

Sunday 20th September 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



Dear Parish Family,

Thanks to everyone who has continued to give feedback into our 'Apostolic Action Plan'. The Regional Finance Council met last night (Thursday) and added their thoughts and adjustments. It was a very helpful conversation. You might remember we began our Assembly journey last November and with our three gatherings, surveys and meetings, we have been working diligently on it since. The last part of the conversation will be some work on it from the feedback with our working party and then a ratification by our Regional Pastoral Council. Every part of the parish has been invited on this exciting, scary and hope filled journey.

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.

Register via

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>

Or scan QR code:



I have received some correspondence which would suggest some misunderstandings. However, hopefully those misunderstandings have been addressed. This has been a genuine consultation process and every voice that has spoken has been heard, those that haven't spoken we have tried to hear as well (what are you saying or not saying) and we have worked hard to reach out to our youth and younger adults. I am really pleased that so many have taken an opportunity to share thoughts, opinions and plans for our parishes' future.

Please read carefully in the Apostolic Action Plan the number of times it continues to say with ongoing consultation, or similar words.

This week the parish had the privilege of again co-hosting the Diverse Learners' Mass in the Cathedral. Our catholic schools and colleges take it in turns to join with St Dominic's Catholic College in Mayfield to be the co-hosts with a parish. All the catholic schools of the diocese come together to celebrate the diversity of our education and, more importantly, the diversity of our school students and their families. The bishop acknowledged that this Mass, like no other, can be joyfully chaotic and a place where everyone can know they are welcome. Kate Drake, Assistant Director Catholic Schools, beautifully acknowledged how important it is that we not only know we belong, but feel we belong. Welcome is important. I suspect that, in hospitality, we make room and allow the unique giftedness we each have to be expressed, be shared and be part of the mission of our church.

This Mass celebrates the unique, God-given gifts of every person, embracing inclusion and diversity through prayer, movement, music and shared participation. There are many highlights and I love the chaos and joy that comes with this Mass. Everyone according to their unique giftedness participates. The students from St Mary's Catholic College provided the music, supported by young people from St Paul's at Gateshead, St Patrick's, Swansea, St Francis Xavier's, Belmont, and St Joseph's, Charlestown. A highlight for me is always 'My Lighthouse', led by the students at St Dominic's Catholic College. This Mass occurs this time each year, so look out for it next year. It is a highlight for me of the liturgical celebrations we share and one I feel not to be missed.

Greg, Parish Priest

The Parish Diary...

25th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 21 Sept *St Matthew, apostle, evangelist*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 22 Sept

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Mass at Badcoe House, Newcastle West

11:00am Funeral Mass for Alma Fitzpatrick @ Stockton

Wed 23 Sept *St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:00am San Clemente Staff Mass

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thur 24 Sept *Our Lady of Mercy*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:15am Mass @ Stockton (whole school)

5:30pm Mass at Seafarers Mission, Wickham

Fri 25 Sept

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 26 Sept

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 26 Sept

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 27 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: Carmel Jones, Stephen Weeks, Alma Fitzpatrick, Clem Mead, Bernard Ng

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Cunningham, Margaret Smith, Sylvia Davies, Frank Tobin, Mavis Sheedy, Lourdes Yu

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Karen Somerville, Rowena Justiniani, 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

Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos Prison Ministry will be conducting a Pastoral Short Course for the community at St Heliers Prison, Muswellbrook. To support this program, they are seeking donations of biscuits to serve during the course. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office or directly to the coordinator, Jason 0499 854 928, by **25 September**.

Thank you for your generosity and support.



"Kairos Inside" is a course in Christianity inside the prison for 3 to 5 days, where participants witness Christ's love through the service of Christian volunteers. This is done through talks, discussions and music, with the aim of developing Christian communities inside prisons.

Nepal Flood Disaster – Caritas Australia

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families.

Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal.

To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call **1800 024 413**.



Mercy Is

Mercy is a woman of indeterminate age
and unremarkable appearance.
She is not fussy about the company she
keeps,
and tends to be full of excuses for her friends,
having seen life from their angle.

Her heart, like her pockets, is capacious.
She has a voice rich in tender understanding.

But is at her best in silence
when she sits alongside
the grief-stricken and the guilty
and their sorrow seeps into her soul.

Curiously, she sees herself reflected
in the eyes of both murderer and victim,
so sits not in judgement but companionably.
She is a subtle teacher.

She makes strong cups of tea, cup after cup.
Her hands are worn by work
but eagerly sought by the dying.

Her feet are calloused from long roads
trudged with refugee and beggar.

She is an endurer of all horrors.
Mercy has a face wrinkled by kindness
and worn by the cost of living,
but even in hovels she has been given to
laughter
and awareness of simple pleasures.

She has a store of lore and wisdom
but is never heard to complain
that she's heard any story
a hundred times before,
believing each teller to be
entitled to a hearing as if to the one and only.

Mercy is a lady comfortable to be with
the safest and soundest
blessed in her being
with the indisputable reality
that she is true daughter,
in manner and in mind,
of the maker of the universe.

By Mary Wickham RSM



*A very happy feast day
to our Sisters of Mercy:
Thursday 24 September*

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, 4 October: We will discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. 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



World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people (aged 16-35) held every three years with the Pope. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is leading a pilgrimage in July 2027 to the next one in South Korea with an

extended retreat in Japan following. Serious expressions of interest have now opened and can be logged on our webpage. We expect bookings to open in November with an \$800 deposit. Learn more - <https://mn.catholic.org.au/church/world-youth-day-2027/>



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.

Planting hope in the Season of Creation (1 Sept-04 Oct)



The parish community garden project, '[Plant Hope with Red Cedar trees](#),' has now distributed 815 trees to schools, families and community groups across the Hunter Valley, Manning and Midcoast areas. The project plans to see at least 1,000 trees planted by mid-2027.

The most recent delivery was of 62 trees to [Hunter Rainforest Revival — Restoring Dry Rainforest on Wanaruah Country](#). The community garden is behind Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill, and is a source of food, fellowship and contemplation for parishioners and neighbours.

National Police Remembrance Service

This year, we are hosting the **National Police Remembrance Service in the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday 29 September**. There will be a police march to the Cathedral and the Service will begin at 9.30am. We encourage as many as possible from across the diocese to gather for this service as an expression of our support of and prayer for the members of the Police Force and particularly those who have died in the last 12 months. We look forward to seeing you there.

Safeguarding - “Manosphere and Teenage Boys”

The ‘manosphere’ is a collection of online communities and influencers that discuss masculinity, dating, relationships, and men’s experiences. While some content can address genuine challenges faced by boys, certain parts of the manosphere promote harmful stereotypes and negative attitudes towards women.

Teenage boys are still developing their identities and understanding of relationships. Repeated exposure to messages that portray women as inferior, manipulative, or responsible for men’s problems can influence how boys view girls and relationships. Some content also promotes the idea that being a ‘real man’ means being dominant, emotionally detached, wealthy, or sexually successful.

These messages can create unrealistic expectations and make boys feel pressured to hide vulnerability or prove their masculinity. In extreme cases, repeated exposure to misogynistic content may normalise disrespect, entitlement, or controlling behaviour towards girls.

It is important not to assume that every boy who encounters manosphere content will adopt these beliefs. Young people are influenced by many factors, including parents, friends, teachers, culture, and personal experiences.

Parents and schools can help by teaching boys media literacy, consent, empathy, healthy masculinity, and respectful relationships. Giving boys positive role models and safe spaces to discuss their emotions can also provide healthier alternatives to harmful online messages.



“You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.”

Matthew 20:4

Diocesan Events

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

Note: Some one-off changes to Diocesan

Library Hours:

Fri and Sat 2/3 October: Library closed

Sat 10 and 17 Oct; Library open 10am-2pm

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

submit questions in advance. Learn more:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNCalledKnowMore>

Formation Films – Heart of a Missionary: The Story of Pauline Jaricot

Pauline Marie Jaricot, foundress of The Society

for the Propagation of Faith, was just 18 years

old when she revolutionised the way our Church

looks at the missions. This documentary film

shares Pauline's story through expert interviews,

beautiful dramatisations and footage from

various mission sites around the world.

Join us, in conjunction with Catholic Mission, as

we watch the film and share morning tea, lunch,

and robust discussion. All are welcome!

When: Saturday 10 October 2026

Time: 11.00am-1.00pm

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre – Cnr Parry &

Tudor Street Newcastle West

Cost: Free

Registration (Essential):

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNPaulineJaricot>

or call Mary on 0409033449



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

MN KIDS Formation Day

Looking for a fun and faith-filled opportunity for your child this Advent? Children aged 6-12 are invited to the MN KIDS Formation Day on Sunday 6 December 2026 at City Parish, Newcastle West. Through Bible stories, prayer, music, games, crafts, and friendship, children will explore the joy of the Gospel in an engaging and age-appropriate environment. Facilitated by qualified Religious Education leaders, this free day includes morning tea and lunch.

Sunday 6 December 2026 | 9:30am - 3:00pm

Diocesan Resource Centre

841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

Free event. Registrations essential via the QR code or online link on the poster on the noticeboard.

Laughter Love and Loyalty

The book *"Laughter Love and Loyalty"*

celebrating 100 years of Mercy Education at St

Catherine's College, Singleton (1875 - 1975) is

now available for purchase at the College or by

calling 6578 9600 for details.

Vocations Ministry: Turning Dreams into Action

A meeting to organise a club to promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the permanent diaconate, and the consecrated (religious) life in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Would you like to play a part in actively encouraging and supporting vocations? If so, I invite you to a meeting to consider establishing a Serra Club in our diocese. This local club would be a member of Serra International, a world-wide organisation, affirmed by the Holy See, which is committed to vocations ministry. This initiative has the support of our Bishop, Michael Kennedy. To learn more, please take a flyer at the church entrance.

The meeting will be on Thursday, 24 September, at 7pm, in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub, 7 Milson Street, Charlestown.

To RSVP and for further information, please contact the Director of Vocations:

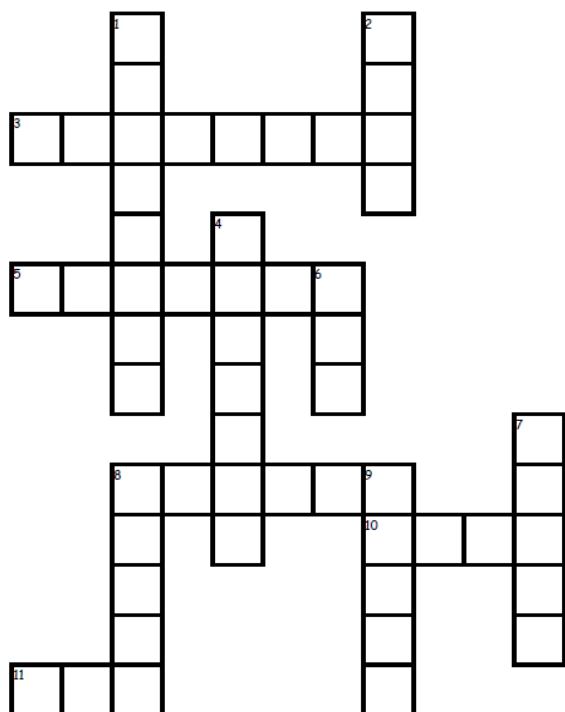
Fr Anthony Potts

M: 0466 140 066

E: tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au

CROSSWORD

The first will be last



Across

- 3: the owner of the vineyard was _____ with his money
5: envious of someone else
8: a place where people buy and sell food and goods
10: there are sixty minutes in one of these
11: the ones hired last were given a full day's ____

Down

- 1: a farm where grapes are grown
2: to finish behind everyone else
4: people who work
6: this shines in the sky during the day
7: to finish ahead of everyone else
8: we use this to buy things
9: between two and four

The Chuckle



To the person who stole my glasses...

I will find you, I have contacts!

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: Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

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Next Week's Readings

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Ezekiel 18_25-28

Phil 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

Scriptural context – Kingdom parables

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

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)



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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