

St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish:

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill.

Mayfield Parish: Christ the King, Mayfield West.

Stockton Parish: St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

Sunday 27th September 2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
World Day of Migrants and Refugees



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:



Dear Parish Family,

Our current group of Year 12 students are coming to the end of their school journey. This milestone is being marked in our Catholic colleges and, no doubt, in many government schools as well, through graduation ceremonies. As you know, we add an extra dimension to these celebrations through liturgies, Masses, blessings, and prayers. After the holidays, they will sit their final examinations. Like all students, they will be thinking about what they know and worrying about what they do not. In a few months' time, however, these concerns will be behind them, and school will become a treasured memory. I hope they look back with gratitude for the sacrifices and dedication of their teachers, support staff, cleaners, gardeners, office staff, teaching assistants, and, of course, their parents and families.



They will move on to gap years, apprenticeships, university studies, and a wide variety of careers and opportunities. One of the wonderful differences from my generation is that many of them will have several careers throughout their lives and countless opportunities to reinvent themselves. Above all, we want them to be successful, happy, and fulfilled. We want them to leave the world a better place because they have been part of it. They will have many opportunities to lift those around them and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

As they journey forward, they will encounter obstacles and opportunities, tragedies and triumphs, challenges and graces. Through it all, my prayer is that they remain grounded in the faith we have shared with them, offered to them, and sought to model for them. I pray they never forget that everything we have tried to do has come from the very heart of Jesus. As our schools' office motto reminds us, "At the heart of everything there is Jesus." May they always remember that they are loved unconditionally by God. Please keep our Year 12 students in your prayers as they prepare for and undertake their examinations.

On another note, this is the last opportunity to provide input into our Apostolic Action Plan. I invite you to share your thoughts and feedback – there is still time. Hard copies are available after all Masses. If you miss out, it is a simple matter to obtain one. Just ask. The Regional Parish Pastoral Council has also discussed the launch of the Plan, which is proposed for the Feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday of Ordinary Time (22 November), immediately before the beginning of Advent.

Finally, the first group of children in our sacramental program will celebrate their First Eucharist this weekend. Almost every Mass centre will welcome one or more candidates. Many of you will remember your own First Communion and just how special that day was. Perhaps you can also recall the many graces that have flowed from regularly receiving the Eucharist since then. Thank you to everyone who prepared a card and returned it for the young person you were praying for. What a beautiful gift you have given. Your prayers have helped these children know how important this day is, not only for them and their families, but for our entire parish community. I greatly appreciate the way you have supported and encouraged them throughout this process.

May God bless you and your families.

Greg, Parish Priest

The Parish Diary...

26th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 28 Sept *St Lorenzo Ruiz*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 29 Sept *Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, archangels*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Police Remembrance Service @ The Cathedral

Wed 30 Sept *St Jerome, priest, doctor*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

10:30am Funeral Liturgy for Sabbia Panaccio @ The Cathedral

Thur 1 Oct *St Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

11:00am Mass at Irwin Hall, Mayfield

Fri 2 Oct *The Holy Guardian Angels*

10:15am Mass @ The Junction (anointing)

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 3 Oct

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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 3 Oct

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 4 Oct

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

Clergy Retreat - 12 to 16 October - Cancellation of Weekday Masses

As our clergy will be away on retreat, there will be no weekday Masses at any of our churches from Monday, 12 October to Friday 16 October inclusive. This means, too, that the 11.00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation will not be available at the Cathedral on Friday, 16 October.

Prayer Requests



RECENTLY DECEASED: Sabbia Panaccio, Mary Bowen, Leonie Casey

ANNIVERSARIES: Domenica Rossi, Trevor Thornton, George Babic, Dot Davis, Jamie H.

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

Cathedral Closed for Sound System Upgrade – 12 to 15 October

Coinciding with the week of the Clergy Retreat, the Sacred Heart Cathedral will be closed from Monday, 12 October to Thursday, 15 October, while work is undertaken on upgrading the sound system.

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.

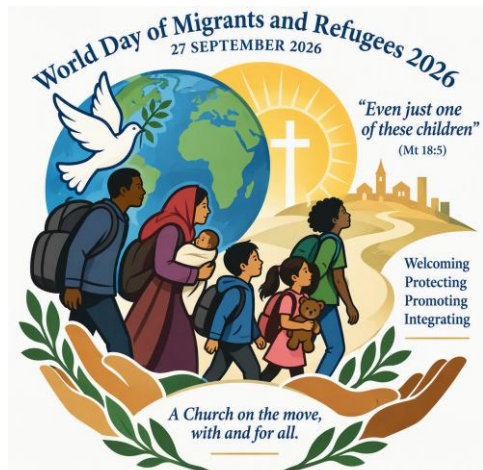
112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2026

This year's theme, "Even just one of these children" (Matthew 18:10), draws attention to children and young people affected by migration and forced displacement, inviting Catholics and all people of goodwill to recognise their dignity, hear their stories and respond with compassion and solidarity.

In his message for the World Day, Pope Leo XIV highlights the vulnerability of children on the move, noting that "minors are the most vulnerable group within the global movements of migration" and that they are "concrete faces, who have unique stories, and call on our conscience".

The Holy Father reminds us that behind migration statistics are children whose lives have been shaped by war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters and family separation.

At the same time, he points to signs of hope in the witness of families, educators, volunteers and faith communities who accompany and support young migrants and refugees.



Excerpt from the message of Pope Leo XIV: "Even Just One of These Children" (cf. Mt 18:10)

"... The Gospel invites us not to calculate: even one. Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26); each is a presence of the Lord. Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith, for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord. This call becomes even more pressing in the light of another of the Lord's affirmations in the Gospel of Matthew: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). ..."

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 10.30am. 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.

For the Love of Creation Group- Supporting Catholic Mission in Malawi.



Have you ever wondered what the few cents from a recycled bottle can eventually become? Our 'For the Love of Creation' group shares the money raised through recycling equally

between four charities. In this article we take a closer look at one of them — Catholic Mission. In one of its projects Catholic Mission is supporting communities in the Diocese of Chikwawa in Malawi, where flooding, difficult roads and limited resources can make everyday life hard, including access to education for children. It is here that even a little can go a long way.

- \$30 can provide basic books, pens and uniforms.
- \$50 can plant 150 neem trees, providing shade and protection from extreme weather.
- \$100 can provide filling, nutritious meals for school children.
- \$200 can help towards building classrooms where children can learn safely.

Stationery, trees, a nutritious meal or a safe classroom may seem simple to us, but in a community where resources are limited, this support is valuable. And each bottle that we collect, may be worth only a few cents, but when we bring those small contributions together, they can help provide something meaningful for someone else. If you would like to join us, do scan the QR code.

A few cents may seem little. But together, a little can become a lot.



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 29 October 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 today (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

Meditation / Reflection / Sharing

John Main 1926 – 2026

Fr John Main inspired the global community of meditation. He wrote, "The task of meditation is to bring all this mobile and distracted mind to stillness and concentration, to bring it, that is, into its proper service."

Saturday 24 October, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Location: DoMN Library

(cnr Tudor and Parry Sts, Hamilton. Parking behind library off Tudor St and Cathedral carpark.

Donation: \$5.00

Morning Tea provided at 9.30am

RSVP by 21 October:

annecuskelly@hotmail.com or 0407 436 808

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.

Worth a Thought



- *Be patient with everyone today. They may have misplaced their halo.*
- *If you can't sleep, don't count sheep – Talk to the shepherd.*

- *Faith is taking the first step, even when you cannot see the whole staircase.*
- *We may not be able to help everyone, but everyone can help someone.*

Safeguarding - Safeguarding During School Vacation

The school Spring vacation is an enjoyable time for children to relax, explore, and spend time with family and friends; however, safeguarding should remain a priority throughout the holiday period. Parents and carers can help children stay safe by providing appropriate supervision and maintaining clear, age-appropriate boundaries.

Before children take part in activities, adults should discuss basic safety rules, including road safety, water safety, safe use of playgrounds, and what to do if they become separated from a trusted adult. Children should know which adults they can approach for help and understand that they can speak up if something makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Online safety is equally important during school breaks, when children may spend more time using phones, tablets, computers, or gaming platforms. Parents and carers should instruct children not to share personal information, photographs, passwords, or locations with strangers online. Privacy settings and parental controls should also be reviewed regularly.

Adults should remain alert to signs that a child may be worried, distressed, or experiencing inappropriate behaviour. Children should be listened to calmly and taken seriously when they raise concerns.

By combining supervision, communication, safe boundaries, and awareness, families can help children enjoy a happy, healthy, and safe Spring vacation.



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

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

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



Called to Know More: How is the Church Organised?

Tuesday 20 October – 12pm to 1pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

Ever wondered how the Church works behind the scenes? Discover how the Church is organised to fulfil its mission in the world and why the Code of Canon Law matters to every Catholic. Join Fr Matthew Muller, Vicar General and Canon Lawyer, for an introduction to the structures, people and principles that support the Church's mission today. Learn

More:

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

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



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.

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:

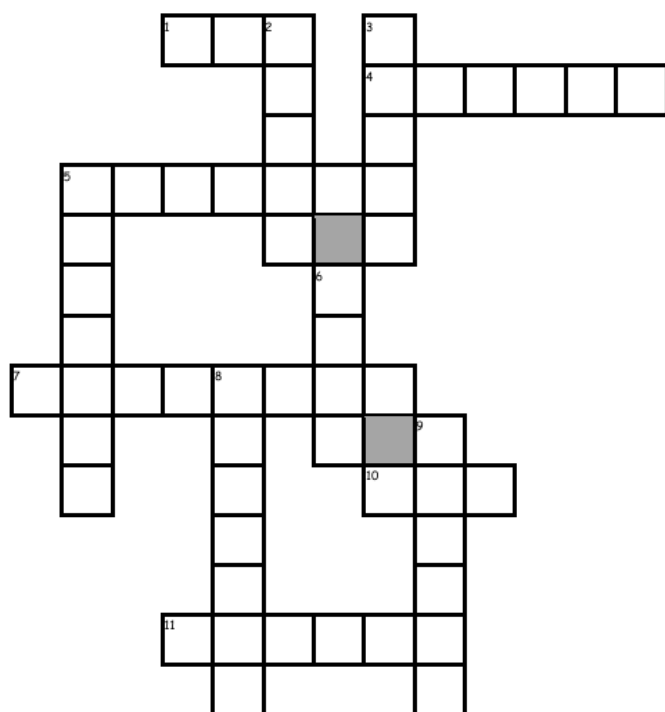
<https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/>

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.

CROSSWORD

Change your minds and believe



Mt 21:28-32

Across

- 1: the man in Jesus' story had this many sons
- 4: to have done what you were told to do
- 5: accept the truth
- 7: a farm where grapes are grown
- 10: money that must be paid to a government or kingdom
- 11: the opposite of after

Down

- 2: of a greater age
- 3: adult female humans
- 5: John the _____ told the chief priests and leaders how to do right
- 6: to perform tasks
- 8: of a lesser age
- 9: the _____ told his sons to work in the vineyard

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

EUCHARIST 28
A moment to believe

Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Ez 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24: 4-9 R.v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

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Next Week's Readings

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Isaiah 5:1-7

Phil 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

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 29 September

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Diocesan Resource Centre (next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral)

RCIA Information Evening
Registration



Please scan the QR code to register. Come along, ask questions, and discover more about the Catholic faith in a welcoming and supportive environment.

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)



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.

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