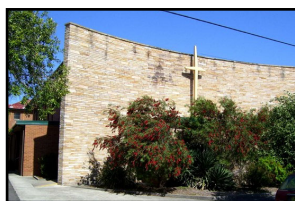


Sacred Heart Cathedral
Hamilton



St Joseph
The Junction



St Mary, Star of the Sea
Newcastle



Immaculate Heart of Mary
Tighes Hill



St Laurence O'Toole
Broadmeadow



Christ the King
Mayfield West



St Peter-in-Chains
Stockton

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

SUNDAY, 12TH JULY 2020
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.

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.

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr James Odoh
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller
Fr Peter Thoai
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
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager—Interim*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music, Liturgy & Sacramental Program*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team Contact the Regional Office
Mercy Pastoral Team Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116
St Joseph's Pastoral Team Contact the Regional Centre

Regional Bulletin

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

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

Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday— 13th July

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday— 14th July

8:00am Mass @ Stockton

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

NO MASS AT THE JUNCTION

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

Wednesday—15th July

Memorial of St Bonaventure

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Thursday— 16th July

8:00am Mass @ Stockton

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

Friday— 17th July

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday— 18th July

NO NOVENA

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

5:30pm Rosary @ Mayfield West

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday— 19th July

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9am Mass @ The Junction

9am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed: [https:// www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/)

10:30am Italian Mass @ Broadmeadow

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral.

Catholic Church's National Appeal for SEA SUNDAY 12 July 2020

Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for those who live and work on the sea. Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Today's Appeal supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. During the COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers continue to bring products to sustain our population and economy, often at personal risk to their health. To support this ministry, please send your donations to: bit.ly/seasundayaustralia

For further information, please call: Ros Rajasingam on 0481 910 245 or visit our website:

www.aos-australia.org

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close



Jesus tells the parable of the sower whose grain fell on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns and finally on good soil where it thrived. It was only the last lot of seeds that survived, but they were all part of the one sowing. Jesus was alluding to the success (or not) of his message; but we can read it as a metaphor for our faith journey, which goes through all the experiences mentioned above – bad times and good. Sometimes our spiritual experience gets swallowed up by our consuming worldly interests, sometimes it can feel shallow and dry, at other times it gets choked by all the negativity in life and then there are the times when it thrives. All these experiences are a real part of our faith life and the fertile moments help us to weather the rest.

Weekday Masses at St Joseph's
Resume July 15 (Wednesday this week).
Please note the change in times.

Reflection

by Richard Leonard

A newcomer to a city known for its wind and rain arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young child and, out of despair, asks, 'Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?' To which the child replies, 'How should I know? I'm only six.'

With the three readings we have just heard, we could easily celebrate Environment Sunday today. Rain, snow, seeds, sowers, fertile soil and a labouring creation giving birth to the fruits of the Spirit, are all rich ground upon which we can reflect on the importance of our earth's ecology.

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit.

If this means we must limit our consumption, change our priorities in regard to energy and trade and show the third world the way in developing eco-friendly industries, then all the better for us. Most of us know that we cannot keep going as we are, with ever increasing unsustainable demands on our planet. There is no point any of us crying over the demise of our environment in the future, if we are doing nothing to help it now.

Every small thing we do from being conscious of the issues, to recycling and using our cars less, is not unimportant. Some of us are in positions to do a lot more than these things as well and we should take our Christian responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

One creative reading of today's Gospel is that it parallels how we can respond to the news of the degradation of the environment.

For some of us the facts and figures about the planet's ecosystem fall on rocky ground. We are not receptive to hearing anything that might demand a change in our lifestyle or a lessening of our comfort.

For others of us, recent debates fall among the thorns. Competing with other issues for our attention and action, the plight of the earth is not able to take root in our consciousness or sympathies. We think it can all wait for another

generation who will have the ability to fix the problems then.

For some of us, however, recent surveys and our own sense of environmental changes means that what experts are saying falls on fertile soil. We want to do whatever we can to see that the earth continues to bear fruit for as many generations as God intends.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with the importance of our relationships to the earth. In the book of Genesis humanity is told to care for and subdue the earth, not wreck it. We cannot be irresponsible about the world's finite resources in the hope that we will find solutions in the future. Avarice is not one of the seven deadly sins for nothing.

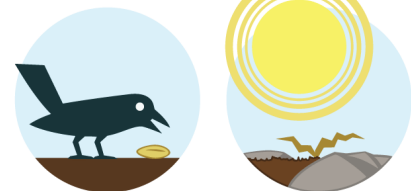
We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.

© 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.

THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER



OR THE PARABLE OF THE FOUR TYPES OF SOIL

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading

Is 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and

glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 13:1-9

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Communion Antiphon

Jn 6:57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

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REGIONAL NOTICES

Climate Pastoral Care Conference: Christian training in Care, Communication & Action

Don't forget to register now for this year's must-attend conference on climate and the church (30 July - 1 August) online via ZOOM:

<https://www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/>

Learn about climate anxiety, grief and mental health issues, and how we can provide best practice pastoral care for people in our churches and communities who are struggling.

Learn how to communicate climate messages from Dr Rebecca Huntley, one of Australia's most experienced and respected social researchers. And learn how your church can take action on climate change together.

This year the conference is even more accessible - available entirely online on the Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Join us to learn, discuss, and share your wisdom.

N.B. Cost is \$30 for the full 3 sessions.

The full program and registration link can be found here: <https://www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/>

Hello Hunter helps people who are feeling isolated, lonely or anxious. Volunteers are available to make a friendly call, deliver essentials, assist in finding specialised help or on request pray with the person.

Hello Hunter has a call centre, which takes requests for assistance, then neighbourhood hubs mobilise their volunteers. Hubs are formed according to suburb and postcode. The goal is to have the person in need assisted by their nearest neighbour.

Hello Hunter are now looking for hub leaders and volunteers. Volunteers need to submit a form, validated by their local parish priest or parish leader. Go to hellohunter.org.au for more information.

Sharing our story

Everyone has a story.

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we've all got a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

As we enter a fallow period, we have been given the gift of time. A time to reflect on our life, a life of being faithful people. We invite you to share your story.

You could use the following questions as a guide. Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?

Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?

How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?

In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use these stories as part of a Diocesan Formation and Education project.

Please send your story to:

shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au

Making it real art competition

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement *Making it real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world*, affirms the positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements of our digital world that may be harmful. The Statement points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this new digital world, but active citizens shaping it.

Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes in the Social Justice Statement. Works must be on A3 paper, with a 150-word artist statement accompanying the work. Entries close Friday 14 August. Exhibition date is Saturday 29 August at San Clemente High School, Mayfield. \$150 prize for each category (Stage 3,4,5,6 and adult). Contact rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au for more information.

Marriage and Relationship Education

Do you know someone who is getting married or someone in a relationship who would like to know more about how to create strong, stable relationships?

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning offers pre and post marriage and relationship education workshops and individual sessions that explore the research around intentional connected relationships. They have the aim of supporting couples to build and maintain 'relationship satisfied' partnerships.

Online workshops will be run soon. Go to www.catholiccare.org.au.

NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for the 2020/2021 financial year are available for collection at the churches this weekend.

BOOK CLUB

We are continuing our 'Zoom' book club meetings. At 6.30pm on Sunday, 2nd August we will share our thoughts on the book, *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, by Azar Nafisi. If you would like to participate in future book club meetings, please send an email to the parish office, newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Praying the Sunday Gospel: Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region are invited to connect and pray with each other from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. You and your friends are welcome to join via the internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560170676>

The article on Sr Kathleen Mernagh rsj and the Words of Remembrance given at her funeral are now available:

<http://www.ssjl.org.au/news-events/latest-news/farewell-sr-kathleen-mernagh/>

MEN'S BREAKFAST

With the current Covid 19 regulations in place for the holding of meetings, the Breakfast Meetings have been suspended until further notice. We currently have two speakers arranged and several other in discussion. However nothing can be finalised until we have a complete all clear, as the majority of our members are in the vulnerable age group, a meeting in the chapel would not be advisable. The chapel would only hold 10-11 members to comply with social distancing. Government regulations prevent us from serving tea/coffee or food and the parish is committed to observing these rules.

By waiting until at least August, when we hope that there is a relaxation of some requirements, we will be able to engage more interesting presenters. In the meantime we apologise for the disruption to our very friendly meetings – but remember “We Will be Back”

THIRD PHASE OF EASING COVID-19 RELATED RESTRICTIONS — 1 JULY

The next step in the easing of COVID-19-related restrictions that had been previously announced a few weeks ago by the NSW Government began on July 1.

While the presence of COVID-19 in our community remains a threat to the health and safety of the Australian and NSW communities, the NSW Government is seeking to ease related restrictions *as quickly and as safely* as is possible. Many people, including many Catholics, would like the easing to take place much faster for any number of reasons, but we need to be conscious of more than just our own needs and wants in the face of the current pandemic event. As Christians, we should have not hesitancy in embracing personal sacrifice for the sake of the health and safety of the Australian community.

The latest easing of restrictions are to be warmly welcomed, but we must remain vigilant to our moral and legal obligation towards our brothers and sisters and ensure we do all that we must to restrict the further spread of COVID-19. We look forward to further easing of restrictions in coming months, and the opportunity to gather as a worshipping community and celebrate our liturgical life in all its fullness.

Easing Taking Effect 1 July

A new Public Health Order has been gazetted to give effect to the NSW Government announcement. The limit on the number of persons who can be present in the Cathedral is now calculated solely based on allowing 4 square metres per person within the building. There is now no longer an arbitrary limit; the only limitation is the size of the available space in the Cathedral.

We have 'remeasured' the available space in the Cathedral building, and can now advise that the upper limit on the number of persons who can be present in the Cathedral is **105 persons**, which limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, as well as the Cathedral's availability for private prayer.

Opening Hours of the Cathedral

The Cathedral will continue to be open Monday through Friday from approximately 8am until approximately 5pm. You are welcome to attend the Cathedral during these hours for private prayer or a time of silence.

On weekends, the Cathedral will only be open when in use for Mass or other scheduled liturgies, generally from about one hour before the scheduled

start time until approximately 30 minutes after conclusion. This decision is based on the increased need to clean the Cathedral after all liturgical celebrations, which naturally are increased over the weekend. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause but feel this is the most appropriate course of action in the current circumstances.

Continuing Restrictions

Although the number of persons who can be in the Cathedral has increased, there is still a requirement for the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in the Cathedral (e.g. Mass, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, etc.). If a 'discrete' group attends, e.g. a family, a husband and wife, people from the same household, etc., only one (adult) member of the group is required to provide their contact details.

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, refraining from communal singing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues. Because of the need to ensure health and safety, the previously advised adaptations to the celebration of Masses and other liturgical celebrations will continue to be observed.

To manage the entrance to and exit from the Cathedral, only one door – the side door closest to the Diocesan office building – will be used for the foreseeable future. This entrance has had a hand sanitiser unit mounted on the wall for convenience and provides adequate 'desk space' to allow for the recording of contact details. The use of one door will also permit the management of numbers within the Cathedral for Mass and other liturgical celebrations.

Requirements for Attending Mass

With the increase in the number of persons who can attend, we will discontinue the need to register in advance to attend Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though there will still be the need to ensure that no more than 105 persons are at any particular Mass.

You may continue to provide your contact details in advance via the relevant page on the [website](#), but there is no longer a need to register for each Mass. If you provide your contact details in advance, you need only 'tick' your name on the list provided rather than complete the Contact Details Form.

We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to consider not returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

For Sunday Masses at St Joseph's, The Junction and St Mary's, Newcastle, the registration process still applies. To register, please visit the website, www.newcastlecatholic.org.au or contact the Regional Office on 4979 1101 or via email, newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

If you wish to attend the Saturday evening vigil at **Broadmeadow**, please contact Gwen on 49675010 or Fr James on 0402 223415 or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com

If you wish to attend the Sunday morning Mass at **Tighes Hill**, please contact Fr James on 0402 223415 or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com

Important to note! If you reach voicemail when you call to register for Mass, **please leave your name and phone number and clearly identify which Mass you wish to attend.** We need to be able to contact you on Friday afternoon/evening, to confirm your attendance. We received some voicemail messages at the Regional Office this week where phone numbers were not provided and we could not complete the registration. We remind you that if you are not registered, you cannot attend Mass.

We thank you for your understanding during these difficult times and appreciate your continuing patience and support in relation to the registration requirements. These are processes we must follow in order to comply with the current Public Health Order.



RECENTLY DECEASED:

Peter Doyle, Judith Shields,
Margaret King, Maria
DiPietro,

ANNIVERSARIES: Robert & Ada Brown, James & Myrtle Clark, Mary Russell, Bede Russell, Leo Gellwiller, Ray Walker, Fr Tony Stace, Christopher O'Donohue

SICK: Derek Orrin, Beth Wooden, Larry Smith,

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Please continue to pray for all those throughout the world who are affected by COVID-19.

Names may be placed here by contacting the Regional Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Regional website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

God prepares the earth for the harvest

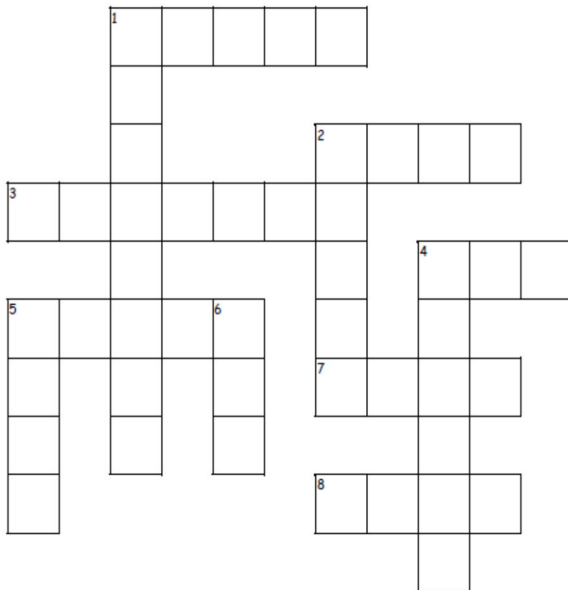
Q W P S W Z M E P C S E Z Q B V B
L I K O E G K A R A Y X S Z U L O
N Y V X G A H J M T O X C Z X F X
G G L N I L X N E P X A T B W G P
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E A R L D S I O T N G E S K P O D
F O I Y N S O U V J B E E R N J R
E B L O L T S T V A X S R Y I B I
C B W R A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

Try to find these words:

- birds
- boat
- children
- crowd
- Galilee
- rain
- seeds
- sky
- snow
- soil
- Spirit
- sun

CROSSWORD

God prepares the earth for the harvest



Across

- 1: a large group of people
- 2: this covers the ground in winter
- 3: Jesus taught at this lake
- 4: it appears in the sky and helps plants to grow
- 5: animals that fly
- 7: seeds are planted in this
- 8: water that falls from the sky

Down

- 1: young people
- 2: plants start out as these
- 4: those led by God's _____ are his children
- 5: used for travelling on water
- 6: the sun and moon appear in the ____