

**Sunday 25 January 2026**

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Dear Parish Family,

Isn't it sad that we must legislate against racist and hateful speech and terrible behaviours of a few. I am saddened to think that religious leaders could even think about supporting hateful actions or use words that incite violence against another. It is sad our political leaders are unable to put bipartisan differences to one side for the betterment of our country. I don't mind the differing opinions, it's the 'mudslinging' that is tiring.

No piece of legislation is going to make a difference unless each one of us recognises that this is deeper than criminal activation: it is an attitude or a prejudice that each of us must address in ourselves and in others. When did we become as a nation 'every man for himself'? These challenging times are inviting us into a process of conversation, an opportunity for a cultural shift in society, that could see a radical change in how and what we do as a country, diverse but united. It starts with one heart, mine.

In our church, we've learnt that the protection of others, including the most vulnerable, is everyone's responsibility, not just the few lawmakers, not just the leaders. What we remain silent to is what we are prepared to accept. Speaking out costs us something. There are risks involved. Not everyone will thank us. Cultural change has at its heart a commitment to be different. Christians shouldn't remain silent. Christ asks us to be transformed and to transform the world around us.

Reasonable and faith filled people do not accept the evil behaviour of a few nor are we prepared to believe that we have to accept it.

We came together on Thursday in a National Day of Mourning. Across the country our flags flew at half-mast including at the Cathedral. And at 7.01pm I did light a candle in the Cathedral in solidarity, shedding a light against the dark and against evil; hope you lit a candle somewhere too. One small light but no small thing!

As we celebrate Australia Day this year let's remember all the things that make this nation great and the work we do, to shine the light of Christ into the lives of those around us. Let our prayer this Australia Day acknowledge the sorrows of the past, the joys of being a multi-cultural and welcoming community today and the hope for a future that is brighter than we've seen recently.



**Parish Priest**  
Fr Greg Barker

**Assisting Clergy**  
Fr Sabu Pulimalayil  
Fr Niel Olano  
Fr Anthony Coloma  
Deacon Kevin Gadd

**Parish Administration**  
McAuley Building, 242 Parry St,  
Newcastle West, 2302  
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291  
Phone: (02) 4979 1101  
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**After hours emergency phone:**  
0494 390 653

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)  
Jenny Pascua (*Parish Secretary*)  
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)  
Peter Davies (*Administration*)  
Mary-Anne de Luca (*Sacraments*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Music & Liturgy*)

**Greg, Parish Priest**

## THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

3rd week in Ordinary Time, Year A/2

Mon 26 Jan *Australia Day*  
8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 27 Jan  
8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral  
9:00am Mass @ Stockton  
10.30am Mass @ Badcoe House, Newcastle West

Wed 28 Jan *St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor*  
8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral  
9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West  
11:00am Funeral Mass for Zdzislawa Wilnierak at The Cathedral

Thurs 29 Jan  
8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral  
9:00am Mass @ Stockton  
5:30pm Mass at Seafarers Mission, Wickham

Fri 30 Jan  
10:15am Mass @ The Junction  
11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @ The Cathedral  
12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 31 Jan *St John Bosco, priest*  
9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by Reconciliation

*4th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sat 31 Jan  
5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral  
5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction  
5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 1 Feb  
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

\* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel - search Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A  
Zephania 2:3; 3:12-13  
1 Cor 1:26-31  
Mt 5:1-12

## PRAYER REQUESTS



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Matthew Pearce, Carol Bailey, Virginia Pamaybay, Nola Corbett, Zdzislawa Wilnierak

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Caitlin Potts, Marie Gardiner, Matthew O'Dowd, Sr Ruth Long rsj, Sr Carmel Hanson rsj, Miffie French, Sr Rosemary Jackson rsj, Terry Griffiths, Imelda Wilkinson, Rita Rumball, James Royan, Ruby Knee, Chris McCallum

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** John Hayes, Gary Valaire, Jeremy Eden, Braxton Rayner, Patricia Gillett, Tui Innes, Raymond Morley, Louise Hall, Phil Riordan, Twon Nguyen, Eileen Jennings, Gwen Haggerty, Nick Fazzini, Rose Gathercole, Alexander Klein, Patty Keegan, Kathryn Kennedy, Leonetta Papichio

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

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARISH INVOLVEMENT

**Regional Finance Council and Regional Pastoral Council:** As we move to the second phase of our Regional Assembly (14 February) our Parish Priest is calling for Expressions of Interest or nominations for membership on the following Councils: **Regional Finance Council and Regional Pastoral Council.** Do you have a vision for the future of our parish and our church? Do you have an excitement for helping develop our strategic plans and ensuring our financial sustainability? This is an exciting opportunity to join those already working in this part of our vineyard and growing our parish into the future. Our councils care for the parishes of the inner City, Mayfield and Stockton.



Our Parish Priest is also looking for members of the parish who are interested in training as Sacristans, Junior and Senior Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (formally called Special Ministers), Funeral Ministry Team, membership on the parish carers team, leaders in Children's Liturgy, choir and musicians. These ministries are essential to the success of our parish and the development of our mission and outreach. Training is offered and ongoing support. **For more information contact the parish office, leaving your name, number and the ministry you are interested in, and a member of the relevant team, in consultation with the parish priest, will be in touch with you.** Some of our ministries require a National Criminal History Check or a Working with Children Check number: costs covered by the parish.

## WHAT IS SYNODALITY? THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD (2021–2024)

The Synod on Synodality is the largest consultation in the history of the Catholic Church. From 2021 to 2024, Pope Francis invited every parish, every diocese, every culture, and every continent to listen, pray, speak, and discern together.

Its aim is simple but profound:

***To become a Church that walks together through listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another.***

### The Universal Synod: A Global Journey

#### 2021–2022: Local Listening (Diocesan Phase)

Parishes and dioceses worldwide held listening sessions to hear the joys, hopes, wounds, and questions of the People of God.

#### 2022–2023: Continental Discernment

Seven continental assemblies gathered to reflect on what emerged across the world.

#### October 2023: First Universal Assembly in Rome

Bishops, priests, religious, and for the first time lay women and men gathered with the Pope to pray, discuss, and discern.

#### October 2024: Final Universal Assembly

The Church gathered again to shape a shared vision for the future. The **Final Document** distilled two years of global listening into pathways of renewal.

#### 2025–2028 Implementation Phase

The Diocese is working through the Implementation Phase which includes a renewal of governance structures and many parishes are leading their own Assemblies.

### The Heart of the Synod: Three Core Themes

#### 1. Communion — Who We Are

The Church is the People of God united in Christ. Communion calls us to deepen relationships, heal divisions, and honour diversity.

#### 2. Participation — How We Live

Every baptised person has a voice and a role. Participation is about shared responsibility and the active involvement of all the faithful.

#### 3. Mission — Why We Exist

The Church is sent out into the world. Mission asks: Who needs us? What is God calling us to do? How do we serve today?

### Why This Matters for our Regional Assembly

Our Regional Assembly mirrors the global Church: listening, discerning, and preparing for action.

1 November — Listening

14 February — Discernment

2 May — Goal Setting and Pastoral Planning

## Regional Parish Assembly-Session Two: Discerning what we Heard - Saturday 14 February



You are warmly invited to join us for a Regional Parish Assembly on Saturday 14 February at the Sacred Heart Cathedral precinct.

9.30am arrival, 10.00am commencement, 3.00pm finish. This gathering will be a time to discern and dream together. Your voice matters, and together we can help shape the future of our mission and ministry.

**RSVP: Please let us know by Monday 9 February** if you will be attending by completing this online form:

<https://tinyurl.com/ParishAssembly2>

OR Contact the parish office:

⇒ on 4979 1101

⇒ or [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



## PARISH TEAMS

**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.

**RCIA:** Contact Mary-Anne at the parish office. Our website has a form which can be used to express interest in becoming a Catholic.

**Sacramental Program:** Contact Mary-Anne at the Parish Office.

**Baptism team:** Meets on the first Tuesday of the month, with parents who are preparing for their children's baptism.

## PASTORAL TEAM MEETING

Wednesday 28 January, 2.30 pm. **Please note a change of venue** to the Murray Room next to the Parish Office. Some parking available in The Cathedral carpark.





## A PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA DAY



Heavenly Father,  
Creator of all the earth and giver  
of every good gift,  
we thank you for this great  
southern land we call Australia -  
for its beauty, its people, and  
the freedom we enjoy.

We acknowledge before you the Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander peoples,  
the First Nations custodians of this land.  
We thank you for their ancient cultures and deep  
connection to Country,  
and we confess the sins of injustice and harm that  
have been done.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ, bring healing, truth,  
and reconciliation,  
and teach us to walk humbly with one another.

Lord Jesus, you call us to love our neighbour as  
ourselves.

Shape us into a nation marked by compassion,  
mercy, and grace.

Help us welcome the stranger, care for the poor,  
and seek justice for all, as you have commanded.

Holy Spirit, guide our leaders with wisdom from  
above.

Strengthen those who serve, protect those who are  
vulnerable,  
and unite us as one people under your care.

We pray for your Church in Australia—  
that we may be faithful witnesses to your gospel,  
living out your love in word and deed.  
May we be salt and light in our communities,  
pointing always to the hope we have in Christ.

Bless Australia, Lord.

May we honour you in the way we live together,  
trusting in your grace and walking in your truth.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## OUR BELOVED DEAD

Those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in  
January.

### At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Colleen Bennett	Allan Hart
Patricia Blick	William Hart
Maureen Burke	Ken (Johnno) Johnson
Madeleine Cherry	Margaret Jones
Elaine Dodds	Maureen Narvo
Lawrence (Jack) Drage	Frank (Fiore) Pati
Mary Drage	Thi Bich Van Pham
Robert Driscoll	Margery Presland
Bernard Duggan	John Scrogings
Nancy Gorman	Margaret Scrogings
Harold (Harry) Hancock	Hendericus (Henk) Van
Henry Charles Hardy	Schyndel

### At St Joseph's:

John Edward Carr	John O'Callaghan
Annie Stamp	Stephen Smith
Rita Schuck	Peg Sugden
Ray Callen	Kerrie Walters
Brendan Blakemore	Thea Ethel Bennis
Doug Carey	Christine Brain
Raymond Dent	Shirley Casey
Joyce Gleeson	Jack & Dinah Heaton
William Hartsorn	Milce Lettoof
	William 'Bill' Henderson

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

## DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?



When we send out the weekly parish  
bulletin and other news by email, a small  
number “bounce back”, advising either that  
the mailbox is full or the address does not exist.

If you asked to receive the bulletin and other parish  
news by email, and have not been receiving it, we  
recommend:

- Check to see if it landed in your junk folder, and, if  
not:
- Please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) to let  
us update your details.

## PARISH CENSUS & PLANNED GIVING FORMS

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

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>



## SAFETY ALERT



Seed pods have been accumulating on the ground in  
the Cathedral carpark and on public footpaths. These  
pods present a significant slip, trip and fall risk:

**Take extra care:** Slow down and watch your footing  
when using Hunter Street footpaths.

**Use safer paths where possible:** Where pod build-up  
is visible, choose an alternate section of the footpath if  
available.

**Avoid distractions:** Stay alert and avoid mobile phone  
use while walking in affected areas.

# Prayer/Meditation

## ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP



We will commence our 2026 program with the Wollongong Lenten Program. We start Thursday 19 February at 9.30am in the meeting room at The Junction and will continue weekly until Easter. All welcome. Contact Janet Tully on 0435 518 671.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

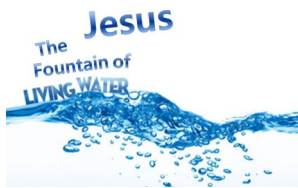
This is non-denominational - everyone welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

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

## 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.

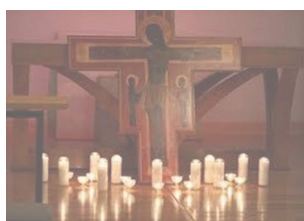


## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month - 1 February @ 3:00pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy at Christ the King, Mayfield West.

## TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday, 1 February, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill 5pm – 6pm, followed by a shared supper. All welcome.



## BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets on Sunday, 1 February, to discuss *Scent of Oranges* by Kathy George.



Looking ahead, our book for March will be *Always Home, Always Homesick* by Hannah Kent, for April it will be *Legacy* by Chris Hammer.

If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email:

[newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

## ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT



View, Chew & Chat will begin a new series, *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass*, beginning Wednesday 11 February. Join us as we explore how Scripture comes alive in the Mass and deepens our understanding of what we celebrate each week.

Watch the first episode: [Parousia: The Bible and the Mass - St. Paul Center](#).

All welcome to join us then! To participate, please email the parish office.

[newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

## DONATION OPTIONS

For anyone who wishes to make donations to the parish via direct deposit: Details are provided below for the individual parishes.

Account name: **CDF** BSB: **066739**

Account number: **see below\***

Reference: **Donation [Surname]**

**\*Account numbers:**

Newcastle Parish – A/c no: **100008696**

Mayfield Parish – A/c no: **100007169**

Stockton Parish – A/c no: **100003308**

## EFTPOS TAP & GO DONATION OPTION

For some time now, EFTPOS devices have been used at the Cathedral and at Stockton and St Mary's churches as an option for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> collection donations. We are now extending this option to other Mass centres. The collection plates remain available for cash offerings, but the EFTPOS option will also be available. Thank you for your generosity and support.

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

The prophet describes reversals of the fortunes of Israel. First the former times of hardship are contrasted with the present experience of salvation. The lands that had been lost were eventually returned to Israel, the hardships that accompanied defeat and occupation were lifted, and the darkness was dispelled. The words of the psalmist are next directed toward God. Salvation has embraced the people and through it they are granted a threefold joy. This joy is compared to the excitement of harvest time, to the headiness experienced when one has been victorious in battle, and to the relief experienced when freed from the yoke of military servitude, the pole of national discipline, and the rod of social oppression.

The psalm response is a prayer of profound confidence in God. In it God is characterised by means of three metaphors: light; salvation; and refuge. Darkness is not only a danger to safety, but it symbolises evil. Light dispels any kind of danger. Salvation, or deliverance, is granted out of the beneficence of another; one did not save oneself. God is the saviour. Finally, a refuge is a place of safety to which one in danger could flee for protection. All three metaphors characterise God as one holding unparalleled power and exercising this power on behalf of the psalmist, who was not only vulnerable but actually somehow besieged. Every aspect of this psalm response proclaims trust in God.

There seems to have been much pettiness and bickering in **Corinth**. Natural differences degenerated into rivalry. If left unchecked this rivalry could develop into serious divisions. As representative of Christ, Paul addresses the situation. His exhortation is threefold: agreement in matters of faith; unity, not schism; oneness in mind and purpose. Groups within the community claimed allegiance to various individuals. To this Paul poses rhetorical questions, which elicit only negative answers. No! Christ cannot be divided. No! Paul was not crucified for their salvation. No! They were not baptised in the name of Paul. He insists that neither the teachings nor the personal characteristics of a religious leader can be allowed to rival their allegiance to Christ.

The announcement of the arrest of John the Baptist, which signalled the end of John's ministry and the beginning of Jesus' ministry, prompts Jesus to leave the vicinity and journey to Galilee. Although Jesus preached the same message as did the Baptist (Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. [cf. Matt 3:2]), he did it in fulfilment of the prophecies rather than in anticipation of a future event. The first move he makes is to call some followers. These men were called; they did not initiate their own discipleship, as followers of rabbis normally did. The proclamation of the good news and the healing of the sick were believed to be signs of the advent of the age of fulfilment (cf. Isa 61:1; 35:5-7).

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad.

## THE CHUCKLE

I've invented a new perfume made from holy water... I call it "Eau my God".



# Helping Others

## STELLA MARIS – MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Interested in volunteering? We need drivers, personnel in the Gift shop and Money exchange or help with cooking on Thursdays. The hours are flexible, working alongside wonderful people dedicated to sharing their time, talents and treasure with seafarers. Call in and see. We are based in Wickham! Contact our Stella Maris Port Chaplain, Mark Spencer from the Mission & Evangelisation Team on 0408 895 951.



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL



A total of \$20,314.61 was received from the churches within the City Pastoral Region of St Benedict's, Mayfield and Stockton, including proceeds from the sale of Calendars. Many thanks for the generosity of all those who donated.

Limited copies of the Columban Calendar remain. \$10. Please contact the parish office

## 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.

## COMMUNITY KITCHENS

The Community Kitchens run by CatholicCare can be accessed by anyone who needs a warm meal or support. Local locations are:



Adamstown: Every Wednesday, 11am to 1pm at 486 Glebe Road, Adamstown

Newcastle: Every Saturday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm (6.30pm to 7.30pm during Daylight Savings) at Civic Park, King Street, Newcastle.

Phone: 4979 1120

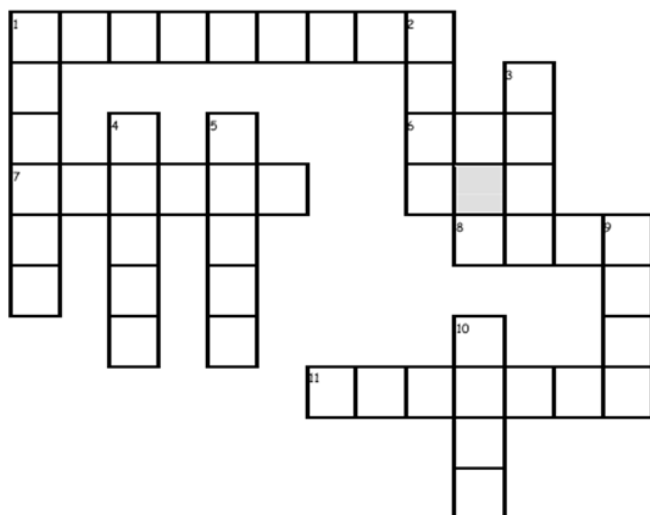
Email: [foodprograms@catholiccare.org.au](mailto:foodprograms@catholiccare.org.au)



## CROSSWORD

# I will teach you how to bring people instead of fish

Mt 4:17-23



### Across

- 1: people who catch fish
- 6: the number after one
- 7: God's kingdom of eternal life
- 8: make better, cure
- 11: Jesus walked along the shore of this lake

### Down

- 1: daughter is to mother, as son is to ...
- 2: used for catching fish
- 3: Jesus said to the fishermen "\_\_\_\_\_ with me!"
- 4: The brother of John who was also a fisherman
- 5: Simon, the fisherman, was also known as \_\_\_\_\_
- 9: a large body of water
- 10: animals that live in the sea

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A [N03ORSUA\_2005\_CWG.rtf]

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## DIOCESAN EVENTS

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

## RITE OF ELECTION 2026

The Rite of Election on Sunday 22 February 2026 is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil. A catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 1.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au).



## SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) EXPO

Free Expo for current and prospective SRE teachers and helpers.

Thanks to generous local donors, current and prospective Special Religious Education Teachers and helpers are invited to join us at this FREE Expo! There will be a keynote speaker from the ICCOREIS Team, plus lots of workshop options including classroom management, special needs and creative engagement (puppets, storytelling etc).

**Date:** Monday 2 February 2026

**Time:** 9:30am – 2:00pm

**Location:** Maryland, NSW

For enquiries, email [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au) or contact Nikki on 0417 773 444

## 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.



## FEBRUARY FORMATION FILM

*Saturday 7 February, 11:00am*

*Diocesan Resource Centre*

- Cnr Parry & Tudor Streets, Newcastle West



Join us for viewing and discussion of the 2019 release film *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Lunch will be served after the screening. Reservations requested -



<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNfilm> or call Mary on 02 4923 0682

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

## TODAY'S LITURGY

### Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

### First Reading: Is 8:23 – 9:3

*In the Galilean country, the people have  
seen a great light.*



### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
Before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. (R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

### Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up  
the differences between you.*

### Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel: Mt 4:12-23

*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah  
be fulfilled.*

### Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.



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The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

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## Living the Gospel - The First Called

What must it have been like for those first four disciples Jesus called? The fact that they were fishing means that they had not been chosen to continue studying the Torah beyond childhood and had not been chosen by a rabbi to be his followers. Even as young men, these four were has-beens and had no hope of a rabbi asking them to be his disciples.

Suddenly, Jesus appears and calls them to follow him. A life that had passed them by suddenly opened up before them! Of course they dropped everything and followed.

© Greg Sunter

**Greg Sunter** has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team.

## 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](http://www.merewether.catholic.edu.au)

**Holy Family Primary School:** Shannon McGregor (*Principal*)

Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291

(02) 4963 3009

[www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au](http://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](http://www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au)

**St Peter's Primary School:** Dennis Nolan (*Principal*)

Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

(02) 4928 1861

[www.stockton.catholic.edu.au](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au)