

Sunday 6th September 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Fathers' Day



Dear Parish Family,



'HAPPY FATHERS' DAY' dads!! I pray your day is full of joy, grace, love and blessing. Whatever you are doing or however you are celebrating may it be the best day.

I am convinced that being a parent in this modern world is difficult, perhaps even more scary and challenging at the one time, than in any other era. Every era has had its challenges no doubt but modern technology, the realities of everyday living, places more of those challenges right in our homes, bedrooms and faces than at any other time. Fatherhood has unique challenges as part of the role description. Dads today we pray for you, for the things you are being asked to do for your kids, and for the successes of building healthy relationships with your kids and families. Dads you must be the men you want your sons to be and to role model how you want your daughters to be treated. It 'aint' an easy gig!

As a church we hold St Joseph, spouse of Mary and 'step' dad of Jesus as a role model for fatherhood and there is much to be learnt from him. The Holy Family generally offers some guidance for the call on all of us in our relationships with our kin by birth, by adoption, by marriage and by baptism.

St Joseph was a key figure in the life of Jesus and Mary, yet he utters not one word, at least not one recorded in the gospels. We know that there were times when he was uncertain and afraid. He needed support. He loved his family and the son entrusted to his care. He worried about his son, and one day even lost him in Jerusalem. He was courageous and protected his family as they fled into Egypt.

Dads are called on to be a safe presence and a protector. You guard the values, morales and sacredness of your homes. As dads you are called to teach what is important and keep your families safe physically, emotionally and spiritually. Joseph worked to support his family, and we know he taught Jesus his craft. There is some debate whether that was as a carpenter, joiner or stone mason, however we know Jesus stayed under his authority and care, working beside him. Dads are called to support their families and that sometimes means the toil of your hands and sometimes through the difficulties teaching the 'trade' of life in both emotional and spiritual growth.

Joseph was called in his times of uncertainty and fear to place his trust in God. How hard that can be for all of us. He learnt to place his trust and to accept the invitation to welcome Jesus and to support Mary even though the path forward was unclear to him. The practicalities of Joseph life show just how important our actions are as followers in faith of the God who loves us. As Pope Francis said, "preach the gospel always and sometimes us words". Dads you have a tough 'job'!

We join in praying for all our dads, those with us, those estranged or absent from us, those who need forgiving or to forgive, and those home in heaven. May this fathers' day be a day of grace and blessing.

Happy Fathers' Day.

Greg, Parish Priest

Parish Priest

Fr Greg Barker

Assisting Clergy

Fr Niel Olanio
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
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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.

Register via

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>

Or scan QR code:



The Parish Diary...

23rd week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 7 Sept

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 8 Sept *Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral (St Carlo Acutis)

Wed 9 Sept

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West (anointing)

9:30am Mass at Baptist Care, Warabrook

11:00am Funeral Liturgy for Sheila Barr @ The Cathedral

Thur 10 Sept

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Mass at Charles O'Neill, Mayfield West

Fri 11 Sept

10:15am Mass @ The Junction (with Yr 2-4)

11:00am St Joseph's School Pilgrimage

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 12 Sept

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

9:30am Parish Assembly Session 4

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 12 Sept

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 13 Sept

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: Colin Bryant, Caterina Di Rienzo, Martin Smith, Myra Vaughan, Hugh Greenough, Janice Turnbull, Sheila Barr

ANNIVERSARIES: John Allsop, Patrick Callaghan, Kath Cicolini, Sr Andrina Ryan rsm, Mick Tobin jnr, Norm Mulvaney, Elizabeth Windsor, Kath Hall, Pat Tuxworth, Peter Maurer

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Rowena Justiniani, Clem Mead, Monica Skehan, Maree Sargeant, Tanya Ng, Alex Quirin, Rachael McLellan, Wally McLellan, John Hayes, Jeremy Eden, Braxton Rayner, Patricia Gillett, Tui Innes, Raymond Morley, Louise Hall, Toan Nguyen, Eileen Jennings, Gwen Haggerty, Alexander Klein, Leonetta Papichio, John Woods, Hoagy VanEwyk, 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 September anniversaries of death:

At The Cathedral:

Allan Atkins
Eileen Boswell
Francis Bernard Paul Clarke
Pietro Dalle Nogare
John Duggan
Mieczyslaw Kawka
Kathleen Joan (Joanie) Lawrence
Kenneth Lidbetter
Brian Lowe

Bernard Martin
Nella Nelio Martinelli
Allan McKinnon
Alphonsus Paul McLachlan
Ann Mary Mercieca
Patricia Ryan
Margaret Smith
Patricia Tuxworth
Kay Annette Varnum
Brigitte Warren
Gordon Wilson
John Winstanley

At St Joseph's:

Judyth Radecki
Norma Wilson
Mary Perrett
Mary Callen
Stan Carroll
Betty Edser
William Fleming
William Fletcher
Albert Grant
Frank Snr Hawkins
Brian Macklin
John McHugh

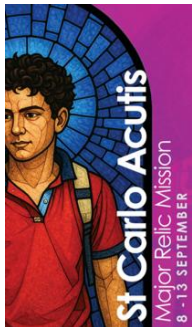
Lorna Muldoon
Maurice Nelson
Lola Orrett
Audrey O'Sullivan
Jack Palmer
Helen Palmer
Lola Robinson
Edmund Walsh
John Burgess
Alba Bradsell
Thomas Williams
James Meighan

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

EUCHARIST28

A moment to believe

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. Church

noticeboards show 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>



Nepal Flood Disaster – Salesians Appeal

The Salesians of Don Bosco in Nepal are responding to the devastating emergency and bringing hope and assistance to affected communities. They have sent out an emergency response team to assess needs. They advise that the Nepalese Army are coordinating the delivery of relief supplies due to the challenges of accessing many affected areas. Some of the hardest-hit communities remain cut off from the rest of the country. Therefore, the Salesians intend to focus their efforts on supporting communities through the long-term recovery and rebuilding process.



They have launched an appeal to support these rebuilding efforts through their website and social media:

<https://tinyurl.com/SalesiansNepalFloods>

Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

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.

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:

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.

RCIA Information Evening
Registration



Regular Opportunities for Prayer



- **Tighes Hill Christian Meditation** - 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; each Wednesday after Mass at Mayfield West; 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 24 September 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. 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.

Sri Lankan Community Get Together

Dear families,

I am continuing my conversations with the various cultural and language groups that make up our wonderful parish. I would like to invite members of the Sri Lankan community to meet with me over a shared meal on Sunday 27 September commencing 11.30am in the Toohey Room, opposite the Cathedral. As always, you bring the food and the clergy share!

Any cultural and language groups who would like to meet with me please feel free to reach out to me. Many conversations are best made over a meal, and I am always available for a meal.

Fr Greg



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 in all our Mass Centres. Don't hesitate to approach our volunteers.

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!



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>



For the Love of Creation – Why our volunteers do what they do



Our *For the Love of Creation* group has now raised \$432.50 through recycling! This will be divided equally among the four charities our group has chosen

to support. But behind every bottle collected is a person with a reason for caring.

Last Tuesday, at a parish event, I met Mrs. Belinda Straiton, one of our volunteers, and I wanted to know what inspired her to join *For the Love of Creation* group. Her answer took me back to her childhood in Mauritius.

Belinda remembers the lessons taught by the Religious Sisters in catechism classes, and one of them was that “Water is the source of life”. Despite growing up on an island, water has been a precious resource. During summer, water restrictions imposed by the government meant families could use running water only for a few hours in the morning and again at night.

When Belinda was around 11, she spent a year living with her aunty, whose home had no running water. She took upon the responsibility to walk to a public fountain, wait in line and carefully carry the water home, every drop cared for. “You learnt not to waste it or spill a drop. Water was precious.” says Belinda.

That childhood lesson stayed with her. Today, recycling and caring for the environment are a big part of Belinda’s life. She believes that what we have is a gift and should not be wasted.

Her story beautifully captures why *For the Love of Creation* exists — appreciating what God has given us and taking small, practical steps to protect it. Our team is growing, but we need more volunteers. Will you join us? Sign up via the Parish Volunteer link. Special mention to our volunteers at St. Joseph’s church at the Junction, who are up and running the recycling program.

Every bottle counts. Every water drop saved counts. Every person can make a difference.



Safeguarding - “Stranger Danger for Seniors”

‘Stranger danger’ is an important safety issue for seniors because older people may be seen as easy targets by strangers who want to take advantage of them. These risks can include theft, scams, fraud, harassment, or gaining access to their homes. Seniors should be aware of their surroundings and avoid sharing personal information with people they do not know. When answering the door, seniors should check who is there before opening it. Using a security screen, door viewer, or camera can provide extra protection. They should be cautious of strangers claiming to be tradespeople, delivery workers, government employees, or representatives from companies. If unsure, seniors should ask for identification and then independently contact the organisation to confirm the person's identity before allowing access.

When shopping or using public transport, seniors should keep valuables secure and avoid displaying large amounts of cash. If a stranger behaves aggressively or makes them feel uncomfortable, seniors should move to a safe, public place and seek help from shop staff, security, police, or a trusted person.

Seniors should also be careful about unsolicited phone calls, emails, and messages from strangers asking for money or personal details. They should never provide passwords, bank information, or identification details without verifying the request.

Church Volunteers - We Need You

We are looking to expand our pool of volunteers who help out at our churches.

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. Please see the flyer in the foyer.....

Diocesan Events

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

Called to Know More: What is the Mission of the Church Today?



Tuesday 22 September – 12pm to

1pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

What is the mission of the Church in today's world? How are we each

called to participate in that mission through our workplaces, schools, parishes and communities?

Join us for an engaging panel conversation exploring these questions with Brendon Mannyx,

Outreach Partner for the Diocese; Jenifer

Fernandes, Catholic Mission Diocesan Director

and Adam Frost, Catholic Schools Religious

Education Officer. Attendees are welcome to

pre-submit questions in advance. Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNCalledKnowMore>

Calling for Expressions of Interest – Councils and Advisory Boards

We are seeking to fill some vacancies on our Councils and Advisory Boards. This is an opportunity to broaden participation and ensure our governance reflects the diversity and rich gifts of our diocesan community.

Our renewed governance model honours both civil and Church law, and is grounded in the mission and teachings of the Church.

The Councils and Advisory Boards that have formed play an important role in shaping the future of our Diocese, contributing to decisions that support faithful, sustainable and mission-driven outcomes.

We invite those who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website and QR code. Link:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/>

Opportunities exist for those with backgrounds in Governance, Finance and Banking. We are also seeking new members for our Community and Wellbeing, CCF and Education boards.

These groups work in a synodal way marked by collaboration, respectful listening and thoughtful conversation. Join with us - this is a unique opportunity to share your gifts, deepen your engagement in the life of the Church and help shape the path ahead for our Diocese.

Mission to Seafarers Centre

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

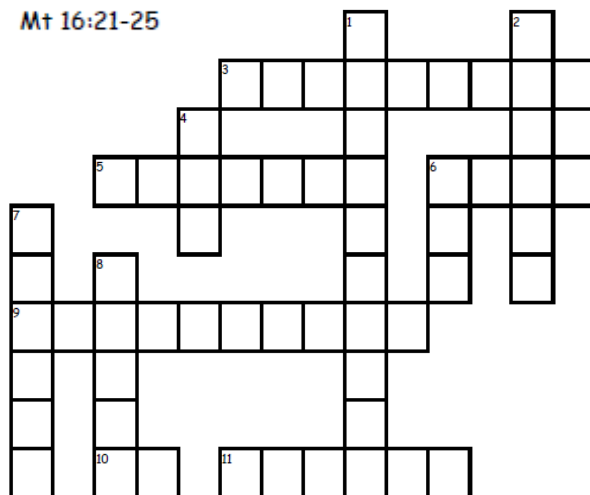
Account Name:

The Apostleship of the Sea

CROSSWORD

Carefully point out what is wrong

Mt 16:21-25



Across

3: people who witness an event

5: the opposite of public

6: not false

9: sacred texts

10: Jesus told the disciples to __ and point out what was wrong if anyone sinned against them

11: the house of God

Down

1: someone who does not believe

2: to insist on not doing something

4: to do wrong, a bad deed

6: the number before three

7: to pay attention to what is being said

8: incorrect

The Chuckle



Teacher: If there are seven flies and I hit one with a ruler, how many are left?

Johnny: Just the squashed one.

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.



Urgent: Accommodation in Stockton Area

Female in her 30's, with an 8 year old daughter and a small pet dog, is urgently seeking rental accommodation – preferably in Stockton or in a surrounding area such as Mayfield or Newcastle. 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.



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.

St Aloysius Girls High School 60-year Reunion

Wednesday 30th September 2026



Looking for ex students from the class of 1963-1966. Lunch at Wests Mayfield from 12 noon. Purchase your lunch from the Bistro. It would be

great to celebrate with as many old school mates as possible.

Respond to Angie on 0414449914 or angienphil2@gmail.com or Gail on the school Facebook page.

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 Ez 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'
(R.)

Second Reading Rom 13:8-10

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to
himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has
entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 18:15-20

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will
have won that person back.*

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and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and
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translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the
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Next Week's Readings

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-25

Prayer for all affected by the Nepal floods

Loving God,

*Be close to all those caught in the
devastation of the floods in Nepal and Tibet.
Comfort those who have lost loved ones,
strengthen those waiting anxiously for news,
and guide rescuers and emergency workers
as they search for survivors.*

*Give courage to displaced families
and compassion to communities offering
shelter, food and care.*

*May those who are missing be found,
and may those who mourn know they are
not alone.*

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Donation Options

For anyone who wishes to make donations to the
parish via direct deposit:

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 the QR Code:

(You can choose your parish
from a drop-down list)



Morning Tea at The Cathedral



All welcome to morning
tea after 9.30am Mass
next Sunday at The
Cathedral. You are invited
to bring some food to
share.

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