

Sunday 16th August 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Dear Parish Family,

My heart goes out to the people of Columbia who have, in the last days, like Venezuela, experienced a devastating earthquake. To the members of our parish from Columbia and Venezuela, we are praying with you and for you. The visuals coming out from Columbia are heartbreaking. There are opportunities to give financial support and make donations through Caritas Australia. Every prayer and every cent counts.



Taibeh on the West Bank, the largest Christian (Catholic) community in Palestine, according to media outlets has become land locked, with Israeli forces blocking roads in and out. Christian land has been taken from its traditional owners, held for generations. People are losing more than just land; they are losing custom, tradition, heritage. I'm not sure what we can do about that but pray for them. Vatican news services quoted Father Bashar, the parish priest of Taibeh, on the 10th of August as saying, "Do not forget Taibeh! Taibeh must not vanish into silence." There are crimes against humanity happening here.

People might say we are more outraged about our Christian brothers and sisters being affected by the happenings in the Middle East than the Palestinian Muslim communities who are also affected. I figure if we can draw attention to our Christian 'family' members, it also draws attention to our Muslim brothers and sisters being affected. The Christian families in Taibeh are also Palestinian. It gets confusing between the various religious communities and their national identities. Keep praying.

If you are looking for Novena or prayer intentions, I suggest you add very intentionally the need for peace. At the end of each decade of the rosary, you could add by name peace for children in the various parts of the world, where peace seems so hard to find right now: Nigeria, Ukraine, Gaza, Palestine, Syria. At the end of each 'Our Father', you could add more locally the children of our own country: those in poverty, those in the womb, those living with violence, abuse and neglect, those being bullied, those hungry. It is a powerful focus for our conversations with God. Prayer matters. Our voices matter. Peace matters.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets out the rights of all persons, and our own Australian Human Rights Commission works to apply it locally. We all have a human right to live in peace, to be fed, housed, to belong, regardless of race, background or religion. However, whilst Governments are entrusted with our care, and entrusted to uphold the declaration which governments of the free world have signed up to, for we Christians the mandate runs deeper; it's embedded in our faith. It is born of our relationship with God and all that has been entrusted to us in the witness, sacrifice and love of Christ.

The first-class relic of Carlo Acutis arrives in the Diocese on 8th September, and it is an opportunity for us to gather in prayer and adoration. Please keep the date and the Mass time 5.30pm on your calendar. This is a great opportunity. God will and does hear our cries.

Greg, Parish Priest

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

After hours: 0494 390 653

Email:

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website:

www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)

Jenny Pascua (*Parish Secretary*)

Peter Davies (*Administration*)

Mary-Anne de Luca (*Sacraments*)

Dr Anne Millard (*Music & Liturgy*)

New to our Parishes?

Join our mailing list to stay up to date and involved in our parish communities. **SCAN QR**

Register via

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>



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

20th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 17 Aug

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 18 Aug

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Funeral Mass for Sr Margaret Blackford O.P. @ Mayfield West

11:00am Mass @ Moran Aged Care, Stockton

Wed 19 Aug *St John Eudes*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Holy Family School

Thur 20 Aug *St Bernard, abbot, doctor*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:15am St Columban's School Mass

11:00am Mass @ Fronditha, Mayfield

Fri 21 Aug *St Pius X, pope*

10:00am Funeral Liturgy for Pasquale Sciulli @ Mayfield West

10:15am Mass @ The Junction (with Yr 1 and 5)

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 22 Aug *The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 22 Aug

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 23 Aug

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: Robert

Woolston, Karen Jones, Johnny Wade, Sr Margaret Blackford O.P, Pasquale Sciulli, Rosemary Sheather (O'Driscoll)

ANNIVERSARIES: Jacob Poile, Anthony

Parsons, Beverly Crump, Shirley Wade, Sr Pauline Murray rsm, Helena Caskey, Brian Nunn, Evelyn May Woodland

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Clem Mead, Monica Skehan,

Maree Sargeant, Tanya Ng, Alex Quirin, Rachael McLellan, Wally McLellan, John Hayes, Gary Valaire, Jeremy Eden, Braxton Rayner, Patricia Gillett, Tui Innes, Raymond Morley, Louise Hall, Toan Nguyen, Eileen Jennings, Gwen Haggerty, Nick Fazzini, Alexander Klein, Leonetta Papichio, John Woods, Hoagy VanEwyk, Pat Fitzpatrick, Martyn Docherty, Maureen Hall

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

Our Columbaria

Those with August anniversaries of death:

At The Cathedral:

Bernadette Bartholomew	Teresa Losurdo
Betty Caelli	Anthony Mangioni
Lynda Corrigan	Maree Ann Martin
Joan Adele Daly	Mark Murphy
William (Jack) Everleigh	Henry Petherbridge
Aileen Gilbert	Ashleigh Powter
Nesta Haggerty	Sheelagh Ruggero
Kathleen Hart	Madeleine Savage
Margaret Hogg	Veronica (Rhona) Seath
Harry Kilner	Robert (Bob) Smythe
Leon Lakomy	Kathleen Trenaman
Thi Kim Loan Le	Marjorie Wakely
Mary Loscocco	Julie Wylie

At St Joseph's:

Betty Smith	Kevin Doyle
Clare McDonnell	Cyril Fernando
Margaret Bailey	Anne Elizabeth Meighan
Eileen Baxter	Marie O'Callaghan
Helena Esther Caskey	Francis Page
Mary Corlis	Thomas Rae
Patricia Ethel Davis	Mary McAdoo
Laurence Bede Dowling	Norma Walters
Noel Dowzer	Fay Larkin

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



RCIA

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic? Perhaps that person is you.

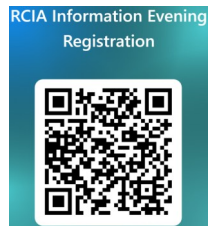
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for adults who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and be received into the Catholic Church.

Join Fr Greg and the RCIA team for an Information Evening:

Tuesday 15 September

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Diocesan Resource Centre (Next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral)
Please scan the QR Code to register.
Come along, ask questions, and discover more about the Catholic faith in a welcoming and supportive environment.



Seasons for Growth – A Journey of Hope

Life brings many seasons of change. The death of a loved one, illness, retirement, family changes, or other significant transitions can leave us feeling uncertain and grieving what has been lost. As people of faith, we believe that God walks with us through every season, offering hope, healing and new life.

Seasons for Growth is a gentle, faith-friendly program that provides a safe and welcoming space to reflect, share, and grow alongside others who are also navigating life's changes. Through conversation and guided reflection, participants discover practical ways to understand their experiences, build resilience, and find renewed hope for the future.

If you or someone you know is living through a season of change or loss, we warmly invite you to consider joining us.

Two Fridays: 14 and 21 August 9:00am-3:30pm

Or

Four Wednesdays: 6:30pm-9:00pm starting 19 August

Or

Four Saturdays: 10:00am-12:30pm starting 29 August

Use this link or the QR code to join:

<https://tinyurl.com/NewcParishSeasons>



Assembly

You're Invited to Assembly Session Four
Walking Together in Hope
Saturday 12 September
9.30 am – 3.00 pm

Over the past three Assembly gatherings, we have listened deeply to one another, prayerfully discerned where the Holy Spirit is leading our communities, and identified the priorities that will help shape the future of the City Pastoral Region.

Assembly Session Four marks an important step in this shared journey. Your voice matters. Your experience matters. Your contribution is valued.

We warmly invite you to join us as we continue discerning God's call for our City Pastoral Region and take the next step in walking together with faith, hope and purpose.

Together we will:

Review the draft Strategic Pastoral Framework.

Confirm that it reflects the voices and priorities heard throughout the Assembly journey.

Contribute to the development of our shared Vision and Mission statements.

Discern the next steps that will guide our region into the future.

Commit ourselves to walking together in Communion, Participation and Mission.

"Together, let us ensure that the voices we have heard become the vision we embrace and the mission we live."

RSVP thru this link or use the QR code:

<https://tinyurl.com/Sep12Assembly>



Children's Liturgy - Can you help?

We would be glad to have more volunteers to assist with Children's Liturgy at The Cathedral. Join our meeting on 19 Aug 5.30pm. Please call the parish office or sign up via <https://tinyurl.com/eoivolunteerform>

Understanding synodality

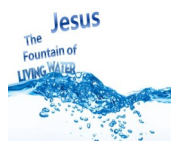
The 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality engaged the church around the world in exploring how we can be more welcoming, respectful, curious, participatory, prayerful and missionary. A discussion group at Tighes Hill church after 8am Sunday Mass is looking at the Synod's Final Document using a resource called: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



Our final meeting is on 23 August - The Church as prophetic in today's world.

Regular Opportunities for Prayer

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



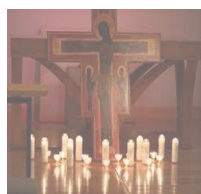
- **Living Waters Meditation Centre** - each Wednesday 7.30am and Friday 11.00am at 34 Kenrick St The Junction

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



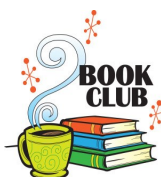
- **Divine Mercy Devotion** - first Sunday of the month 3.00-4.00pm at Christ the King, Mayfield West.

- **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, 6 September: We will discuss *James* by Jean Percival Everett. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



View, Chew, and Chat: You are very welcome to join us on Wednesdays! To participate, please email the parish office: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

St Joseph's Prayer/Discussion

Group meets on the last Thursday of each month: Next meeting: Thursday 27 August at 9.30am, in the Junction Meeting Room.



Food Baskets for the Needy



Blue bins 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.

Parish Luncheon



Parish Luncheon at Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether @ 12.30pm on Monday 17th August. All parishioners of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle, Mayfield and Stockton are very welcome. Inquiries to Maureen (Tighes Hill) on 0412 673 151 or Anne Maree Turner 0413 182 631



Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously supported this year's Vinnies Winter Appeal. Together, we have raised a total of **\$19,000**, which makes a real difference in the lives of many people experiencing hardship in our community.

Your kindness, compassion and generosity will help provide much-needed support to those most in need, especially during the colder months. Thank you for standing with us and helping bring hope to others.
The Vinnies Team.



EPIC Young Adults

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

Stay in touch by joining our WhatsApp with this QR code or following us on Insta at @epicnewcastle.



Thursday 20th August – Faith IRL – Drop by the Toohey Room at 6pm to hear from Deacon Gerard, uni chaplain @ UoN, sharing his story and how to live your faith out loud!

Thursday 3rd September - Annual General Meeting -

With some members of the EPIC organising committee stepping back from their roles, all young adults in our parish are invited to come and see how the group works and to step up to the plate to assist with this critical ministry! We are looking for young adults (18-35) who may be interested in engaging other young people in their faith, encouraging them to go deeper with Jesus, and empowering them to live this faith in the world. No experience necessary, just a willing heart and availability to help out! If you want to keep seeing awesome events for young people, we need you! The meeting will be in the Diocesan Resource Centre from 6pm. If you have any questions, please contact Jono on 0432504217.

While EPIC finalises its committee structure and reviews upcoming events, ADORE (our monthly Eucharistic Adoration) event will be paused.

Safeguarding - "Bullying No Way Week"

'Bullying No Way Week 2026' runs this week from 17–21 August, with the theme "Small Acts, Big Impact" — encouraging small, positive actions that make a real difference in preventing bullying. This is an important Australian event that encourages schools and communities to stand together against bullying.

In Australia, bullying is defined as an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power. Bullying can happen in many ways. It may involve physical actions, hurtful words, spreading rumours, leaving someone out, or using social media to embarrass or threaten another person. No matter what form it takes, bullying can make people feel lonely, scared, upset and unsafe. The best available evidence is that bullying is a significant risk factor for self-harm and suicidal behaviour.

During 'Bullying No Way Week', students are encouraged to speak up when they see bullying and to support people who may be experiencing it. Being an upstander means not ignoring bullying but getting help from a trusted adult when necessary. Small actions, such as including someone in a game, listening to a friend or saying something kind, can make a big difference.

'Bullying No Way Week' reminds us that preventing bullying is everyone's responsibility. For more information, see <https://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/bullying-no-way-week/>

The Chuckle

I saw a book at the store today called
"How to end 50% of your problems"
I bought two.



For the Love of Creation

Helping Caritas



Last article, I shared how Laudato Si' inspired me to see recycling not just as an environmental action, but as a spiritual one. Through this program, we have already seen how small acts of care can become meaningful expressions of faith. Those bottles and cans are now helping families far beyond our community.

Of the four charities that our group supports, I would like to bring to your attention, the work done by **Caritas Australia**. More recently, this agency is responding to the devastating earthquake in Venezuela, where thousands of families have been displaced, hospitals are overwhelmed, and entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed. Caritas is providing search and rescue support, emergency shelter, medical care, food assistance, clean water, and mental health services.

Even the smallest contribution makes a real difference. **\$100** can help deliver emergency shelter and essential items. **\$200** can provide access to clean water and sanitation. **\$500** can supply emergency food to affected communities. And **\$1,000** can support immediate and long-term medical care. Like the poor widow's offering, or the five loaves and two fish, God multiplies even the smallest gift when offered with love. So the next time you drink from a can, bottle or popper, whether at home or at a party, check if it has the 10c image, and get it to our recycling bins. Share this message with your friends and families, and encourage them to do their little acts of care.

Together, we can care for our common home - and support our global family - one bottle at a time. And remember, we are seeking **volunteers** to expand these efforts across all the mass centres in our parishes, the QR code is waiting for you.

Jenifer Fernades



First Holy Communion



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our next info session for the Sacrament of Holy Communion is **August 18th, Tuesday 6:30pm**,

If you haven't attended, please RSVP through this link -- <https://tinyurl.com/2026holychommunionshc>

This invitation is open to all families within our parish community and beyond; however, **children must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation before enrolling in the First Holy Communion program.**



Pray for our First Holy Communion Candidates

We invite you to pray for the children preparing for the sacrament of Holy Communion this term.

Prayer leaf cards, each bearing the name of a child, are available at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Please take one to pray for the child, and return the leaf with a card of inspiration for the child.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers!



Church Volunteers - We Need You

Did you know that many jobs associated with the running of our Churches are done by volunteers?

To those who already volunteer at our different Churches a sincere THANK YOU, because without you it just wouldn't happen, *but* we are looking to expand our pool of volunteers (and you don't need to be an Olympic swimmer to join).

So, if you have an hour or two to spare once a week, or fortnight, here are some of the things you could help with

- washing/ironing – altar linens, albs etc. (can be done from home)
- sewing – simple repairs to vestments (can be done from home)
- maintaining the votive candle stations
- prepping candles for use
- cleaning and refilling Holy Water stoups
- polishing brass
- caring for any indoor plants

You would be supported in these tasks and, depending on your availability, maybe even come together on a common day....

So, please check out the flyer in the foyer.....

Good Friday Collection

Thank you for your generous donations to this year's Good Friday collection for the Holy Land. The final amounts remitted were: Newcastle \$4,274.25, Mayfield \$796.95, Stockton \$230.45

The collection supports missionary work in the Holy Land, where parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres rely on these contributions to provide health, education, employment and housing services. Please remember the Christians in the Holy Land and keep them in your prayers.

Renewed & Sent - Parish Renewal Summit

Campbelltown, Thursday 1 October – Saturday 3 October

30 parishioners are already joining us! There is still room for you! Hosted by the Diocese of Wollongong and Divine Renovation, the gathering exists to equip everyone to lead parish renewal, helping communities move from maintenance into mission. Together, we can transform our parishes into vibrant places of encounter and transformation. Registration is \$225. Hotel accommodation costs being completely covered by Mission & Evangelisation.

Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/Renewedandsent>



Diocesan Events

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

"Called to Know More"

Wednesday 26 August, 12pm – 1pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

Join us for *Morality 101: The Joy of Christian Living in a Morally Crazy World* with Fr Anthony Coloma, exploring moral choices through "encounter" with Jesus via Scripture, Eucharist, and prayer. Discover how hardship shapes faith, and God's welcoming love for those who have drifted. Come listen, share, and enjoy hospitality afterward! All welcome. Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/CTKMAnthonyColoma>



Thank You!

Thank you to those who supported our Diocesan Resource Centre Booksale for CatholicCare Social Services. Your generosity helped us raise **\$4620** to Catholic Care's *Make a Difference* Appeal.

St Carlo Acutis Major Relic Mission

As the Diocese journeys towards Eucharist28 with Pope Leo XIV, we are proud to be hosting the first-class relics of a millennial Saint – Carlo Acutis (September 8-14). During his young life, Carlo created the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition, which will also accompany the tour. See the schedule that covers the Reception of the Relic, Upper Hunter Encounter, Northern Region Encounter and the Newcastle City Basin Encounter. The pilgrimage has been drawing tens of thousands from across Australia and New Zealand these past months and we are looking forward to host.

Learn More: <https://tinyurl.com/CDMNCarloAcutis>



World Youth Day 2027

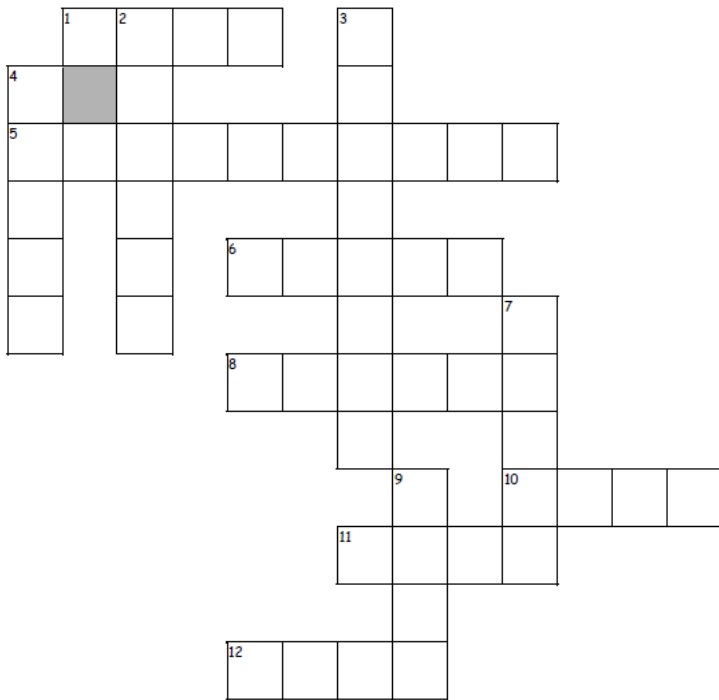
Bishop Michael Kennedy has announced the Diocesan pilgrimage to South Korea and Japan for young people aged 16-35 next year. World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV will be an enriching experience of pilgrimage for young people which has a profound impact on their relationship with Jesus, their prayer life, their lived mission and their relationships with others. Join us for the Reception of the Relic of WYD Patron Saint Carlo Acutis on September 8 and a WYD Launch Event featuring information about this exciting opportunity.

Learn More: <https://WYD27Launch.eventbrite.com.au>



CROSSWORD

Lord, show us your mercy and love



© 2005 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

Across

- 1: Elijah spent the night in one of these
- 5: a violent shaking of the ground
- 6: the sea is made of this
- 8: this man was told to go and stand on the mountain
- 10: to become submerged in water
- 11: a vessel for traveling on water
- 12: the element that can burn things

Down

- 2: scared
- 3: a very tall, large land mass
- 4: this man walked on the water but began to sink
- 7: an apparition of a dead person
- 9: Elijah covered his face with this



Bequests

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region continue its mission of proclaiming the Good News, you might consider including us in your Will. You just need to specify which parish(es) you would like to help.

Save the Date

See how our schools work and minister in educating our most precious gifts, our children. Did you attend one of the parish schools but haven't been back since graduating? Are you thinking to send your child to one of our schools? Are you just interested in how our education works? You are welcome to attend –

Holy Family, Merewether Beach on 25 August (Tues) at 9.30am

St Columban's, Mayfield on 3 September (Thur) at 9.30am

St Peter in Chains, Stockton on 8 September (Tues) at 9.30am

St Joseph's, The Junction on 11 September (Fri) at 10.50am

San Clemente College, Mayfield on 16 September (Wed) at 9am

There will be a talk, tour and morning tea.

RSVP is essential - Sign up link:

[https://tinyurl.com/](https://tinyurl.com/SchoolVisitNewcastle2026)

[SchoolVisitNewcastle2026](https://tinyurl.com/SchoolVisitNewcastle2026)

Or use the QR code, or call the Parish office.



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

Holy Family Primary School: Shannon McGregor (*Principal*)

Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291

(02) 4963 3009

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

St Peter's Primary School: Dennis Nolan (*Principal*)

Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

(02) 4928 1861

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

San Clemente High School: Emma South (*Principal*)

78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

(02) 4014 7300

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

Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.



© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.



Next Week's Readings

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

Prayer For Evangelisation in the City

- Pope Leo's intention for August



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd,
You walk through our streets and
squares,
enter tall buildings and humble

neighborhoods,
and silently accompany millions
who seek meaning amid noise and haste.

You know, Lord, the heart of the city:
its lights and shadows, its noise and loneliness.
We know that cities are called to be places of freedom
and opportunity,
but they can also become spaces of anonymity and
isolation.

That's why today we ask You for a renewed gaze,
able to discover in urban life
fertile ground for proclaiming your Gospel.

Give us a creative and deep faith,
that doesn't remain in words,
but becomes flesh through simple and loving gestures.
Make us a Church that goes forth,
able to reach out to the peripheries,
to console those who are lonely,
and to sow fraternity and connection instead of giving
in to indifference.

Lord, may our urban communities
be open and welcoming homes,
places where hope is shared,
where no one feels invisible,
and where the joy of your Gospel shines
in the hidden lives of so many brothers and sisters.
Make us your witnesses in the city,
bold and creative missionaries,
who proclaim your Love with their lives—
a Love capable of overcoming haste, noise, and
anonymity.

Amen.

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 or visit
www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au*

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise stated, any advertisements placed in this Bulletin are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.