



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.

Mayfield Parish: Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2025

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Greg Barker, Parish Priest
Fr Sabu Pulimalayil, Assistant Priest
Fr Anthony Coloma, Assistant Priest
Fr Niel Olano, Assistant Priest
Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office

McAuley Building, 242 Parry St, Newcastle West, 2302
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
P: (02) 4979 1101
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au
After hours emergency phone: 0494 390 653

Our Staff

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)
Elul Tecele (*Administration*)
Peter Davies (*Administration*)
Mary-Anne de Luca (*Sacraments*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy*)

Bereavement Team:

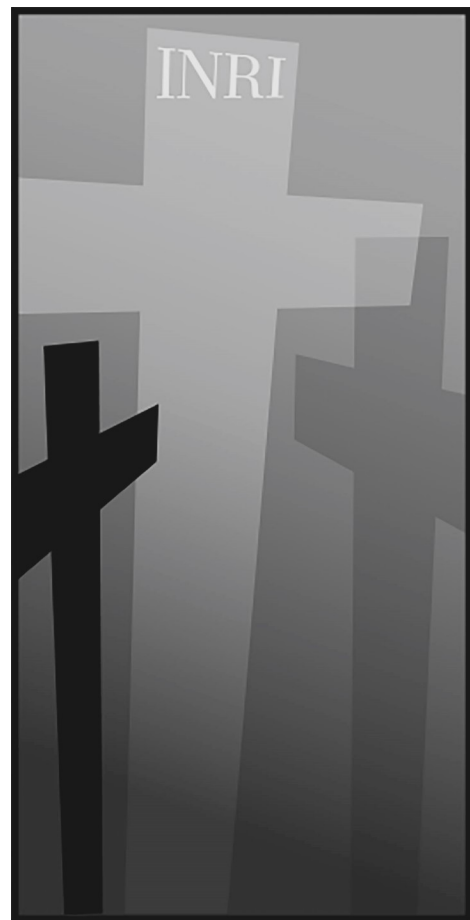
Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory,
Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard
(02) 4979 1252

St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding:

Louise Outram
Adele Rubino
Cynthia Tamonan
Sr Kath Williams rsm



INRI

I think we are familiar with the inscription "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews!" Jesus was a king like no other. A king who wasn't given a golden crown, like His human ancestors David and Solomon, but a crown of thorns; and for a throne, a Roman Cross.

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)

34th week in Ordinary Time

Mon 24 Nov

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 25 Nov

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Holy Family

10:30am Mass @ Badcoe

Wed 26 Nov

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thurs 27 Nov

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton—CANCELLED this week

9:15am Mass @ Holy Family

Fri 28 Nov

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 29 Nov

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
followed by Reconciliation

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

Sat 29 Nov

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 30 Nov

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

12noon Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Note: There are no Vietnamese Masses at Mayfield
West in November

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



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Sunday of Advent, Year A

Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-14

Mt 24:37-44

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Louise Campbell,
Peter Grime, Jack Meister, Jill Carmichael,
Shirley Schreiber, Judith Walker



ANNIVERSARIES: Gerald Crockett, Rose
Berwick, Theresa McCormack, John
McGuire Turner, Carol Power, Betty Holly, Philomena
Walker, Jack Dunn, Marie Sweeney, Joan Sullivan,
Frank Rabbitt (Snr)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: John Hayes, Jeremy Eden,
Braxton Rayner, Patricia Gillett, Carlo Rossi, Tui Innes,
Sr Ann Daley rsj, Raymond Morley, Louise Hall, Phil
Riordan, Twon Nguyen, Eileen Jennings, Gwen
Haggerty, Nick Fazzini, Sr Patricia Boland rsj, Rose
Gathercole, Alexander Klein, Patty Keegan, Kathryn
Kennedy

*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/](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads)
downloads.*

Please send prayer requests and items for the Bulletin
to the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

David Bound	Desmond (Des) Ledlin
Monica Bound	Paul Mather
Anne Veronica (Bonnie) Cook-Moore	Elva Letitia Murphy
Mary Ferry	Helen Murray
Gwen Fuge	Peter Murray
Neil Gibson	Antonietta Rossetti
Kevin Hayes	Andrea Rufo
Frank Holmes	Mary Scott
Gwydir (Gwen) Holmes	Mary Synott
	Pauline Wenman

At St Joseph's:

Thelma Mateer	Michael McGlynn
Gloria Brown	Nancy Struck
Frederick Bruyn	Lionel Skinner
Betty Grant	Byron Vial
Mary Henderson	Maureen Callen
Pat Koch	Marie Tynan
John Maher	Edward (Ted) Jordan

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

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Dear Parish Family,

I am sorry that I won't be present for the Feast of Christ the King this weekend with you all. It is an important feast, finishing one year and helping us take steps into the next year.

Fr Tony Potts and I have had a great time together celebrating with Fr Anton and his family and friends here in Sri Lanka. His Mass of Thanksgiving was a truly wonderful experience to be part of. Whilst all but my part was in Sinhalese it was not hard to appreciate the fullness of the joy found in the people, the large gathering of clergy from Anton's journey, and the wonderful music. I did a small survey of participants regarding the Homily given by Anton's spiritual director: although 18 minutes long I was told it was really good. There was no doubting the passion of the homilist or his connection to Fr Anton.

Our time has included some wonderful sights and sounds, including a cultural show – fire eaters and fire walkers included. I really would like to know how they do that! I've watched tea being processed in a tea factory from picking to packing. BOPF tea is the best. I've fed and walked with elephants, feeling small against the breadth and depth of these pachyderms. I have, though, a better understanding of the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters from Sri Lanka and their love of their home country. It is truly beautiful.

The roadways are chaotic in a most ordered way. Not one accident or dent did I see this first week. Somehow all the horn tooting and weaving seems to work. I am amazed that no one seems to get run over, or the dogs—which seem to take great delight in sleeping in the middle of the road—are not victims of a tuk tuk (three-wheeler) or truck. It is hard to describe just how beautiful this country is or just how friendly the people are. I know in a small way why so many feel a need to return home in retirement. My plan to have a meal with those from Sri Lanka before Christmas is firming. Sri Lanka has its Christmas decorations up all ready!

This is such a mix of religious belief. It seems that on every street corner there is a shrine or statue. There are *many, many* statues of our saints. And the largest Buddhas I have ever seen. There are, like all cities, religious quarters. There are a growing number of mosques mixed among the Catholic Churches and Temples, which also seem to be on every corner. I feel religious harmony is going to be difficult to keep, going

forward. There is a religious pride in the people here, whether Buddhist or Catholic. Like us, their churches are beautiful. They have many priests. Sri Lanka is developing; you can see it in the roadways and building programs. It will be a challenge, as it does not want to lose sight of the simplicity of life that keeps hold of the most important things that faith brings.

The pride of faith is a lesson I feel we need to be more overt about. I don't mean that we should have lots of statues. I mean we should feel enough pride in being Catholic to want it visible. We should be proud of our faith—so proud we can't stop talking about it or showing it in the world.

Regards,

Greg, Parish Priest.

CHRISTMAS 2025

The Masses will be these:

Christmas Eve

Cathedral 5.30pm, 7.30pm and Midnight.

(Carol Singing from 11:30pm)

Mayfield West 5.30pm

The Junction 5.30pm

Christmas Day

St Mary's The Hill 7.30am

Tighes Hill 8.00am

Stockton 9.00am

Cathedral Christmas Day 9.30am and 5.00pm

SIMBANG GABI 2025

(the Rooster's Mass)

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Each night 7.00pm

841 Hunter St, Newcastle West

Bring a plate for a shared supper after each Mass

Mass Celebrants & Homilists

WHEN: December 15 **Fr Anthony** Coloma

December 16 **Fr Darryl** Mackie

December 17 **Fr Joyce** Sebastian

December 18 **Bishop Michael** Kennedy

December 19 **Fr Anton** Perera

December 20 **Fr Gregory** Barker

December 21 **Fr Sabu** Pulimalayil

December 22 **Fr Joseph** Figuaro

December 23 **Fr Niel** Olano

Join with our Filipino Associations as they commemorate and host 'Simbang Gabi'

A Novena of nine Masses on behalf of the Parish.

All are welcome!!

Prayer/Meditation

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP

We meet next on Thursday, 27 November, at 9.30am at 25 Farquhar St, The Junction. All welcome. Please contact Janet on 0435 518 671.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational - everyone welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

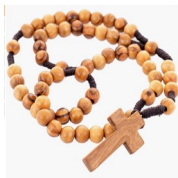
WHERE: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill.

The sessions include guided relaxation exercises, a reading from Fr John Main and 20 minutes of silent meditation.

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.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY



Pray the Rosary each Wednesday after 8:15am Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary is held the first Saturday of every month following Mass and Novena at Sacred Heart Cathedral. For more information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

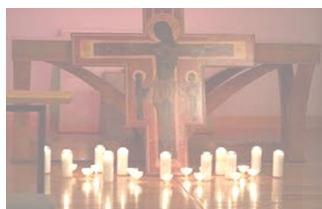


DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month - 7 December @ 3:00pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy at Christ the King, Mayfield West.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday, 7 December, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill 5pm – 6pm, followed by a shared supper. All welcome.



Social

INVITATION

Fr Greg is inviting the following people to a conversation and shared meal on the Sunday nominated for your cultural group. The hope is that you will bring the food and the priests can share. It will be in the Murray Room, just off the lawn near the Cathedral. Would you let the parish office know that you are coming:



02 4979 1101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Spanish speaking communities from Central and South America and Mexico - 7 December 11.00am

NEWCASTLE TUDOR SINGERS COMFORT AND JOY A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS



The Tudor Singers Christmas Concert will be held at 2pm on Sunday, 7 December 2025 in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Come along for a magical afternoon of lush choral music featuring *"Bells, Candles, and Love"*

A celebration of Christmas through sound and light and an opportunity to sing beloved Christmas Carols. Tickets at the door. Come join us!

NEWCASTLE & HUNTER MULTICULTURAL CHORAL SOCIETY – CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The 47th Multicultural Christmas Concert will be held at 7pm on Sunday, 7 December 2025 in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. If your choir will be participating in the 2025 Christmas Concert, please confirm your attendance as soon as possible by emailing

concordianewcastle@bigpond.com or jd43n@gmail.com.

Alternatively, you can phone Joop/ John de Wit on 4954 5227 or 0412 671848.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets on Sunday, 1 February, to discuss *Scent of Oranges* by Kathy George. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email:

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



Faith Development

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AT MASS

Symbols of the Mass

The Liturgy of the Word

In the Liturgy of the Word, God Himself speaks to His people. The Scriptures

proclaimed at Mass are not distant history but living speech—the voice of the Lord addressing us here and now. The Church listens,

responds, and allows the Word to take root and bear fruit in our hearts.

The readings from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Epistles, and the Gospels are arranged so that over the course of the liturgical year we encounter the fullness of God's saving plan. When we stand for the Gospel, it is a sign of reverence for Christ present in His Word.

The homily that follows is not merely commentary but a continuation of God's speaking—a bridge between the Word proclaimed and the life we live.

We pause between the readings to give us time for quiet reflection on what we have just heard.

The Responsorial Psalm began in ancient Jewish worship as a simple call-and-response prayer. In our Mass, it is not "background music", it is **Scripture**, meant to be proclaimed. It functions as the assembly's "**response**" to the Word of God, connects thematically to the First Reading, and prepares our hearts for the Gospel. **Scripture:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§103–104, 1349

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT



Our next meeting is Wednesday, 26 November, when we meet to discuss *The Promise* (Advent Resource). All welcome! To participate, please email the parish office.

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.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: 02 4979 1390, or email childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

ADVENT FAITH SHARING

View, Chew, and Chat this Advent!

Join us for *View, Chew, and Chat* as we journey through Advent together, guided by ***The Promise***, a beautiful resource from the Diocese of Wollongong.

More than just a devotional, *The Promise* is a gentle companion for the season—inviting you to pause, reflect, and rediscover the hope and joy of Christ's coming. Whether you're seeking to deepen your faith, share the journey with others, or simply find a moment of peace in your day, this book offers a path of renewal and encouragement.



Each reflection opens Scripture in a fresh way, offering prayerful insights that draw us into the heart of Advent expectation and the wonder of Christmas.

Reserve your copy of *The Promise* by contacting the parish office.

Develop community self-reliance and create lasting change!

Discover How you can get involved in Palms International Volunteering

Discover Palms International Volunteering online in these two special sessions where you'll hear how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities in our Southeast Asian region.

1. Explore our **GAP YEAR opportunities** for (18-25yo) Year 12 graduates and university students, that could shape your future.

Date: Thursday 4 December 2025

Time: 6pm or 9pm AEDT (NSW/VIC/ACT/TAS)

2. Join our **TIMOR-LESTE ENCOUNTER** Information session for those who would like a short taste and tour of Palms placements to Timor-Leste from 14-27 May 2026.

Date: Monday 8 December 2025

Time: 7.30pm-8.30pm AEDT (NSW/VIC/ACT/TAS)

Venue: ONLINE-Scan the QR code or register at palms.org.au/events

02 9560 5333

palms@palms.org.au



Events this week

COMMISSIONED IN HOPE MASS

Sunday 23 November, 5:00pm-6:00pm,
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton



If you've been inspired as a Pilgrim of Hope in 2025, you're invited to join Bishop Michael Kennedy on Christ the King Sunday and celebrate our Jubilee Year blessings with a Diocesan Mass and witness the commissioning of 100 young

people for their journey to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. All are welcome. Don't forget to bring your Pilgrim Passport and yourselves to receive a special Jubilee year memento.

Enquiries – mission@mn.catholic.org.au

NEWCASTLE REGIONAL PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON GET TOGETHER

Monday 24 November 12 pm at Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether.



Please come along for our last Luncheon get together for 2025. Share time together and enjoy a chat as you enjoy your MEAL. ALL WELCOME.

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.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. 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, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, coffee, biscuits, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant. Thank you.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS

By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card. View the range : www.globalgifts.org.au

Helping Others

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: COMING SOON TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU.

Columban Calendars now available at the Parish Office, Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Joseph's Church, The Junction. \$10 each



As we prepare to enter the season of Advent, you're invited to take part in our **CatholicCare Giving Tree** Initiative, a wonderful way to help bring a little extra joy to children and young people across our Diocese this Christmas.

We are asking for donations of gifts for children aged 0–17 who are supported through CatholicCare Hunter-Manning's programs.

Your kindness can make a big difference to a child feeling a sense of belonging and joy at Christmas time.

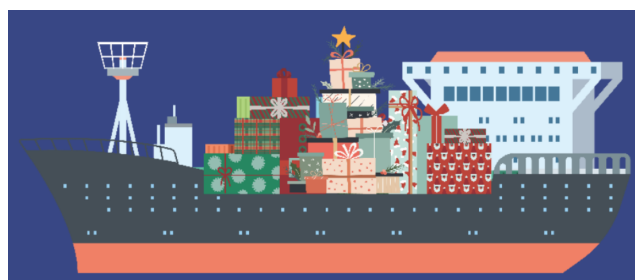
If you'd like to take part, please drop off an unwrapped gift to the Parish Office by **Wednesday 10 December 2025** to allow time for distribution before Christmas. If you need help choosing a gift for a specific age group, scan the QR code to access our general gift guide.



Thank you for helping us make this Christmas a little brighter for children and families in our community.

SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKS

Give back this Christmas



Mission to Seafarers hope to provide a care pack to every Seafarer who enters our port the week before Christmas. This is often the **ONLY** present a Seafarer will receive at Christmas. See the flyer in the porch, view online at <http://mtsnewcastle.org.au> or contact Mark Spencer on 49615007 or mark.spencer1@mn.catholic.org.au

Donations may include: hair comb, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, soap, aftershave, lip balm, antiseptic cream, sunblock, socks, underwear, warm gloves, stress ball, playing cards, batteries, torch, beanie, sealed lollies, nail clippers, pen and writing pad, puzzles, Christmas cake.

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

God is king of all the earth

Sm 5:1-3
Ps 47:1-2, 7-8 R.v. (8a)
Col 1:15-18
Lk 23:35-43

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

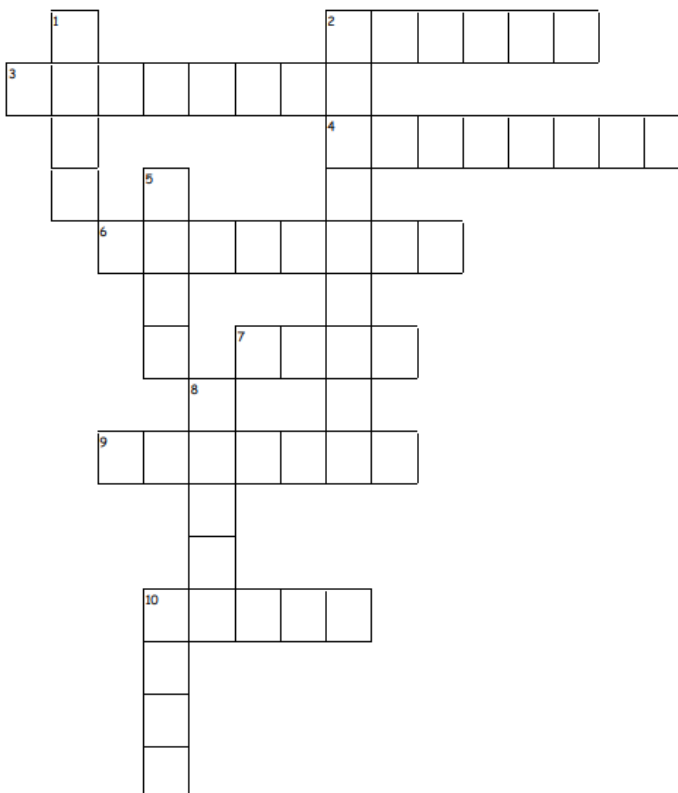
Try to find these words:

battle
beginning
chosen
created
criminals
insulted
Israel
king
paradise
power
superior
wrong

CROSSWORD

Jesus Christ is king forever

Lk 23:35-43



Across

- 2: selected
- 3: recollect, recall a memory
- 4: subjected to rude speech
- 6: a word to describe heaven
- 7: the experience of being afraid
- 9: to assure someone of a definite outcome
- 10: the opposite of right

Down

- 1: Jesus' and his people were of this faith
- 2: people who commit crimes
- 5: rescue
- 8: strength, might
- 10: drink made from fermented grapes

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Rv 5:12; 1:6

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading: 2 Sm 5:1-3

They anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. (R.)
3. For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)



Second Reading: Col 1:12-20

He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Gospel Acclamation: Mk 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our
Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 23:35-43

Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 28:10-11

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.



THE CHUCKLE

Less well known Knights of King Arthur's Court

The Knight chosen to make the round table?
Sir Cumference

The Knight responsible for taxes
Sir Charge

The extra Knight:
Sir Plus



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Primary School: Karen McGinlay (*Principal*)
Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291
(02) 4961 2827
www.merewether.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Primary School: Ann Jackson (*Principal*)
Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291
(02) 4963 3009
www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au

St Columban's Primary School: Penny Banister (*Principal*)
Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304
(02) 4968 3315
www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

St Peter's Primary School: Michael Punch (*Principal*)
Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295
(02) 4928 1861
www.stockton.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier's College: Greg Ptolemy (*Principal*)
Parkway Avenue, Hamilton NSW 2303
(02) 4961 2863
www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

San Clemente High School: Emma South (*Principal*)
78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
(02) 4014 7300
www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic's Catholic College: Rachel Jones (*Principal*)
76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
(02) 4968 1295
www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Opening Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm.
Open 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm. cnr Tudor and Parry Sts, Newcastle West.

All resources are available to borrow; and
are searchable on the library catalogue,
which can be accessed through this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOMNLibrary>

OR use the QR code.



DIOCESAN EVENTS

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

PARISH CENSUS & PLANNED GIVING FORMS

You can use the link or QR code to
complete and submit the form online.

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>

