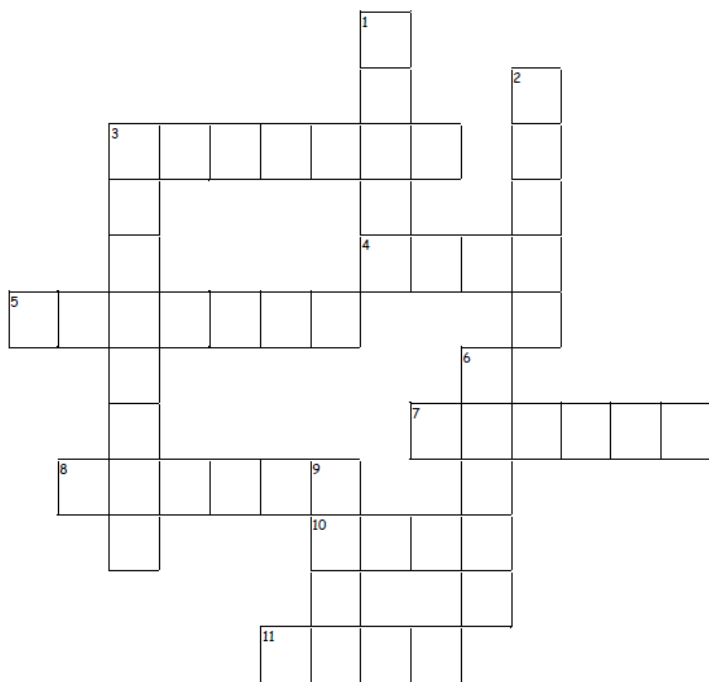
This training forms part of the **Diocese's mandatory training regime** and is specifically designed to support paid and unpaid helpers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

# CROSSWORD

## Root your faith in the Lord

Ez 17:22-24  
Ps 92:1-2,12-13, R. see 2a  
Cor 5:6-10  
Mk 4:30-34



### Across

- 3: Jesus explained that heaven is like a \_\_\_\_\_ seed  
4: trees and other plants grow from this small thing  
5: all the lands that are ruled by a king  
7: a well kept outdoor area with flowers and trees  
8: alive  
10: a part of a tree that is underground  
11: a small, woody branch

### Down

- 1: animals that fly  
2: a dark area cast by an object in the sun  
3: a very tall, large land mass  
6: belief  
9: to increase in size

# SENIOR WORDSEARCH

## Root your faith in the Lord

Ez 17:22-24  
Ps 92:1-2,12-13, R. see 2a  
Cor 5:6-10  
Mk 4:30-34

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

Try to find these words:

birds  
faith  
garden  
grow  
kingdom  
living  
mountain  
mustard  
root  
seed  
shade  
twig

## TODAY'S LITURGY

### Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 26:7,9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
be my help.  
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

### First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

*I have made the small tree great.*

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

### Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled  
from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all the  
seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.*

### Communion Antiphon: Psalm 26:4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

## 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

## gospel focus

### The Kingdom of God

*The references to the kingdom of God in the gospels always carry a paradox. It exists in the present, yet is something to be achieved in the future. It is here, but not yet. If we live 'as if' we are living in the kingdom here and now then we hasten its coming. The kingdom of God is not a place but a way in which the world operates. It is a kingdom that is ruled by justice and gives precedence to those who are regarded as nothing in the world. It is a kingdom of promise and hope that inspires and calls all people to more than they currently are.*

## 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.