



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 15 MAY 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr John Vo

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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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



This week's gospel reading contains two contrasting images. The first is an image of Judas walking out of the room where Jesus and the disciples are sharing their last meal together – we know that Judas is going to betray his friends. In Judas' absence, Jesus gives his disciples 'a new commandment' to 'love one another' – the second image. This love is a witness to discipleship, which entails commitment and constancy.

Reflection by Jenny Close

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

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)

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Monday—16th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—17th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—18th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Thursday—19th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—20th May

9.00 am Mass @ Mayfield West

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—21st May

The Feast of St. Matthias the apostle

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

5:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

Sunday—22nd May

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C

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 * **

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral **

5.30pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

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

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

The schedule for May is:

May 18: Lectio

May 25: Lectio

All meetings are online via Zoom. All welcome to participate regularly or occasionally.

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, on Wednesday at 7.30am and Friday at 11.00am. All are welcome, including new meditators, but you will need to be at least double-vaccinated and you must wear a mask. Hand sanitizing is still required. Wednesday is usually a small group and would suit those who do not wish to go into crowds.

The Monday evening group is not resuming, but a meditation group is available on Tuesdays at 6.00pm at St Philip's Church, Vista Parade, Kotara.

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

The next Fridays in May - the Holy month of Our Lady Queen of the Rosary, we will be praying the rosary for the Ukrainian people starting at **9.50am** at St Joseph's Church, The Junction. All welcome.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Domenico Lorello

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Lynch, Monica Margaret Fitzgerald, Jack Wilcock, Sean Roche, Carmel Walker



SICK: Maree Halbert, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Peter Skinner, Peter Keddie, Tiani Bishop, Jason Yu, Joel Samy, Tom Parker, Max Williamson, Sam and Margaret Broad

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.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Second Reading: Rv 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel: Jn 14:23-29

FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear friends,

Following on from my message last week, I have consulted with our Pastoral Council team, my fellow priests and Office Staff as to the best way forward in terms of providing regular Masses following the departure of Fr John Vo. I have decided that after the weekend of 21-22 May 2022, the 9 am Sunday Mass at the Junction and the 9.15 am Wednesday Mass at Tighes Hill will be discontinued. This will mean that each of our active Mass centres will still have at least one Sunday Mass (be it a vigil or a Sunday day Mass). My sincere apologies to those who regularly attend the two Masses that are being discontinued. I hope you will be able to transition to another Mass at another time and Mass centre without too much difficulty. I'm sure that wherever you go the community there will make you feel most welcome.

On another matter, next week I will meet with our Finance Committee and then meet with our Diocesan Administrator, Fr Greg, to discuss the future of St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow. Once I have some clarification on that matter I will provide everyone with an update.

Finally, as covid is still infecting many in our communities, I urge everyone to remain vigilant in observing covid-safe practices.

Fr John Lovell



THANK YOU

Thank you to those who so generously support the St Vincent de Paul FLOOD APPEAL. To date over \$13,500+ has been received.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2022

Almost 70 children from our combined parishes are preparing for the sacraments of initiation—Confirmation and Eucharist. A central component of their preparation is the completion of a “works of mercy” project. The projects are completed by the children and their families together. We invite parishioners to complete a spiritual work of mercy by praying for our children.

Another part of the program is learning about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. As we approach Pentecost, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

NOTICE TO PLANNED GIVERS THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR IS COMING!

Planned Giving Tax Receipts: Parishioners who require a tax receipt for planned giving for the 2021/22 financial year must notify the Parish Office before 30th June 2022. Please notify by one of the following methods: **Email to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au:** Use the wording, “Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt” and include your name and envelope number. **Planned Giving Envelope:** Write on your weekly envelope, “Tax receipt required”.

Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2022. No subsequent amendments are possible. Any requests received after 30 June 2022 will result in parishioners not receiving the requested tax deduction. If you do not require a tax receipt for tax purposes, it is preferable to refrain from requesting one as this will enhance the tax deductibility for those who do use the tax receipt. I am happy to provide people who do not submit a tax return with your contribution total.

THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION (BYO BREAKFAST!!)

All welcome, RSVP required

What? **Melanie McKinnon**, a volunteer worker at **Upcycle Newcastle** will explain how donated goods and materials are upcycled: a *new beginning* for waste; *adding value*; and how they provide *inspiration, education*, and a space for people to *do their own stuff*.

When? **Monday 23rdth May** commencing at: **7.15am**
Where? **Shed 7D, 50 Clyde Street, Hamilton North** – the seventh building on your left in the unnamed lane on the corner of Avis Rentals, opposite Newcastle Street.

Why? **Fellowship and information**

Compliance with Upcycle Newcastle Covid-19 rules:
*all attendees must be at least **double-vaccinated**;*
number on site limited to fifteen (15).

RSVP to Neil Jones is essential:

neil.jones@bigpond.com or 0410 572579

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th June @ 6:15pm to discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

God will help us preach the good news

Acts 14:21-27
Ps 145:8-9, 10 and 12 R.v.(see 1)
Rv 21:1-4
Jn 13:31a, 33-35

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

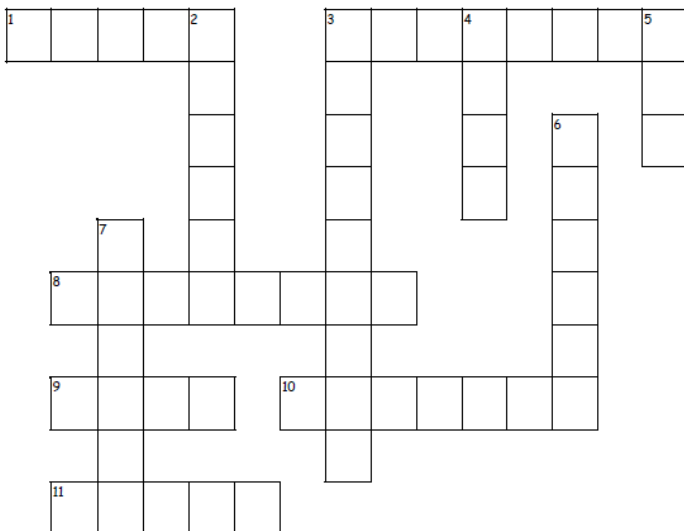
Try to find these words:

- children
- churches
- completed
- giving
- Judas
- look
- love
- new
- suffer
- tears
- throne
- wedding

CROSSWORD

God will help us preach the good news

Acts 14:21-27
Ps 145:8-9, 10 and 12 R.v.(see 1)
Rv 21:1-4
Jn 13:31a, 33-35



Across

- 1: the disciple who betrayed Jesus
- 3: we are all called God's _____
- 8: places where Christians gather together to pray
- 9: Jesus asks us to _____ one another
- 10: a marriage celebration
- 11: crying produces these

Down

- 2: experience pain or distress
- 3: finished
- 4: see, or search
- 5: Jesus gave his disciples a ___ command
- 6: the opposite of receiving
- 7: the seat where a king sits

REFLECTION

BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Jesus issues a new commandment. If he had left it as 'love one another' it would have been intolerably vague. The word 'love' has such a range of meaning in English that it always needs a context to be understood.

So Jesus went on: 'Love one another as I have loved you.' That's more definite. That's more concrete. '... as I have loved you.' So now there is a measure by which we can gauge our progress in discipleship.

There are some obvious enough pointers in the gospel stories. Jesus loved us in a way which invariably led him to do counter cultural things like sharing meals with the marginalised and ostracised. We can all ask how we measure up to his way of living in that and many other respects. But there is a deeper, more fundamental, dimension to Our Lord's love for us.

Divine Love was aware that humankind was in a mess: a history of disoriented behaviour distorting our relationships with God and others.

Divine Love could have dealt with this in a myriad of ways, perhaps by using angelic forces or purely spiritual Powers.

But instead, in Jesus Christ, Divine Love entered into the human story and absorbed the suffering experienced by every human being in death, the tearing apart of body and soul. He conquered such wrenching death in the Resurrection and invites all humanity to share in that victory.

You may think that this extravagant extreme of love is something no human being could ever measure up to. So does our Lord present us with a command impossible to fulfill?

But actually, it happens whenever a mother or father sits by the bedside of a child suffering the terrible pain of a chronic illness or traumatic accident and, perhaps, even facing the prospect of death. Such a parent will invariably say 'I would rather suffer and die than see my child suffer and die.' It is the same with a spouse seeing their much loved life partner in a similar situation.

The desire to absorb the suffering of another, quite freely except for the compulsion of love, shows humanity at its best. This is the ultimate degree of com-compassion, suffering with another, and is the closest a human being gets to the deep dimension of the way in which Our Lord loves the whole of humankind.

But each of us, usually to a lesser degree and in less fraught circumstances, has the opportunity to share in the anxieties, the fears, and to absorb, to some extent, the sufferings of others. Together with imitating the other patterns of Jesus' earthly ministry, we are thus given the possibility of fulfilling the command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

© Fr Michael Tate

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Love is all around

Love surrounds us all the time. It is impossible to turn on a radio without hearing "love" used in one way or another. Love is the most common theme of songs, poetry, literature and art. Although we might bemoan the casual use of 'love', the fact remains that we fill our lives with the sounds and images of love. It's easier to imagine the all-pervasive nature of God's love when we recognise just how pervasive the commercial and artistic expressions of love have become. As Christian people, the challenge that faces us is to imbue these expressions with a richer, deeper notion of love.

HOUSING NEEDS FOR HUMANITARIAN ENTRANTS/ REFUGEES IN NEWCASTLE AND SURROUNDS

Settlement Services International (SSI) assist newly arrived refugees to resettle in Newcastle through the Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP).

The tragic events taking place in Afghanistan has led to an influx of Afghan families into our region. Unfortunately, the current housing crisis in Newcastle means many families pass extended periods in short term housing, which greatly impacts well-being and the feeling of being 'at home'.

SSI are looking for landlords willing to commence tenancies with our clients. Families will pay market rent and be fully supported by their SSI Case Managers. We are looking for 2-4 bedroom properties in Newcastle. Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Contact Helen Larkin for more information.
hlarkin@ssi.org.au

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE - LAUDATO SI' WEEK 16 - 24 MAY

As this celebration approaches, Caritas is encouraging you to take a look at the Catholic Earthcare process for parishes via the green button at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au>. Catholic Earthcare has made it easy for parishes to take up the Bishops' invitation to journey towards these 7 goals and to becoming living Laudato Si' communities. They invite you to join the growing number of Earthcare parishes across the nation who've begun this journey.

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of Laudato Si' Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges us to consider how we respond to the Cry of the Earth. The event will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia.

You are welcome to join by yourself, or register a parish group for the viewing. [Please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking]. The video will be streamed via zoom so you can watch together on a large screen at a suitable venue like a parish hall.

The online event will be held on Tuesday 17th May from 6pm - 8pm AEST, 4pm - 6pm AWST. Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT>



Have you thought? Love

I love my dog! I love your hair! I love that new song! I absolutely love chocolate! We throw around the word 'love' so casually today that it has almost lost its meaning. The decision whether or not to say "I love you" in a relationship has become a major dilemma - or alternatively, just the formula that has to be said to get what you want! Jesus did not use the word so casually or so inappropriately. He spoke of love very deliberately and very specifically. Jesus calls us to share in the selfless love that he modelled and to follow his example.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition in community. This course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units

All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith, grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community.

The course will commence in July 2022. For more information go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course



COMMUNITY WALK WITH FORMER REFUGEES

SUNDAY 15 MAY
11AM - 2PM, MAITLAND

Connecting local Australians & people with refugee experience for a community walk and talk.

Walk. Talk. Connect.
#WelcomeRefugees

Register now at Eventbrite.com.au:
search "OneStep Maitland" for details

info@onestepwalks.org
onestepwalks.org

 N.S.S. NORTHERN SETTLEMENT SERVICES LIMITED

 OneStep

MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Pastoral Ministries offers a range of innovative, evidence based, award-winning marriage and relationship education programs that have been designed to enhance your relationship with your partner.

Before We Say I Do: This program provides opportunities to explore your relationship, build on your strengths and gain essential knowledge and skills that you will use for years to come. Topics covered include: Expectations of Marriage; Influences of Family of Origin; Communication Styles; Regulating Conflict; Commitment and Dedication; Values and Intimacy.

FOCCUS: (Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding & Study) Prepare/Enrich involves an in-depth, user-friendly questionnaire designed to help you and your partner learn more about yourselves and your unique relationship. Topics covered in the three-part program include: Lifestyle Expectations; Friends and Interests; Personality Match; Communication; Problem Solving; Spirituality and Values; Parenting Issues; Financial Issues; Family of Origin and Commitment and Dedication.

Enhance: At times, we all need a bit of extra help to keep our relationship vibrant and on-track. Enhance is designed for couples to work with an educator in private session(s), where you will be provided with support to address specific issues or challenges in your relationship, based on evidenced informed research. However big or small the perceived issue, we can help. Couples often come to us to discuss re-igniting the spark, communication breakdown, destructive patterns, strengthening the friendship and building the emotional connectedness of the relationship.

Sessions are currently operating on Zoom. Booking is essential 3- 6 months prior to the wedding to secure placement in the Before We Say I Do program. For more information contact.

Robyn Donnelly- Marriage & Relationship Education- Pastoral Ministries

P: 02 4979 1370 M: 0412 637 090

Email: robyn.donnelly@mn.catholic.org.au

FEDERAL ELECTION

Read the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2022 election statement , Towards a Better Kind of Politics, to help you reflect on the good you can do for the community by using your vote for the common good of all. The statement includes a Prayer for the Election and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Download a copy from www.catholic.org.au

DIOCESAN APP

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's new app is available now! Mass times, news and events, and parish giving will be just a tap away.

As part of the new app, you are also able to select your Church and receive customised alerts. To view your latest Parish updates, simply scroll down the home page and click on the notices that interest you for more details.

You can download the app for free from the [Apple App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store/) and [Google Play Store](https://www.google.com/playstore/). Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet!

To learn more about the app, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/mass-times-app

REFLECTION

BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Everything is new! There is a new law of love, a new heaven and earth that is established in the church, a new depth of communion there, and a new glory of God that shines forth from its members.

The new commandment that Jesus announces is more than tolerance or mutual respect. It requires self-sacrificing love. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to this love is the diversity discussed last Sunday. It is hard enough to love those who are like us; how can we possibly love those who are different? And how can we love those who do not love us? It is no wonder that the commandment is called new. It calls for something completely different.

The new commandment is the law of the new heaven and the new earth that are established in the new Jerusalem. Standards are entirely different there. The greater ones serve; the meek possess the earth; happy are the poor; woe to those who laugh. This is clearly a city that comes down from heaven, not one made by human hands. It is a city that embraces all who come to it. God dwells in the midst of this city, in the heart of this people. God dwells with them and they dwell with God.

Through this new love, this new heaven and new earth, this new depth of communion, the glory of God is manifested in a new way. The eschatological future is anticipated in the present. The age of fulfilment has dawned.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading: Rv 21:1-5

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 13:31-35

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

MYSTAGOGY MONDAY

Mystagogical reflection invites us into a personal encounter with Christ in the gospel we have heard, the liturgy we have celebrated, or an experience of life or ministry. It invites us to pay attention to what Christ reveals to us, both in that encounter and the living tradition of our faith and to connect it to life now. It invites us to dialogue and transformation.

Join us each Monday morning as we reveal the mystery of God found in the Sunday Gospel.

Commencing May 9 at 10am

To Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637>



NEWCASTLE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to the **GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT** Seminars/Workshops run by the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters on Saturday 21/5/22 and Saturday 28/5/22 10am-4pm at the Holy Cross Church Hall, 30 Oakland St Glendale. Cost: donation. Please contact Wayne Caruana on 0466 631394 for further information.

**SOME PEOPLE
WON'T LOVE YOU
NO MATTER
WHAT YOU DO
AND SOME PEOPLE
WILL NOT STOP
LOVING YOU
NO MATTER
WHAT YOU DO.
GO WHERE THE LOVE IS.**

unknown