



# City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

**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 28TH NOVEMBER 2021 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR C

### Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr John Vo  
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

### 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

### Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
Maryanne Hewitt (*Reception & Administration*)  
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)  
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

### Other Contacts

**Lingard Hospital Team:** Contact the Parish Office

**Mercy Pastoral Team:** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm  
(02) 4979 1116

**St Joseph's Pastoral Team:** Contact the Parish Office

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



This Advent, our season of waiting begins with a dramatic foretelling of Christ's second coming. The signs that herald this event are on a cosmic scale and in line with the multi-layered imagery of Luke's infancy narrative. The signs are frightening and many will panic when the celestial bodies and the waters of the earth behave erratically – when the natural laws no longer apply. We must 'stay awake' and renew our lives through prayer and moral living in readiness for the end times.

*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)

First Week of Advent, Year C

Monday—29th November

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—30th November

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—1st December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Tighes Hill

Thursday—2nd December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton—CANCELLED \*

Friday—3rd December

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11.00am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11.00am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—4th December

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ St Joseph's \*\*

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—5th December

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8.00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9.00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Cathedral website:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/>

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5.00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6.00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

\* PLEASE NOTE: Weekday Masses in Stockton are CANCELLED during Fr Peter's leave (8/11—15/12) Weekday Mass on WEDNESDAY ONLY is going to be celebrated by Fr Max Davis in Mayfield West, NO Mass on Fridays. (during Peter T's absence).

\*\*With a new liturgical year comes new opportunities. As St Laurence O'Toole remains unsafe for public entry, this weekend we are commencing a **VIGIL MASS at 5.30pm in St Josephs. All are welcome.**

## FIRST FRIDAY FISH AND CHIPS

It's back! Meet at Bar Beach, Dec 3 from 5pm. BYO everything. All welcome. Enquiries: Chris 0419265194



## NEWCASTLE TUDOR SINGERS CONCERT

Join us for a Christmas Concert on Sunday December 12 @ 2:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Come along to hear (and sing) carols new and known, directed by Anne Millard with organist Peter Guy, pianist Marcia Wall, featuring performances by Patricia Woods and the Hunter Handbell Ringers. Tickets \$15 and \$10.

## BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 5th December @ 6pm to discuss *The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osman. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



## CARITAS NEWS

The latest CaritasNews, Spring 2021, is now available at [www.caritas.org.au/media/3pxmi2pc/caritasnews\\_spring-2021\\_digital\\_updated-rm.pdf](http://www.caritas.org.au/media/3pxmi2pc/caritasnews_spring-2021_digital_updated-rm.pdf)

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE (CFC) 2022

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity? Expressions of Interest are now open for the Christian Formation Course 2022

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units.

Commencing on Tuesday February 1, 2022, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a Diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Expression of Interest close December 10. For more information go to:

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/)

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2nd Sun in Advent, Year C

Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:3-6. 8-11, Lk 3:1-6

Weekday and Sunday readings can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## DIOCESAN ADVENT REFLECTION: WAITING WITH PURPOSE

In response to a request from the Synod Working Party, Pastoral Ministries has prepared an Advent resource for our diocese. It's called, **Waiting with Purpose**. In doing this we took note of the voice of the faithful heard in the Synod process expressing a longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing.

As we continue our Synodal journey an Advent resource, **Waiting with Purpose** has been created for our diocese. **Waiting with Purpose** responds to the voices heard during Synod reflections of longing for different forms of prayer that include faith sharing. **Waiting with Purpose** invites us to use Mystagogical Reflection as our way of encountering Christ in the Advent gospels. It invites us to focus on the presence of Christ in our experience and in the living tradition of our faith, to connect it to life now and to be changed by it.

Mystagogical reflection meets us where we are. No preparation is needed. It's about being open to encountering Christ so we can live from Christ. It's deeply personal and communal.

**Waiting with Purpose** and accompanying resources are available soon on the diocesan website: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

### MULTICULTURAL CHOIR CONCERT

Sadly, the Multicultural Choir Concert will not go ahead this year due to Covid restrictions. Let's hope 2022 will provide an opportunity for this wonderful evening to occur!

### VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. Each Wednesday in December we will participate in the Diocesan's Advent program.

To participate, please email the Parish Office.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Marie Sweeney, Bill Shanks, Mary McCarthy (New Zealand)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Delores Hamilton, Eric Joseph O'Beirne, Marie Morton, Alfredo Peverini, Kevin Gardiner

**SICK:** Jon Hartley, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Peter Keddie, Tomislav Kefecsek

*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).*



## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2022 PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

### "AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR " 19 MARCH 2021- 26 JUNE 2022

The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives.

This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection.

To access this resource: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

### THE CHUCKLE



It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.'

'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

## REFLECTION

### Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

5pm Sacred Heart Cathedral  
5pm Mayfield West  
5pm The Junction  
5.30pm St Mary's  
6.30pm Stockton  
7pm Sacred Heart Cathedral  
7pm The Junction (Broadmeadow Community)  
10pm Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH



### Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day)

Midnight Sacred Heart Cathedral  
7.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral  
7.30am St Mary's  
8am Tighes Hill  
9am The Junction  
9am Stockton  
9.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral  
11am The Junction ITALIAN  
11.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH  
6pm Mayfield West VIETNAMESE

### Sunday 26 December (Boxing Day)

7.30am St Mary's  
8am Tighes Hill  
9am The Junction  
9am Stockton  
9.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral  
11am The Junction ITALIAN  
11.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral POLISH  
5pm Sacred Heart Cathedral  
6pm Mayfield West

## THE NEW-LOOK BULLETIN

The entire 8-page bulletin remains available on the Parish website (you're reading it now). At church, however, you will only be able to obtain the smaller 4-page version.

This week's gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. It is a very different style of writing from the usual narrative, teaching and parable forms that make up most of the gospel. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week's first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol. There is a grandness about the style. We know, just from the use of language, that great things are afoot!

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.

© Richard Leonard SJ

**Richard Leonard SJ** is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

## OUR ROADMAP TO RE-OPENING CHURCHES

PHASE TWO: Now 80% are fully vaccinated the churches are reopened for public liturgies with "mixed congregations" (i.e. to the fully vaccinated, the partially vaccinated, and the as yet unvaccinated). Many of the restrictions we are currently familiar with will continue. The 4sqm rule is applicable, and the wearing of masks indoors is required. There will be a need to observe physical distancing, practice hand sanitising, and provide good ventilation in our churches. Congregational singing is not be permitted, though a small choir of ten are allowed to sing. We will not be required to check the vaccination status of people attending our churches. Those who are especially vulnerable, or who are vaccinated but anxious about mixing with the unvaccinated, or who are unvaccinated and do not want to risk contact with others, will be free to remain at home; live-streaming of Masses from Sacred Heart Cathedral and other parishes will continue. We will take all reasonable steps to protect those who choose to gather in our churches.

## TODAY'S LITURGY

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Jer 33:14-16

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Memorial Acclamation**

We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon** Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

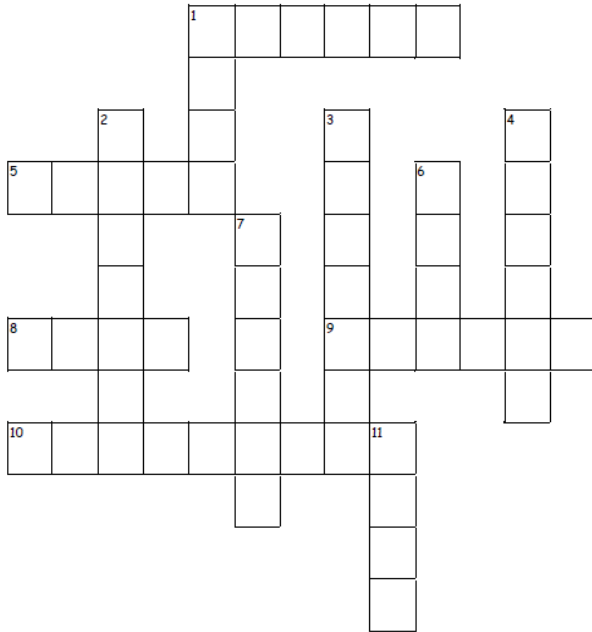
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CROSSWORD

The Lord is our protector

Jer 33:14-16  
Ps 25:4-5, 8-9 R.1.b  
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



Across

- 1: the group of people we are related to
- 5: the opposite of war
- 8: the brightest light in the night sky
- 9: the Jewish homeland
- 10: Jesus' followers

Down

- 2: large groups of people that belong to different countries
- 3: to give your word to someone
- 4: to be moved quickly back and forth
- 6: to be reasonable
- 7: to flee from imprisonment
- 11: a place where valuables are kept

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord is our protector

Jer 33:14-16  
Ps 25:4-5, 8-9 R.1.b  
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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

Try to find these words:

- promise
- Israel
- family
- peace
- safe
- fair
- disciples
- moon
- nations
- shaken
- escape
- free