



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 15TH DECEMBER 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Anthony Coloma
Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi
Fr Solomon Okovido
Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
P: (02) 4979 1101
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredheartamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)
Elul Tecle (*Administration*)
Peter Davies (*Administration*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments*)

Bereavement Team: Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard
(02) 4979 1252

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm 0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

How has the Good News been a source of joy in your life? Paul's encouragement to the Philippians was to be mindful of the joy brought about by God's nearness in their hearts. This mindfulness ought to form part of our daily routine in life. It does not only free us from unnecessary anxieties; it also sets in motion our availability for kindness. Joy enables us to respond to John the Baptist's invitation to "share with the person who has none." Authentic Christian joy is not just personal; it ignites our hearts to be responsible for others, especially those who have none.

Fr Anthony



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 C

Monday 16 December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 17 December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday 18 December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

6:00pm Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Thursday 19 December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

5:30pm Seafarers Mass at Wickham

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Friday 20 December

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral (Anointing Mass)

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 21 December

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 22 December

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

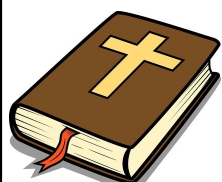
9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (Italian)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West
(Mass 15 December; Mass on Christmas
Day 6:00pm; next Mass 29 December)



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Mi 5:1-4
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-44

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dianne May Beckett



ANNIVERSARIES: Kelvin O'Neill, James (Jim) Bridges, Mary & George Bridges, Marion Bridges, Catherine Horner, Deceased members of the Bridges family, Carlo Cristobal, Mary Murray, Sr Clare Tobin rsj, Maud Sullivan, Mary Mills, James Maher msc, Matt Forman

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Carlo Rossi, John Woodward, Neil Thomas, Louise Hall, Tui Innes, Felicity Dawson, Sr Ann Daley rsj

Names may be placed in "Prayer Requests" by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website

—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

PARISH BULLETIN

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

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 Jr	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
Mick McBride	Dorothy Wilson

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

FAREWELL TO FR JOHN

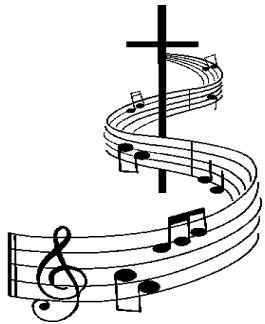
Fr John's last weekend Mass will be at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9.30am on Sunday 29 December 2024, followed by refreshments. To express our appreciation to Fr John for his ministry within the Inner City pastoral region, please consider offering a thankyou via a retiring collection at our churches next weekend 21/22 December. We wish Fr John every happiness in this next stage of his faith journey

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for all our Christmas Masses at Sacred Heart. If you can help, we'd be very grateful! Please complete the form available in the foyer, or scan the QR code, or use this link..



<https://tinyurl.com/SHCathedral>



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

We are looking for volunteers to join our choir at the Cathedral for the celebration of Christmas. If you would like to help, please contact the office on 4979 1101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au.

CHRISTMAS CLEANING AT STOCKTON

A working bee in Stockton church will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 9am. All welcome to assist with ensuring St Peter's is in tip top shape for the Feast of the Nativity.



STOCKTON ADVENT DONATIONS

Christmas is a time of giving, receiving and thinking of others. As in past years, please dig deep and give generously to those less fortunate. Baskets in the foyer each Sunday of Advent need to be filled with non-perishable goods, gifts and toiletries. These will be distributed between Catholic Care, Refugee Hub and Seafarers' Mission. Thank you, in anticipation.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

A further delivery of Columban calendars has been received & they are available for \$10 from the parish office.



BEE HAPPY

The community garden behind our Tighes Hill church recently took delivery of a hive of native stingless bees. These will help with pollination now that the varroa mite has reduced the number of local European honey bee. Due to the risk of vandalism, the hive is located in a neighbour's yard. The garden thanks all those who contributed to the fundraising appeal.




SIMBANG GABI AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

In preparation for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth, Novena Masses will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7.30pm in the evenings of **15th December to 23rd December 2024**.

The celebration of the Christmas Novena Masses, also known as Simbang Gabi to Filipinos, is a long tradition brought by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in 1669. The Novena Masses are in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and serve as a preparation for the commemoration of the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour. *All are welcome!*



The Newcastle Tudor Singers
present
The Mood of Christmas
Directed by Anne Millard
with Marcia Wall, piano
and The Hunter Handbells
December 15th
Sacred Heart Cathedral
@ 2pm
Tickets \$15 & \$10
Artwork by Roy Wall



RCIA TEAM—CITY PASTORAL REGION

Dear friends,

As many of you may already be aware, we are currently forming an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Team for the parishes of our City Pastoral Region. I'm very grateful to those generous parishioners who have volunteered to be part of this team, and also Sr Louise Gannon rsj and the Worship & Prayer Team, in assisting us with formation of this wonderful ministry.



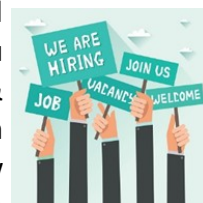
Saying this, it's important to recognize that all of us, as an intrinsic part of our Christian calling, have a role in the work of evangelisation (including welcoming & accompanying) of anyone interested in joining our Catholic faith. It can be very inspiring to hear the stories of those who are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord and His people through this process.

So, I invite you to let me know if you'd like to volunteer to be a companion (ie. welcome and sit with one of these people at Sunday Mass) to accompany them on their journey. Instruction will be provided for you if you are able to help in this way. In doing this, you will be making a very valuable and practical contribution to building-up the Kingdom of God in our region. To register your interest, please forward your name and a contact number/email to our Parish Office at: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or telephone on (02) 49791101.

Love, Fr John

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT THE DIOCESE

Are you enthusiastic, passionate and looking for a career change? You should join our new Mission & Evangelisation team. Formally known as Pastoral Ministries, the team's new permanent, full-time roles offer the chance to shape and have a meaningful impact across our parishes and faith communities.



Mission and Evangelisation Partner - Youth Ministry: Bring a creative and strategic focus to a new and bespoke strategy for the engagement of young people in the life and mission of the local Church. This is a chance for a passionate leader to animate an inspired vision in fertile ground with significant support from a broader team.

Mission and Evangelisation Partner - Worship: Be part of an outward-looking, inter-connected and collaborative group who will provide significant leadership to all who seek advice and formation in this space.

To apply, find these vacancies advertised on the Diocese website under Careers, Diocese positions vacant:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions

We encourage anyone across the Diocese who is interested and meets the criteria to apply.

For further information, please contact Director of Mission & Evangelisation James Camden:

james.camden@mn.catholic.org.au

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024



Christmas Eve – 24 December

5.30pm Cathedral
5.30pm The Junction
5.30pm Mayfield West
7.30pm Cathedral

Christmas Day – 25 December

Midnight Cathedral
7.30am Newcastle
8:00am Tighes Hill
9:00am Stockton
9.30am Cathedral
11:00am The Junction Italian Mass
11.30am Cathedral Polish Mass
5:00pm Cathedral
6:00pm Mayfield West Vietnamese Mass



CATHOLICARE



CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning have started collecting donations for their 2024 Christmas Hamper Drive. The team is hoping to spread Christmas cheer by gifting hampers to people who access their Community Kitchens and

often go without over the festive period. If you would like to contribute, please drop off Christmas treats to the CatholicCare office – 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield:

Financial donations are also welcome! Every dollar counts and helps us keep our kitchens going.

Please visit catholiccare.org.au/donate.



ADVENT 2024: AWAITING HOPE

We are called during this holy time to wait with hope, knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. *Awaiting Hope* is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect on the Advent Gospels.



It's 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://tinyurl.com/AwaitingHope>

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM PALMS!



Are you looking to give something really special this year?

Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you!

Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here!

Just scan the QR or go to palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop

Your purchase assists the amazing communities overseas.



EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Come and join us! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month @ 6pm in the Cathedral precinct. Anyone aged between 20 and 40 is cordially invited to join the group.

Email Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au to find out more.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational and everyone is very welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

WHERE: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill.

LIVING WATERS MEDITATION CENTRE

A Christian Meditation Centre at 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, which offers meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am. After

meditation on Fridays, Lectio Divina, a personal interaction with Sacred Scripture, is offered. For more information: Carmel Moore rsj 0412122297 or just come.



PRAYER / DISCUSSION GROUP

The Junction Prayer/Discussion Group have commenced their Advent Program, meeting each Thursday until 19th December, at 9.30am in the meeting room at the parish office, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction.



VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets Wednesday 18th December @ 7pm. We are using the Diocesan resource *Awaiting Hope*. To participate, please email the parish office: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

WEDNESDAY ROSARY

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



REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas.

'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church.

He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world. Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next.

© Richard Leonard SJ



Please be aware the Regional Office will be closed over Christmas and New Year from 4pm on Tuesday 24th December till 9.30am on Thursday 2nd January.

Phone messages and emails received during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2025. Please also note that prayer requests for the Sunday Parish Bulletin for Sunday 29 December need to be received by Friday 20 December.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. 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. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. Any of the following non-perishable items are welcome: UHT milk, cereal, spreads, tinned goods (veggies, fruit, soup, fish, meat), pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, coffee, biscuits, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant. Thank you. Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523 or 4967 2998.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

The Community Kitchens run by CatholicCare 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

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH VIA THE APP

Are you using the App? Not only can you get the daily readings on your phone, you can also support the parish with an easy way to donate. You can download the app for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet!

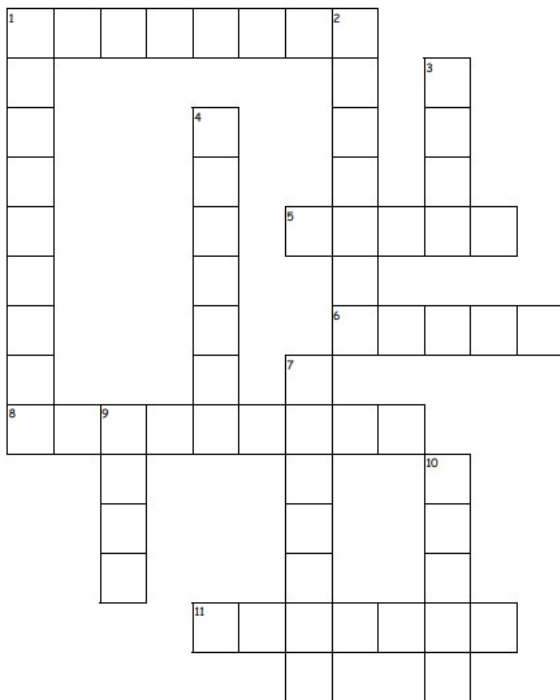
BEQUESTS

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region continue its mission of proclaiming the Good News, you might consider including us in your Will. You just need to specify which parish(es) you would like to help.

CROSSWORD

What must we do?

Lk 3:10-16.18



Across

- 1: people who fight battles
- 5: used in Baptism
- 6: to let others use our things
- 8: something that is not the same
- 11: someone who educates us

Down

- 1: to be happy and content
- 2: something worn on feet in warm weather
- 3: the element that burns
- 4: he will _____ you in the Holy Spirit
- 7: the chosen one
- 9: what we eat
- 10: what we use to buy things

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord is at your side

Zep 3:14-15
Isa 12:2,4bcd.6 R.v.6
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-16.18

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

Try to find these words:

different
enemies
fire
gentle
heart
Messiah
retreat
share
sisters
soldiers
teacher
thankful

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Zep 3:14-18

Shout for joy, sing joyfully



Responsorial Psalm Is 12: 2-6 R.v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is
the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he sent me to bring good news to the poor
Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 3:10-18

What, then, must we do?



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, savior of the world for by your cross and
resurrection, you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon Is 34:4

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

OUR CATHOLIC 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

St Francis Xavier's College

Greg Ptolemy (*Principal*)
Parkway Avenue, Hamilton NSW 2303
P:(02) 4961 2863
W:www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

San Clemente High School

Bernard Burgess (*Principal*)
78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
P:(02) 4014 7300
W:www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic's Catholic College

Rachel Jones (*Principal*)
76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
P:(02) 4968 1295
W:www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au

SAFEGUARDING

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