

Sunday 23rd August 2026

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Parish Priest

Fr Greg Barker

Assisting Clergy

Fr Niel Olano

Fr Ramille Bigcas

Fr Stany Mathew

Deacon Kevin Gadd

Parish Administration

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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>



Dear Parish Family,

The Australian government regularly runs campaigns seeking to correct poor behaviour in our streets and on our roads. Over the years they have targeted drink driving, seatbelts and mobile phone use. I suspect the people who really take note of them are those who are serious about keeping themselves and others safe – the good drivers not the bad.



A campaign run some 25 years ago has stuck in my mind. The advertisement features a young boy and girl playing house, mimicking a regular family routine. The children's playful behaviour quickly turns dark as they begin mimicking their parents' toxic habits. This includes yelling, slamming objects, and specifically portraying a parent driving while under the influence of alcohol. The chilling aspect comes from seeing innocent children speak and act exactly like impaired, angry adults - forcing parents to evaluate who is observing them. The campaign directly targeted parent and adult behaviour with themes surrounding, "Who's watching you?" or "What are your children learning from you?"

The message is a very Christian and Catholic one. It has resonated with me for nearly two decades. I note it has crept, too, into some of my homilies. The heart of it is role modelling; in Christian terms, witnessing. For parents, particularly, it has the sound of 'be what you want your kids to be', 'practise what you want them to practise', 'live what you want them to live'. However Christian communities generally must look beyond the walls of our own homes and churches. What we want the world to be, we must be. Role modelling is hard work. We don't always get it right. I love, in the gospels, that we are allowed to make mistakes. Owning our mistakes and seeking forgiveness are as important, if not more important, than other aspects of Christian life. The gospels give us ways to make right, to rectify and to learn for a better world. It starts with one heart!

Recent news about some sporting stars highlights just how far from grace we can fall when put on a pedestal, as well as the importance of upholding proper and appropriate values or codes of conduct. I wonder if we pay too much money to sporting stars and 'heroes', beyond what their maturity can and should handle. That said, with the money they earn comes greater responsibility and greater expectations on behaviour. Our young kids look up to their 'heroes' (parents, grandparents and significant familial others included) and, as we see, base their own behaviours on what they see as normal and acceptable. I am pleased that everyone from coaches to the media is calling out the unacceptable behaviour of a large group of AFL players. All commentary is drilling down to every piece of what has occurred, naming it and acknowledging the importance of addressing it.

Hopefully as levels of remorse and ownership come to the fore, these young men will work through their mistakes, accept the punishment - whatever that will be - and find ways to come back. And for the victim, justice, healing and support.

A good reminder that our behaviour matters, as children learn from what we do for good and for bad. As the slogan says, "Who's watching you?"

Greg, Parish Priest

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

21st week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 24 Aug *St Bartholomew, apostle*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 25 Aug

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:15am Mass @ Stockton (School Mass Yr 1 & 5)

10:30am Mass at Badcoe House, Newcastle West

Wed 26 Aug

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thur 27 Aug *St Monica*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:15am St Columban's School Mass (Yr K & 6)

5:30pm Mass @ Seafarers Mission, Wickham

Fri 28 Aug *St Augustine, bishop, doctor*

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 29 Aug *The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr*

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 29 Aug

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 30 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: Myra Vaughan,
Robert Woolston, William Chay,
Maria Do Carmo, Sr Margaret
Blackford O.P.

ANNIVERSARIES: George Russell, John
O'Neill, Sr Mary de Chantal (PBVM), Alma Jordan,
Ernestina Klein, Martin Shanahan, Ken Walker, Hazel
Delaney

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Rowena Justiniani, 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.*

EUCHARIST 28
A moment to believe



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 Parish Office.

RCIA: Contact Mary-Anne at the Parish Office.

Sacramental Program: Contact Mary-Anne at the Parish Office.

Baptism team: Meets on the first Tuesday of the month, with parents preparing for their children's baptism.

The Chuckle

Car Dealer: "This car had just one careful owner."

Buyer: "But look at it, it's a wreck!"

Car dealer: "Well yes, you see, the other seven owners weren't quite as careful."



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.

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>



RCIA

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

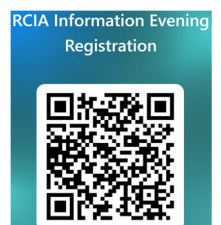
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for adults who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and be received into the Catholic Church.

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

1 **Tuesday 15 September**

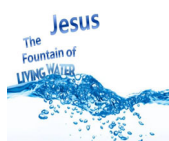
🕒 7:00pm – 8:30pm

📍 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.



Regular Opportunities for Prayer

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



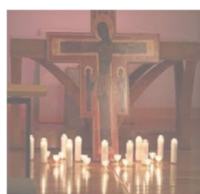
- **Living Waters Meditation Centre** - each Wednesday 7.30am and Friday 11.00am at 34 Kenrick St The Junction

- **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.



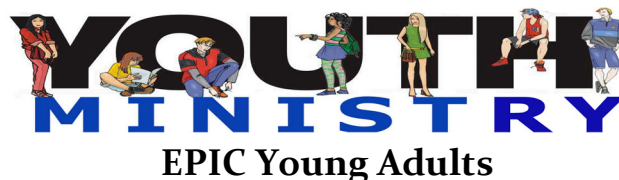
Food Baskets for the Needy



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.

Accommodation in Stockton Area

Female in her 30's, with an 8 year old daughter and a small pet dog, is seeking rental accommodation – preferably in Stockton or in a surrounding area where Stockton is reasonably accessible. A small two-bedroom house, unit or granny flat arrangement would be suitable. Please contact the parish office on 4979 1101 or email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au if you can assist.



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 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 are 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.

Old Email Addresses

Do You Still Have Our Stockton And Mayfield Email Address In Your Contacts? Please note that the following email addresses for the Stockton and Mayfield Parishes have been decommissioned -- mayfield.parish@mn.catholic.org.au; stockton.parish@mn.catholic.org.au

We have recently become aware that emails are still being sent to these addresses, possibly because they are saved in address books or listed in older correspondence.

To ensure your emails reach us, please update your address book and records to use our current parish email address: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain effective communication.

Children's Liturgy - Can you help?

Thanks to those who came along to the initial volunteers meeting last Wednesday. We are moving into the formation phase. There is still time to join in, as we need more volunteers.

Formation/training evenings will start this Wednesday 26 August, 6pm to 7pm in the Toohey Room. They will run for 4 weeks, and volunteers will be asked to attend 2 sessions.

Please call the parish office or sign up via <https://tinyurl.com/eoivolunteerform>.

Safeguarding - "Safeguarding Minority Groups"

The Catholic Church in Australia affirms the sacred dignity of every person, mandates the protection of the most vulnerable, and requires that safeguarding policies actively promote equity, diversity, and cultural safety. This includes minority groups which are defined not by population size but by relative disadvantage in power, status, social marginalisation or access to resources.

The Church's safeguarding framework is rooted in the belief that **every person is created in the image and likeness of God (Gn 1:27)** and must be treated with respect and dignity. This is expressed in the Gospel command to love neighbour (Mark 12:31) and the Church's social teaching to promote the common good and to lead all to the fullness of human life (John 10:10). Safeguarding the rights and integrity of the most vulnerable — including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, the elderly, those with mental illness, and those with diminished capacity — is a direct application of this teaching.

The Catholic Church's safeguarding teaching for minority groups combines **Gospel-based human dignity** with **practical, culturally responsive policies**. It demands that safeguarding is **not only about preventing abuse** but also about **actively creating inclusive, equitable, and culturally safe environments** where all minority and vulnerable groups can participate fully and be protected from harm.

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 this Sunday 23 August - The Church as prophetic in today's world.



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.

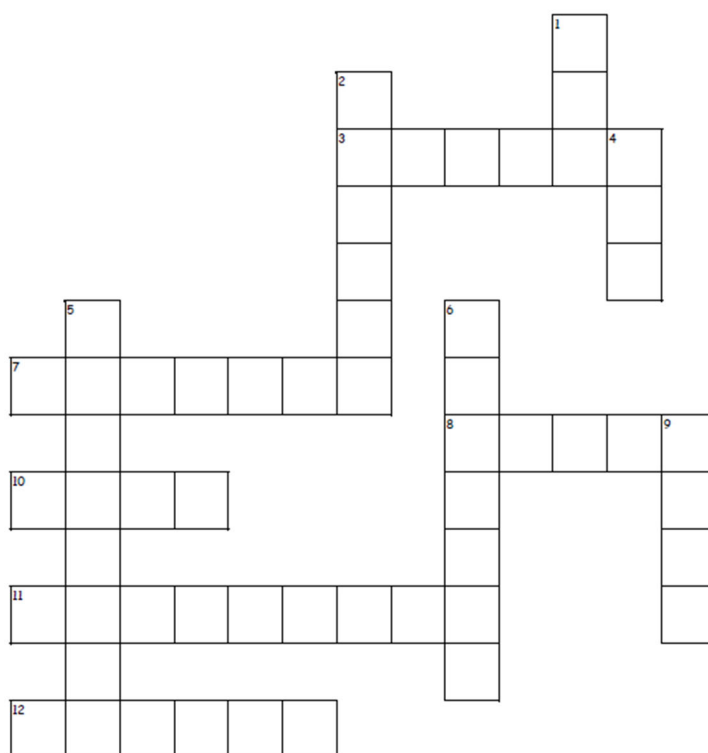
Thank you so much for your support and prayers!



CROSSWORD

Who do you say I am?

Mt 16:13-20



Across

- 3: being alive
- 7: God's chosen one
- 8: Jesus gave Simon this new name
- 10: these are used to unlock things
- 11: Jesus' followers
- 12: Jesus said "On this rock I will build my _____"

Down

- 1: Simon was the ____ of Jonah
- 2: a prophet whose name begins with 'E'
- 4: our Father in heaven
- 5: a prophet whose name begins with 'J'
- 6: some people thought Jesus was John the _____
- 9: the name Peter means _____

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.....

Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division

Bishop Michael Kennedy reflects on the latest Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement and the Gospel call to be people of encounter and reconciliation. Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/CDMNMKSocialJustice>.



Social Justice Sunday is celebrated on 30 August this year.

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>

Last Chance Tickets: "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>



Formation Films

Saturday 05 September, 11am-1pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

Join us as we watch and discuss the 2018 release film "An Interview with God".

Learn More: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/formation-films/> or call Mary on 0409 033 449.



Mass at the Mission to Seafarers Centre

Thursday 27 August 2026, 5:30pm, 96 Hannell Street Wickham

Join us for the celebration of the Eucharist, on the last Thursday of each month in the Seafarers chapel.

Donations welcome for our Seafarers Care Packs or, if you have the means, monetary donations can be made to the following:

BSB 062 784
Account Number: 1000 12583
Account Name: The Apostleship of the Sea



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>



Hunter Men's Rosary Camino

Saturday 12 September from 10.30am



The starting point is Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West.

Option 1: Pilgrims will walk to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Tighes Hill) and return to the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Option 2: Pilgrims will walk to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Tighes Hill), to the Sacred Heart Cathedral, then on to St Joseph's The Junction and return to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Bring water and wear appropriate walking shoes.

Please register by 7 September, using the QR code below.

More information: Contact Jason C on 0499 854 928.



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>



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 –

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/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

Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;

do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my
Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 16:13-20

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*



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Next Week's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Romans 12: 1-2

Matthew 16: 21-27



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*

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