



**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 17 May 2026*

*The Ascension of the Lord*



Dear Parish Family,

Thank you to all of you who have completed one or other or both of our surveys out to date. The results of the first two will begin to inform the strategic thinking that is needed for our ongoing future and sustainability. There will be a couple of others as I work on, with the team, what we need to hear you on. There will opportunity for open comment. You may not have noticed that we have also surveyed specifically our young people in our two high schools aged 15 to 18 and our young adults aged over 18 and under 35. I look forward to hearing their feedback. I believe it will be insightful.

I am fully committed to a synodal process, and these surveys are one way that you get to make comment and contribute to the listening that I and the Regional Pastoral Council are continually engaged in. Every parish I have been called to serve over my 33 years of priesthood has worked synodally. I'm not planning to change anytime soon.

A couple of people have taken an opportunity to make comment at the end of the surveys. These are helpful to us. There were a couple of comments naming a perceived 'hidden' agenda on my part. I apologize if I have given the impression of hiding something. In my mind my agenda is clear and overt: parish sustainability, parish growth and a parish missioning, a parish moving away from maintenance that keeps a status quo that is not necessarily life giving into the future. I am looking for a strategic plan and pathway that aids us to be sustainable long term. We have two sets of resources, people and property. Which is our most important 'resource'? What's your long-term goal? These are exciting times even if a bit scary, and full of possibilities.

I have been working on the parish financial budget with Anne Warren our Business Manager in readiness for presenting to, and discussion with, the Regional Finance Council, and then to be presented to you for comment. I have added in this week \$2 million for maintenance and repairs and roughly \$200,000 for insurance. We won't spend that much of course; we don't have the money, but together we will work on our priorities as a community in the Parish Assembly. If you look around the church where you worship and do a quick calculation on what you can see without looking under 'rocks' (things hidden), you will note just how quickly things add up in the maintenance space. I'll give you an example: there is a kink in the carpet in a couple of our churches that is a WH&S hazard if we let it continue. To replace just the sanctuary carpet where the problem is will cost \$20,000+ - in each church.

These surveys are opportunities and are important in a synodal process. Your voices, your wisdom, your experience and your needs are important and, when shared, they help build the mission of our church and help those you have entrusted to leadership guide the decision-making process. I hear sometimes from individuals that what they say never gets heard: sometimes what we want is not possible or not agreed with. That is quite different to not being heard. Every voice does matter and be assured every voice is listened to. So please make sure you take the opportunities to be part of the conversation and work with your leadership to be synodal and to build a bright future.

**Parish Priest**

Fr Greg Barker

**Assisting Clergy**

Fr Niel Olano  
Fr Ramille Bigcas  
Fr Stany Mathew  
Deacon Kevin Gadd

**Parish Administration**

McAuley Building, 242 Parry St,  
Newcastle West, 2302  
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291  
Phone: (02) 4979 1101  
Email:

[newcp parish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcp parish@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*)

**Greg,** Parish Priest

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

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

7th week of Easter  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Mon 18 May

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 19 May

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:15am Mass @ Stockton (whole school Mass)

11:00am Mass at Moran Aged Care, Stockton

Wed 20 May

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am No Mass @ Mayfield West

Thurs 21 May

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am No Mass @ Stockton

Fri 22 May

10:15am Mass @ The Junction: Celebration of 100 years since St Joseph's Convent was opened

11:00am Exposition, Adoration and Reconciliation @The Cathedral

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 23 May

10:00am Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Christopher Voigt

*Pentecost Sunday*

Sat 23 May

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 24 May

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

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

There will be no Novena Mass and Reconciliation on Saturday 23 May 2026. On that day there will be a 10am Mass, during which Christopher Voigt will be ordained to the Diaconate.

## Prayer Requests



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Tess Connolly rsj, Purificacion Herbert

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Sean Roche, Eileen Russell, Carmel Walker, Kevin Lynch, Brian Bellotti, Mary McIntyre, Len Griffiths, Arthur Smith, John Sheely, Monica Margaret Fitzgerald, Winifred Rose Fitzgerald, Mary Elizabeth Dwyer

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Rachael McLellan, Wally McLellan, 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



The Most Reverend Michael Kennedy and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle cordially invite

The People of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

to the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of

**Mr Christopher Voigt**

by

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy

on Saturday, 23 May 2026 at 10am

in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West

*All are Welcome*

## Our Columbaria

Those in our Columbaria with May anniversaries:

**At The Cathedral:**

Margaret Winsome

Azzopardi

Joyce Callaghan

Michael Clement Daley

Marjorie Hardy

Ian King

Mario Malaspina

Gerard McCosker

Cyril O'Neill

Barry Pritchard

Lorna Pearl Roberts

Barbara Smith

Beryl Smith

**At St Joseph's:**

Edith Isabel Fahey

Violet Ernst

Mollie Buckland

Anne Marie Gilroy

John Hogg

Margaret Kelly

Maureen Maher

Paul-Elizabeth McNamara

John Joseph Skehan

Francis Smith

Eunice Smyth

Meryl Ryan

Jack Robinson

Charles Tynan

Frederick Wilson

Geoff Young

Zilda Burgess

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

## Parish Survey - Closes 18 May



As part of our work for the Parish Assembly process, the Regional Pastoral Council is collecting data from our Churches. The survey

you are asked to complete is part of our fact-finding and will be included in our discernment for a Pastoral Strategic Plan.

Please complete the survey just *once*. It is anonymous and will be collected by the Parish Office to be given to our Regional Pastoral Council, our Assembly Planning Committee, and the Assembly gathered in June. This is an opportunity to continue our synodal process as we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit through your voice.



## Laudato si' Week: 17–24 May 2026

**One week. One concrete action. One global response.**

Laudato si' Week is a global Catholic celebration. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*, it joins Catholics around the world in renewing our commitment to care for creation. This year the theme is *Hope to Action* and encourages each of us to take one action during Laudato si' Week to care for our common home. Catholic Earthcare, in partnership with the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, is pleased to share resources to support your parish to participate.

Download resource: <https://tinyurl.com/CDMNLaudatoSi>



## Celebration of the Church's environmental teaching.

The 8:00am Sunday Mass at Tighes Hill today will include a focus on *Laudato si'*, the Church's teaching on care for people and planet, and on the parish community garden's [Plant Hope project](#) that has led to the planting of 638 Australian red cedar trees over the past year. Morning tea to follow Mass.



## Welcome to Our Newly Baptised!



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

At The Junction: Eve Phillips

At The Cathedral: Florence and Valentina Capiello, and Harvey Redman

## Parish Luncheon



Parish Luncheon at Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether @ 12.30pm on Monday 18th May. All parishioners of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle, Mayfield and Stockton are very welcome. Inquiries to Maureen (Tighes Hill) on 0412 673 151.

## St Joseph's Convent The Junction

The community which gathers for Mass each Friday at St Joseph's The Junction has become aware that St Joseph's Convent in Farquhar Street, at present unused, was built 100 years ago. Its foundation stone was laid on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1926.



We wish to honour the centenary of the building, which was very grand for its day, and the dedicated lives of the Sisters who lived there in times past. To recognise their contribution to education and to parish life, we invite all Sisters, parishioners and friends to a **special Mass at St Joseph's Church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.15am**. Morning tea will follow.



## EPIC Young Adults

EPIC is a space for 18-35 year olds in our pastoral region, wherever you are on your faith journey.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – ADORE** – Join us for Eucharistic Adoration at 6pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral on the first Tuesday evening of each month! Come rest in His presence.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Sharing the Sacred Heart** – A special talk from one of our clergy on how young adults can share the heart of Jesus with others, followed by Mass for this solemnity! 6pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral.

See the flyers at the back of each Mass centre for a full schedule of events for June and July! Stay in touch by joining our WhatsApp with this QR code or following us on Insta at @epicnewcastle



## Parish Assembly Save the date:

**Session three will be on 13 June.**


Following the 13 June session, you will be invited to one further gathering on 12 September to tweak our Parishes' strategic and pastoral plan.




## Rosary During the Month of May

- During the month of May, we are praying the rosary after each weekday Mass in the Cathedral.
- **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

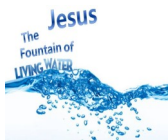
 **Location:** Online via Teams

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



## Regular Opportunities for Prayer

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



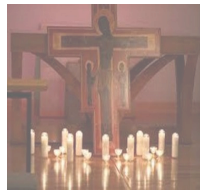
- **Living Waters Meditation Centre** - each Wednesday 7.30am and Friday 11.00am at 34 Kenrick St The Junction

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



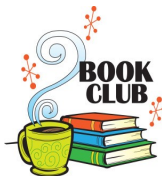
- **Divine Mercy Devotion** - first Sunday of the month 3.00-4.00pm at Christ the King, Mayfield West.

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



## Parish Group Meetings

**Book Club** next meeting is Sunday, June 7th, to discuss *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. 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! On May 20th we meet for Lectio. No meeting on May 27th. To participate, please email the parish office: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



**St Joseph's Prayer/Discussion Group** meets on the last Thursday of each month: Next meeting: Thursday 28 May at 9.30am, in the Junction Meeting Room.



## 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 are held at 11am in the Diocesan Resource Centre, adjacent to the Cathedral.

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.



## Christian Life Program

*Consecrated in the truth - Be Christ to others*

Couples For Christ invite you to an orientation day:

**Today 17 May 2026, 11am to 2pm**

Toohey Room, Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.

Join us to learn more about the Christian Life Program.

Light meals will be provided, and child-minding is available.

RSVP:

0411 409 329 (Bong); 0431 133 583 (Rose);

0477 741 502 (Alex); 0411 081 374 (Cynthia)



## 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.



# ALPHA

## Come and See

A place to explore life, faith and meaning



### 10 Consecutive Thursdays & Saturday Retreat Day

**Start Date:** Thursday, May 28

**End Date:** Thursday, August 6

**Time:** 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Location:** Toohey Room

**Duration:** 10 Weeks

#### Alpha Retreat

**Date:** Saturday July 18

**Time:** 10:30am- 4:30pm

### What is Alpha?

A series of sessions in a relaxed environment where we share a meal, watch a short talk, and discuss our ideas in a friendly and open space.

### Who Is it for?

- Anyone curious about faith
- Those returning to the Church
- Those seeking community
- Anyone interested in faith leadership

### Want to Get Involved?

We are looking for Alpha leaders, helpers and hospitality stars to be part of this amazing initiative. For more information please speak with Fr Greg or contact Mary-Anne de Luca on **0409 077 373**.

**Please register via the QR CODE**

All sessions will take place in the Toohey Room, next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.



## Alpha Prayer Partners

St Benedict's Parish is hosting an Alpha Pilot program. Alpha supports participants to deepen their relationship with Christ through Food, Fellowship, Conversation and Community. You are invited to sign up as a prayer partner to support those who are participating. You can do this either through the QR code at the door of the churches or through the QR code here. For more information on how you can help, contact either Jason Connor or Mary-Anne De Luca through the parish office.



## St Columban's Primary School, Mayfield – Mission & Vision Feedback

As a parish school under the charism or auspices of the Dominicans, St Columban's is reflecting on its Mission and Vision, guided by the pillars of Prayer, Study, Community, and Service.

We invite parishioners to share their insights as we continue to nurture truth, faith, and learning in our students.

👉 Complete the survey: <https://tinyurl.com/StColumbansVandM>



## 2026 Magdalene Award

Nominations open: Celebrate the women who have shaped, and continue to shape, our Church. Inspired by Mary Magdalene - courageous disciple and first witness to the Risen Christ - the Award honours a woman in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle whose life reflects Gospel values through leadership, service and faith. Open to women aged 18+ actively contributing in a voluntary capacity. Scan the QR Code or email Kate for a Nomination Pack:

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



## Pray for Persecuted Christians

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith.

**Watch John's moving testimony and download a free Red Rosary Prayer Card** to unite your prayers with the suffering Church throughout the world. Scan the QR code or visit [www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26](http://www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26)



## Pilgrimage to Ireland

St Francis of Assisi Parish Dungog Gresford is organising a 'Soul of Ireland' Pilgrimage departing 21 September 2026. The itinerary document can be downloaded from the parish's website at [www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au/resources/](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au/resources/).

Any interested parishioners from across the diocese would be most welcome to join this opportunity to explore and experience the 'Soul of Ireland'. Please contact Parish Priest, Fr Andrew Doohan, ([andrew.doohan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:andrew.doohan@mn.catholic.org.au); 0412 405 671) with any enquiries.



## 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)*

## Diocesan Events

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

### Called to Know More: Year of St Francis

Tuesday 19 May | 12pm | Diocesan Resource Centre  
Special Guest Speaker: **Mark Toohey**

Pope Leo XIV has named 2026 a special year to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's death. Who was St Francis? Why are so many people within and beyond the Church, moved and inspired by him? This event will explore what his life story can teach us about our relationship to each other, the church and the world. Through story and conversation, we will discover the person beneath the plaster saint.

All Welcome. <https://tinyurl.com/CDMNStFrancis>



### ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch 24 May, Trinity College Adamstown

Witness how the Holy Spirit is moving in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as we launch ALIVE - a dynamic and exciting event that will showcase a new diocesan identity for young people that seeks to draw them into a personal relationship with Christ they feel confident to share with others. Music will be led by a nationally acclaimed worship team and a number of exciting plans will be announced alongside some good news stories of where ALIVE is already taking shape in schools and parishes. Visit the Diocesan events page to secure your free seat. All ages are welcome.

<https://tinyurl.com/ALIVECDMN>



### Stella Maris / Mission to Seafarers



**ART EXHIBITION:** Nominations still open – Scan the QR Code for all the details.

**MASS:** The next Mass is at 5:30pm on Thursday 28 May. All welcome.



**DONATIONS:** The mission is calling on the following donations for their care packs for vessels entering our port: Beans, Candy Bags, Card Games/jigsaw puzzles, Combs, Magazines, Razors, Socks, Toothpaste & Brushes. Donations can be delivered to the Centre at 96 Hannell Street Wickham.

### The Chuckle

I was on my way to church. I was almost there when I looked at my mobile phone, and it said, "No Service". So I turned round and went back home.



## Pentecost – Our 'Gifting Sunday'

As we approach the celebration of Pentecost, we recall the Holy Spirit filling the Church with courage and gifts for mission. In that same spirit, we invite parishioners to consider sharing their gifts in two key children's ministries:

- **Special Religious Education (SRE)**
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

These ministries help young people grow in faith. Training and support are provided; only a willing heart is needed. Contact the **Mission & Evangelisation Team**: [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au) to learn more.

### Diocesan Library

The DoMN Library will not be permanently staffed for the period 9 May to 9 June. For access to the library on Mondays or Fridays in this period, call 0409 033449 to make an appointment. One of the Mission and Evangelisation team will assist you with basic library services in the appointment time slot. Items currently on loan are extended to a due date of 30 June 2026.

### Diocesan Cursillo 3-day Course

Do you wonder how to be more fully alive? If so, then you may like to consider attending our Cursillo 3-day course. The annual Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 2026 Cursillo 3 days will be held from 11-14th June at Rathmines with the theme "Joy of the Lord is my strength". Cursillo is a short course which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values and will be asking each participant "How can I BE Christian in my many everyday environments?" Learn More: <https://tinyurl.com/cdmncursillo>

### 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
- Mary's Immaculate Conception
- 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.

## Sr Jan Tranter Book Launch

Sister Jan Tranter is well known throughout Australian Catholic, History and Scientific circles for her scholarly writings on Fr Julian Tenison Woods, who has played such a pivotal role in the story of the Australian Josephite Sisters and our wider Australian Story. Recently Jan was invited to publish her many articles in a book entitled, *Julian Tenison Woods, the Human Story: Priest, Founder, Friend*.

The Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar are delighted to announce the book will be launched by Bishop Michael Kennedy, in the Diocesan Resource Centre on Sunday 31 May at 2.00pm. All are welcome. RSVP: [office@ssjl.org.au](mailto:office@ssjl.org.au) or phone 4948-4063

## Understanding synodality

The 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality engaged the church around the world in exploring how we can be more welcoming, respectful, curious, participatory, prayerful and missionary. A discussion group at Tighes Hill church after 8am Sunday Mass will explain the Synod's Final Document using a resource called: A Feast for All Peoples (52 page book).

24 May - Synodality as a spiritual practice

28 June - Synodality for mission

26 July - Synodality as ecclesial discernment

23 Aug - The Church as prophetic in today's world

Each meeting should take 45 minutes and include: prayer, scripture reflection, a passage from the Synod's Final Document, discernment and discussion. A free copy of the book A Feast for All Peoples will be provided to participants.

## For the Love of Creation

In the year of St Francis we have all been asked to contribute to the wellbeing of our environment. Fr Niel and a group of parishioners have been discussing a bottle and can recycling effort that will not only ensure more bottles and cans are recycled, but will also raise funds for Catholic charities.

This is both a call for volunteers and a request for clean drink cans and bottles that show a 10c refund is available.

See it as an opportunity to make your own contribution to the Year of St Francis. Scan the QR code and we'll get back to you.



## St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

Coming soon - to a church near you!



## 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:**

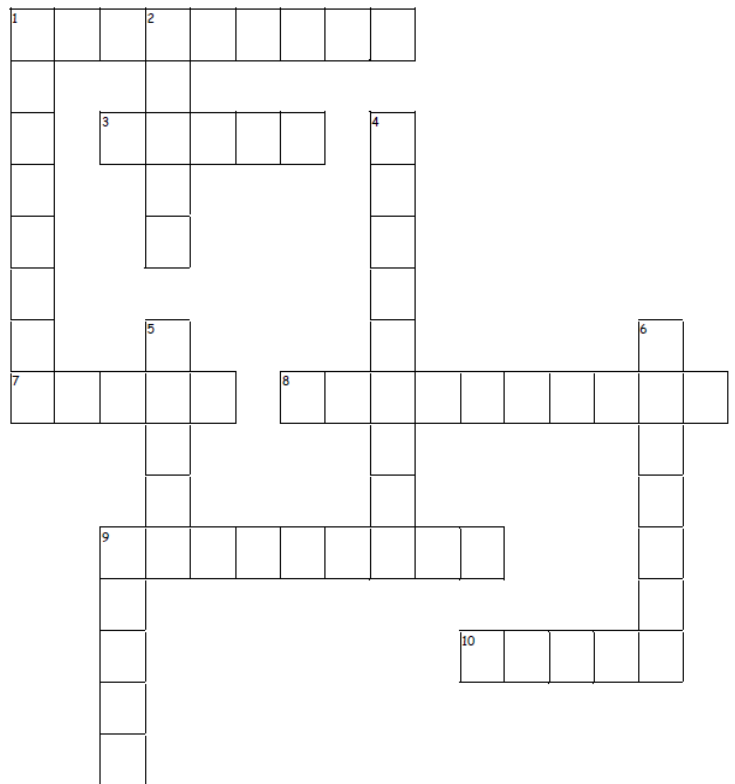
Newcastle Parish - Account no: 100008696

Mayfield Parish - Account no: 100007169

Stockton Parish - Account no: 100003308

## CROSSWORD

### Clap your hands and shout to God



#### Across

- 1: followers of Christ
- 3: strength
- 7: Jesus sits on the \_\_\_\_\_ side of God
- 8: praised God
- 9: the disciples returned to this city
- 10: glad

#### Down

- 1: find, gain knowledge
- 2: Jesus was taken up into a \_\_\_\_\_
- 4: extraordinary, great
- 5: the opposite of black
- 6: before ascending into heaven, Jesus led his disciples to this town
- 9: our Saviour

## Today's Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*



### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

### Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

### Gospel Acclamation: Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*



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## Next Week's Readings

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13

Jn 20: 19-23



## Scripture Commentary

The reading from **Acts** tells us that the risen Jesus remained on earth for forty days, appearing to his apostles and speaking about the reign of God. When the disciples' responsibilities were sufficiently explained, he was taken from their sight. The cloud is a traditional symbol of the presence of God. The two men in white garments who interpreted the ascension recall the two men in similar garb who announced the resurrection. In most eschatological passages, the Spirit is identified with the endtime. Here the activity of the Spirit is a characteristic of the new age, the period between the resurrection and the time of complete fulfilment.

An enthronement ritual unfolds within the **psalm**. Two divine titles are invoked: Lord and Most High. The first is the personal name of the God of Israel; the second is an ancient Semitic title of excellence. The enthronement established God's rule over the earth and all nations. The kingship of the Lord has cosmic underpinnings. The ancients believed that before creation the forces of good and evil were in mortal combat. A battle ensued from which good emerged triumphant. Following this, the cosmos was reordered, a heavenly palace was built, and the victor ascended the throne to rule over all. If the kingship of God was commemorated in Israel, this story would have been in the consciousness of the people.

The author of **Ephesians** prays for a threefold spiritual enlightenment: the hope of the calling from God; the riches of the glory of the inheritance of the holy ones; and the surpassing greatness of God's power for those who believe. These marvels have already taken place; it is for the believers to acknowledge them. The power referred to belongs to God. It was God's power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Christ in the place of honour in heaven; it was God's power that made all things subject to Christ and exalted Christ as head of the church. It is this same power that enables the members of Christ's exalted body to share in Christ's fullness and exaltation.

In the **Gospel** account of the commissioning by Jesus, the disciples returned to Galilee and see Jesus on the mountain. They worship him, but with incomplete understanding. The commission that Jesus confers is straightforward and all encompassing. The disciples are told to go out and make disciples of all nations. This will be accomplished by baptising and teaching. The disciples are told to baptise in the threefold name of the Trinity. Those baptised are plunged into the mystery of that name and recreated as new beings. Social or cultural boundaries are dissolved; ethnic and gender restrictions are lifted. The specific teaching alluded to is moral rather than doctrinal. Those who hear this teaching are to observe what Jesus commanded.

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