



**City Pastoral** REGION  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

*The Parish Vine*

**St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish:**

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill.

**Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West.

**Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

**Sunday 19 April 2026**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**



Dear Parish Family,

When I was a child, my mother taught us all a little verse which, when I was little, gave a little comfort in the middle of name calling; 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt'. As I've aged, I've come to appreciate it more. I feel our Pope may have been taught that as a child, as he makes measured, reflective and insightful comments in response to a world leader's unkind and untrue remarks about him. For me, often the name calling says more about the person doing the name calling. A bit like the 'school yard' bully who works from a place of hurt, insecurity and frailty. Once you work that out, age helps, it is so much easier to respond rather than react. I see our Pope responding not reacting. And for us as Catholics we know our truths as our Pope knows his. In terms of Jesus 'who loved the sinner', responded to the accusations of the Pharisees, calmed those 'throwing the first stone', and faced Pilate and the Sanhedrin with dignity in the face of persecution, we are invited to know our truths and to respond accordingly.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help Fr Niel with his project 'cash for trash'. The project is a simple response to Laudato Si which will not only in a small way help the planet, but also aid some of the charitable works of our allied agencies. It is a worthwhile project which, with help, will have an impact not only for the planet and the poor, but all of us. Fr Niel could use some more hands as he begins the planning, collection and return phases of the project. All ages can get involved. However, if you are retired and looking for a way to help the parish, fill in your day making a difference and getting to know more of your fellow parishioners, this is something that should interest. I jokingly said to Fr Niel this week we should be asking the wife of a newly retired man who is starting to get under her feet whether she would like to donate him to the project. Ladies, if this is you, feel free to drop him off at the parish meeting when it is called – **all donations gratefully appreciated.**

It is also timely to let you know of the generosity of our parish staff in helping others. For those of you who have called in, you will know how welcoming and supportive they are. You may not be aware that their care reaches beyond the parish boundary. In recent times they have been helping new staff in other parishes learn their roles and the processes necessary to run an efficient office. I am a real fan of parish administration hubs where numbers of parishes share their office resources and work collaboratively. Our parish have been very helpful in modelling this way of being and helping others find their feet. Most of our contacts come from either email or phone which means that offices can work effectively from anywhere. Our office is the central contact point for Mayfield, Stockton and Newcastle. Charlestown, Warners Bay, Booragul, Toronto and Morisset collaborate out of the Parishes' admin hub in Charlestown. What is great is that our parish staffs have a team to work in, have safer environments to work from, can easily take leave and can share the wisdom and knowledge that comes from a team approach. And your priests, God love us, have been willing to back fill in the parishes around us as well, when priests get sick or have to be away. We are one church, we work collaboratively for the greater good and we are called always to walk synodally.

**Greg**, Parish Priest

**Parish Priest**

Fr Greg Barker

**Assisting Clergy**

Fr Niel Olano

Fr Ramille Bigcas

Deacon Kevin Gadd

**Parish Administration**

McAuley Building, 242 Parry St,  
Newcastle West, 2302

PO Box 6, The Junction 2291

Phone: (02) 4979 1101

Email:

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

Website:

[www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)

**Note:** Our *NEW* website is looking great. Check it out. Feedback welcome!

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)

Jenny Pascua (*Parish Secretary*)

Peter Davies (*Administration*)

Mary-Anne de Luca (*Sacraments*)

Dr Anne Millard (*Music & Liturgy*)

*We acknowledge the Awabakal and Worimi peoples - the traditional custodians of these lands.*

## The Parish Diary...(for the week ahead)

3rd week of Easter

Mon 20 Apr

- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 10:00am San Clemente Easter Liturgy
- 12:00pm St Columban's Easter Liturgy

Tues 21 Apr

- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton
- 10:30am Mass at Badcoe House, Newcastle West
- 1:00pm Funeral Liturgy at Stockton for Patricia Haskew

Wed 22 Apr

- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West
- 9:30am Holy Family Easter Liturgy

Thurs 23 Apr

- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Fri 24 Apr

- 10:15am Mass @ The Junction
- 11:00am Exposition, Adoration and Reconciliation @ The Cathedral
- 12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 25 Apr *Anzac Day*

- 9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by Reconciliation
- 2:00pm Tudor Singers Concert for Anzac Day at the Cathedral: "Carried in Song"

4th Sunday of Easter

Sat 25 Apr

- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 26 Apr

- 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



## Prayer Requests



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Patricia Haskew, Sr Clare McCudden rsj

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Pope Francis, Brian Smith, Ruby Houlahan, Monica Gebbie, Margaret Eather, Sandra Black, Rita Leaver, Patsy Nunn, Bernadette Casey Ryan, Neville Hall

**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, Leonetta Papichio, John Woods, Hoagy VanEwyk, Pat Fitzpatrick, Martyn Docherty

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



HE IS RISEN



## Our Columbaria

Those in our Columbaria with April anniversaries:

### At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Leo Burke  
Beryl Coferos  
Lorraine Driscoll  
Mary Duggan  
Kathleen Gibson  
Monica Hayes  
Joy Patricia Jarrett  
Mary Noreen Long  
Alice Martin

Redento Quaggiotto  
Patricia Mather  
Krystyna Mazalo  
Ian Edward McDonald  
Cary McNabb  
Laurel May Murray  
Nola Margaret Phillips  
Frank Keith Pilgrim  
Sandra Rufo  
Henrietta Vujeva  
Elaine Iris Wilson

### At St Joseph's:

Michael Johns  
John Joseph Willcock  
John Barber  
Bruce Buckland  
Joseph Callen  
Mark John Chappell  
Elsie Craig  
Norma Patricia De Lore  
Harry Fleming  
Peter Groombridge  
Kathleen Hiscox

Warren Kelly  
Milheim Lettoof  
Joan Nelson  
Jeremiah O'Doherty  
Frank O'Sullivan  
Ellen Palmer  
Mossie Smith  
Edna Sowerby  
Lorna Wakely  
Leo Wallace  
Jim Heaney  
Clare Martin

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



## Called to Know More - Stories of a Catholic Military Chaplain

Friday 24 April 2026, 10:30am, Diocesan Resource Centre, NEWCASTLE WEST



In preparation for ANZAC Day, hear from Fr Greg Barker, who will share his personal experience serving as a Military Chaplain on the realities of service, faith, and accompaniment among those affected by war.

Following the talk and morning tea, all are

invited to join in midday Mass at the Cathedral. Register on the Diocesan website or use the QR code.

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>



## Catholic Theological College

Invites you to our

**Engaging Your Faith online presentations**

From \$25 per session.

For more information:

[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](http://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/)



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

# Liz Doyle

## F A R E W E L L

You are warmly invited to celebrate the retirement of Elizabeth (Liz) Doyle.

In celebration of Liz's extraordinary 33 years of faithful service to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, supporting four bishops and the life of our Diocesan community with dedication, professionalism and grace.

**Friday 1 May 2026 - 9:30am Mass**  
Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West.

Mass will be followed by a celebration in the Southern Cross Hall and Morning Tea.

RSVP by 24 April at: [mn.shor.tn/lizdoyle](mailto:mn.shor.tn@lizdoyle) or use the QR code.



## Return and Earn - We need you!

We have two volunteers so far, meaning it's too early for the meeting Fr Niel hoped to hold in the coming week. Please help if you can. Your time commitment can be as small or large as you wish. This "Return and Earn" initiative, regarding bottles and cans and cartons, is a way to **care for the earth** by recycling. It's also a way to **care for others**, as the funds raised will be distributed in this instance to Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission, St Vincent de Paul, and to the Good Friday appeal. Please contact the parish office - We'd love to hear from you!



*Fr Anthony cutting his cake at his farewell on Friday 10 April. Thanks to all who contributed to the evening, through your liturgical talents, your food preparation and your presence!*

## Regular Opportunities for Prayer and Meditation

- **Tighes Hill Christian Meditation** (non-denominational) - each Monday 3.30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Tighes Hill



- **Living Waters Meditation Centre** - each Wednesday 7.30am and Friday 11.00am at 34 Kenrick St The Junction

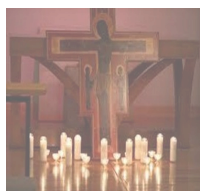
- **The Rosary** - each Wednesday after 7.30am Mass at The Cathedral, First Saturday of the month after Mass and Novena at The Cathedral.



- **Divine Mercy Devotion** - first Sunday of the month 3.00-4.00pm at Christ the King, Mayfield West.



- **Taize Service** - first Sunday of the month 5.00 - 6.00pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill, followed by a shared supper.



## Rosary During the Month of May

Catholic Mission is providing the opportunity to pray the rosary during the month of May:



**Dates:** Monday to Friday, 1 May – 31 May

**Time:** 2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Location:** Online via Teams

Teams link: [tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26](https://tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26)

## Brown Sisters' Museum

The Brown Sisters were an integral part of our parish for 60 years. Their museum, the Eileen O'Connor Centre, located beside the convent at 35 Dudley Street, Coogee, is opening on the first Saturday in May, June and July 2026. Hours 9.30am to 2.00pm.



## Welcome to Our Newly Baptised!

We joyfully welcome those receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend:

At St Mary's: Frances Thomas

At The Cathedral: Daphne Elias, Sophia, Adonis and Percy Lavis



## Parish Group Meetings

**Book Club** next meeting is Sunday, May 3rd, to discuss *Remarkable Truths of Alfie Bains* by Sarah Clutton. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



**View, Chew, and Chat:** You are very welcome to join us on Wednesdays! This coming Wednesday is Lectio Divina - a way of becoming personally immersed in the Scriptures. To participate,

please email the parish office: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

## St Joseph's Prayer/Discussion

**Group** will resume on Thursday 30 April at 9.30am, at the Junction Meeting Room. For inquiries phone Janet on 0435 518 671.



## Parish Luncheon



Parish Luncheon at Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether @ 12.30pm on Monday 20th April. All parishioners of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle, Mayfield and Stockton are very welcome. Inquiries to Maureen (Tighes Hill) on 0412 673 151.

## 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

## Food Baskets for the Needy

Blue bins located in our churches are available for your donations:

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 ask 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.



## Marian Consecration Retreat

*Saturdays: 2 – 30 May*



You are invited to attend a self-directed online Marian Consecration Retreat, facilitated by members of the Newcastle Charismatic Renewal Group, during the **Saturdays of the month of May**.

The sessions will be held at 11am in the Toohey Room (Catholic Diocese of Newcastle Precinct, Newcastle West) for the first week and then the Diocesan Resource Centre, adjacent to the Cathedral, for the remaining weeks.

The retreat is free to attend although you will need to purchase the book to read the daily reflections throughout the 33 days. Please contact **Wayne Caruana on 046 6631 394** or register via the QR Code.



## 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)

## Parish Teams

**Promoters of Safeguarding:** Louise Outram, Cynthia Tamonan, Alex Tamonan, Sr Kath Williams rsm, Annie Evans.

**Bereavement Team:** Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard.

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

**RCIA:** Contact Mary-Anne at the parish office. Visit our website to fill out the form.

**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.

## Safeguarding

**Australia's safeguarding system for children and at-risk adults** operates through a layered hierarchy that distributes responsibility across national, state/territory, and organisational levels.

**National Level:** The Commonwealth provides overarching guidance through national principles and inquiries. The '*10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*', developed after the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, outline expectations for governance, culture, and risk management across all sectors working with children. For adults, national bodies such as the Australian Law Reform Commission recommend consistent safeguarding laws and define *at-risk adults* as those needing care and support, experiencing or at risk of abuse, and unable to protect themselves.

**State and Territory Level:** Each state and territory has statutory responsibility for child protection and adult safeguarding. Child protection departments investigate risk of harm, issue protection orders, and coordinate services. For adults, public advocates and guardians investigate abuse involving impaired decision-making capacity.

**Organisational and Community Level:** Organisations *working face-to-face with children or vulnerable adults* must implement safeguarding standards, such as the *National Catholic Safeguarding Standards*. These frameworks require strong governance, safe environments, effective complaints management, and ongoing training to ensure safety in everyday practice.

Over the next few weeks, parish safeguarding articles will focus on our diocesan and parish responsibilities at the **Organisational and Community Level** of responsibility.

## Diocesan Events

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

- **Stella Maris – Mission to Seafarers Mass:** 5:30pm, 30 April, 96 Hannell Street Wickham
- **ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch:** 24 May, Trinity College, Adamstown
- **Magdalene Awards:** 26 July, 9:30am - Sacred Heart Cathedral
- **ALIVE Young Adults Retreat:** 17-19 July, Forster
- **Travelling Exhibition of the Saint Carlo Acutis Pilgrim Relic:** 8-14 September
- **ALIVE Youth Retreat:** 25-27 September, Lake Macquarie
- **Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit:** 1-3 October, St Gregory's Campbelltown

## Diocesan Resource Centre

**Location:** Corner Tudor and Parry Sts, Newcastle West.

**Opening Hours:** Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm. Open 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm. 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.



### Prayer Scripture Group Meeting Every Saturday, 2:30pm

The Praying Scripture group will continue to meet after Easter with a particular focus on the Gospel of John this year. You can contact Wayne Caruana for more information on 0466 631394.

### Formation Film

Jesus Revolution – A film based on the true story of a 1960's teenager, a pastor and a Christian hippie.

*Saturday 02 May 2026, 11:00am – 1:00pm, Diocesan Resource Centre – Cnr Parry & Tudor St Newcastle*

Join us as we watch the film and share morning tea, lunch, and robust discussion. All are welcome!

Registration (Essential): <https://forms.office.com/r/KYdg9Q3DTq> or call Mary on 0409033449

## Listen to the Heart: Moving Forward Team

*Saturday 02 May 2026, 8:30am – 12:30pm, Therry Centre - East Maitland*

Join Fr Darryl Mackie and Auntie Wanda Smith in an informative morning to increase our knowledge and understanding of the deep spirituality of First Nations people, connection to Country and relationships with Faith. Register on the Diocesan website:

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

## You are Invited...

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invite you to a

### Handover Ritual

of the Singleton Mercy Convent  
10am Wednesday 22 April  
30 Queen Street, Singleton



Join us for this joyous occasion as we celebrate the gifting of a legacy of mercy and hospitality.

## Middle East Emergency Appeal

Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care.

To learn more or give today, please scan the QR code or visit [www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal](http://www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal)



## Palms - Two IMPACTFUL Sessions!



Join Palms International Volunteering for two special online sessions where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. In April meet past Palms volunteers and discover how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities, or join our May session for a live crossing to Timor Leste and see how lives are changing today. Go to [palms.org.au/events](http://palms.org.au/events).

## Marian Talks—Mackillop Parish

**Behold Your Mother:**

### Explaining and Defending the 4 Marian Dogmas

Nationally known speaker Simon Carrington, from Fire Up Ministries, will lead us in looking at:

- Mary, Mother Of God
- The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Mary's Perpetual Virginity
- Mary's Bodily Assumption

Sessions will be on **Fridays** at 7 Milson St Charlestown, commencing with **Holy Rosary at 6:30pm** and the **Talk at 7:00pm:**

8 May, 15 May, 22 May, 29 May

Each session is self-contained, so you can attend any number of sessions.

While not compulsory, a **donation of \$20 per talk** would be appreciated to help cover the donation to the presenter and refreshments.

## Prayer for Seafarers

Seafarers transport our goods and services to our shores. They are feeling anxious and vulnerable as they import and export goods to our shores at this time.



### Prayer from Pope John Paul II for Seafarers

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea. As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey, that in heart and mind, work and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, "Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?" Our Lady of Peace, pray for us! Bright Star of the Sea, guide us! Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.

## 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 - Account no: 100008696

Mayfield Parish - Account no: 100007169

Stockton Parish - Account no: 100003308

**OR**

Scan a QR Code:



ST. BENEDICT'S INNER NEWCASTLE PARISHES  
Sacred Heart Cathedral | St. Joseph's Junction  
St. Mary's Star of the Sea | Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill



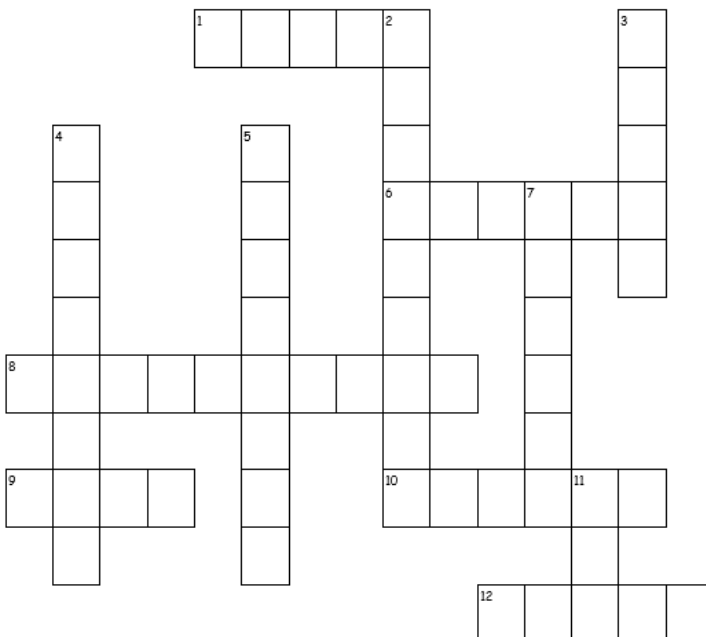
CHRIST THE KING CHURCH  
MAYFIELD



ST PETER IN CHAINS CHURCH  
STOCKTON

## CROSSWORD

I love you, Lord, my strength



Acts 2:14, 22-24  
Ps 18:1-2, 46 & 50ab, R. see v.2  
Lk 24:13-35

### Across

- 1: the two disciples knew who Jesus was when he broke what?
- 6: some women saw a vision of these at Jesus' tomb
- 8: sacred texts
- 9: Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ to us by God
- 10: lifted up
- 12: this man spoke to the other apostles about Jesus

### Down

- 2: vanish
- 3: Jesus died on a \_\_\_\_\_
- 4: Jesus' amazing deeds
- 5: Jesus' closest disciples
- 7: Jesus joined two of his disciples on the road to this town
- 11: to consume food

## 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 of the Word



### First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11.

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

### Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

### Gospel Acclamation: See Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

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## Next Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Acts 2:14, 36-41

1 Pet 2: 20-25

Jn 10: 1-10



## Scripture Commentary

In today's **first reading**, Peter proclaims that Jesus is Lord and messiah. The speech follows the pattern of early missionary preaching: an announcement of the arrival of the age of fulfillment; a summary of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus; recourse to the Old Testament, showing how Jesus fulfilled what it promised; and a call to repentance. During his ministry, Jesus himself appealed to the Jewish belief that the eschatological age of fulfillment would be inaugurated by miracles. Peter asserts that Jesus performed such works. Though he argues that both the Jewish and the Roman officials were responsible for Jesus' death, Peter insists that everything happened according to the plan and with the foreknowledge of God.

This **psalm** of confidence opens with a declaration of trust that God will protect the psalmist from danger and ultimately from death. The psalm speaks of a covenant relationship with God and the confidence that redounds from it. Two images characterise this relationship: land and cup. In the first, the blessings and promises customarily associated with land are now associated with the Lord. The second refers to the cup that is passed around from which all drink. This unifying cup is really the Lord. The psalmist's entire being is filled with confidence and gladness in the rescue that God has granted. Such confidence in God may appear to be foolhardy to some, but the psalmist's trust is unshakeable.

The author of **1 Peter** looks carefully at the cost of redemption and the responsibilities that accompany it. He reminds his audience that God their 'father' will judge the members of his household according to the merit of their works. This points to the obligation that they have to live the new life in Christ with integrity. They have been ransomed from a futile way of living. The price of this ransom was neither gold nor silver, but the blood of Christ. The death of Christ was not merely a remedy for the state of human sinfulness. Though it was in God's plan from before the foundation of the world, it will be revealed fully in the final age. Thus Christians are exhorted to live with hope.

The report of the encounter with Christ on the **road to Emmaus** may be one of the best known resurrection stories. The disciples were probably returning from the celebration of Passover. At first they do not recognise Jesus. However, they are not reluctant to describe the events of the past few days, and to admit that they had considered Jesus the fulfillment of their messianic expectations. As Jesus shows how the Scriptures really pointed to him, their hearts burn within them. Their religious tradition was being interpreted for them in a new and exciting way. Finally, it is in the breaking of the bread that their eyes are opened, and they recognise Jesus. The revelatory unfolding is now complete.

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**Dianne Bergant CSA** was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University.