

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 4th October 2026

27th 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

McAuley Building, 242 Parry St,
Newcastle West, 2302
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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,

This week, our parish, and particularly the cathedral, had the privilege of hosting Police Remembrance Day, which is celebrated each year on 29 September. This year, following the tragic death of Constable Mia Lay only last week, the service was even more poignant and powerful for us. Mia was a graduate of Catholic schools in Sydney and a beloved friend, sister, daughter, and colleague who died, as you know, in the line of duty. There have been some beautiful tributes to her life and vitality as a young person who was on the threshold of a wonderful career, with a long life ahead of her. Her passing reminds us of the painful reality of anyone taken way too soon. It also highlights the reality faced by everyone who stands on our frontline, keeping us safe, responding to us in our times of need, and helping us live better lives.



It is no coincidence that Police Remembrance Day is celebrated on the Feast of the Archangels: St Michael, St Gabriel, and St Raphael. In our Christian tradition, we look to the Archangels for ongoing help and support. We turn to St Michael as the defender against chaos and evil—the heavenly guardian who stands between harm and the vulnerable. We look to St Gabriel, whose name literally means "God's hero," who brings news of change and challenge while offering guidance and correction to those who stray. Finally, we look to St Raphael, the unsung hero of the trio, whose name means "God heals." He is the healer, the guide, and the companion who walks beside us in times of need. We ask a lot of our police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, and we should be deeply grateful for the long hours they work in trying conditions to look after us. We should also acknowledge that they, too, need support, companionship, and protection.

True community safety is a shared effort. When a neighbour checks on someone vulnerable, or when we choose compassion over conflict, we lighten the load that our police officers carry. The greatest monument we can build for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice is a community that values justice, safety, and mutual respect. We want to build a community that reflects the love of God found in the love of Christ, shared with everyone. Constable Lay reminded us this past week how vulnerable our first responders can be whilst on duty. Their "ministry" and "vocation" take them into some of the darkest moments of people's lives. She also reminded us that these frontliners have families who worry about them on every shift, who pray for their safe return each day, and who pay the ultimate sacrifice when a loved one loses their life while helping us on our worst days.

I chose to close my homily at the Remembrance Day service with this prayer:

"For those who will still put on the uniform tomorrow, we pray for St Michael's protection. May you return safely to your loved ones at the end of every shift, knowing that your service is vital, your courage is remembered, and your light still shines. May St Gabriel guide you when you feel lost and be a support in your hour of need. May St Raphael heal your wounds—physical, emotional, and spiritual—lift you up should you fall and be your companion as you journey in care for others. May God enfold each one of you in the palm of His hand, and may He be a comfort and a support to all grieving police families."

Yours in Christ,
Greg, Parish Priest

The Parish Diary...

27th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 5 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 6 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton (anointing)

Wed 7 Oct

Our Lady of the Rosary

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West (anointing)

11:00am Funeral Mass for Patricia Gillett @ The Junction

Thur 8 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:00am Mass at Charles O'Neill, Mayfield West

Fri 9 Oct

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 10 Oct

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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 10 Oct

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 11 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. Coinciding with 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.

Prayer Requests



RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Gillett, Sr Joan Mulhall OP, Antonino Delia, Mary Bowen, Leonie Casey, Katika Pesic

ANNIVERSARIES: Domenica Rossi, Mary France, Tess O'Kane, Neil Redshaw, Laura Casey, Mary Tobin

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, 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 October anniversaries of death:

At The Cathedral:

Therese Aitchison

Nash Azzopardi

Betty Benedetti

Gwen Burke

Bernard Francis

Callaghan

Leslie John Dodds

Reginald Gilbert

James Haggerty

Kevin Hinit

Mark (Walter) Kearney

Anthony Keelan

Esme Kelly

Andrew Mainey

Aleksander Maliszewski

Sandra Martin

Thelma Martin

George Mercieca

Terence Murray

John Ottery

Roger Peters

Ivy Petherbridge

Hilda May Pilgrim

Ian Ray

Kathleen (Mardi)

Rooney

Judith Sphir

Brian Trenaman

Peter Tynan

Karen Varnum

Sydney Wickham

At St Joseph's:

Margaret Byron

Fergus Campbell

Alton Richard Cusick

Paul Doohan

Rachel Dowzer

Lloyd Egan

Tess Fletcher

Mary Goninan

Peggy Graves

Kathleen Hanes

Eileen Hartsorn

Bernard 'Barney' Hickey

Pam Hogg

Cecily McHugh

Patricia Page

William Palmer

Noel Pryde

Ray Skinner

John Smyth

William Sowerby

Geoffrey Tonks

Jean Monica Willcock

Frances Moran

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

Regular Opportunities for Prayer



- **Tighes Hill Christian Meditation** - each Monday 3.30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Tighes Hill.
- **Living Waters Meditation Centre** – Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am, followed by Lectio Divina, 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.

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 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.

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



Free call: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united



For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice.

But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children.

*Name changed for privacy

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 over 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.

62 trees were recently delivered 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.

A Chuckle

The parish installed a new online registration system.



One parishioner proudly announced, "I signed up all by myself!"

"Wonderful!" said the coordinator.

"Yes," he replied, "it only took three grandchildren."

Pope Leo - AI safeguarding issues

Pope Leo XIV views artificial intelligence (AI) as a powerful human creation that can bring significant benefits, but he argues that it must remain under human moral responsibility.

In 2025, he said AI could contribute to areas such as healthcare and scientific research, while warning that access to vast amounts of information should not be confused with genuine human intelligence or wisdom. Leo also emphasised the importance of protecting human dignity, particularly in safeguarding children and young people, warning that they are particularly vulnerable to manipulation through AI algorithms that can influence their decisions and preferences.

In his 2026 encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, Leo argues that AI should serve the common good rather than allow technology, profit, or efficiency to dominate human life. He is, however, concerned about AI being used in decisions involving employment, public services, privacy, and reputation, where biased programs could create discrimination and exclusion.

He calls for transparency, accountability, responsible governance, and meaningful human oversight. He uses the phrase "disarm AI" to mean preventing it from becoming an instrument of manipulation, domination, warfare, or concentrated power.

Overall, his position is that AI should serve humanity rather than replace or dominate it.

Next week - kids using AI assistants and AI companions.



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>

Diocesan Resource Centre

Opening Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 5pm. Open 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm. cnr Tudor and Parry Sts, Newcastle West.

All resources are available to borrow; and are searchable on the library catalogue, which can be accessed through this <https://tinyurl.com/DOMNLibrary> OR use the QR code.



The Changing Face of Catholicism – Group Webinar Viewing

Thursday 8 October – 6.30-8.30pm, Diocesan Resource Centre

There are many different streams in lay Catholicism. Some focus outwards and others inwards, some on social justice and/or education ministries, others on dialogue and/or spirituality. At this free webinar, presented by Garratt Publishing & Council of Australasian Catholics, we'll hear from a range of groups who all represent the changing face of modern Catholicism in Australasia. Join us at 6.30pm for a light supper ahead of the 7pm group webinar viewing.

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/CDMNChangingFaceCatholicism>



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/CTKMFrMatthewMuller>



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.

Prayer for HSC Students

We pray for those preparing for their HSC.

Father we ask that they especially feel your closeness during this period.

Give them calm hearts and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold them in the palm of your hand.

Bless them with keen understanding and retentive memory.

Give them the ability to grasp things correctly, be exact in their explanations and express themselves clearly.

Point out the beginning, direct their progress and help them in the completion of each of their responses.

Holy Spirit send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge.



We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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



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.

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.

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

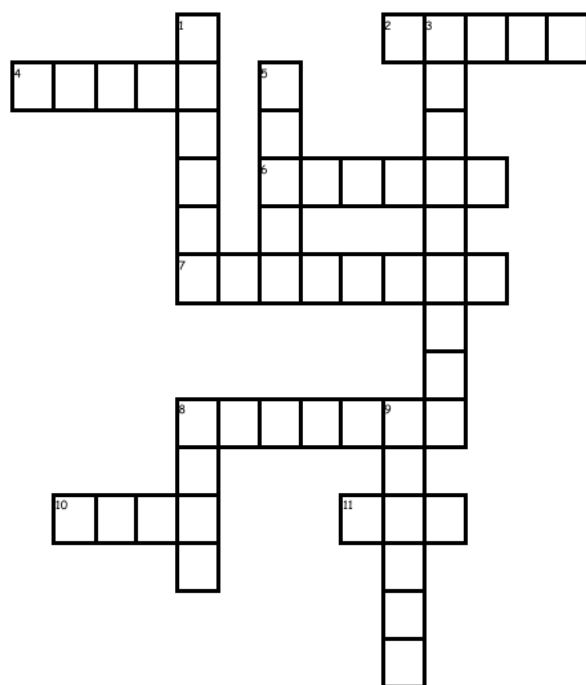
St Peter's Primary School: Dennis Nolan (*Principal*)
Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295
(02) 4928 1861
www.stockton.catholic.edu.au

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

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel



Across

- 2: grapes grow on these
4: a tall building with a lookout
6: take the path of a leader
7: people who serve
8: reap, gather a crop
10: the landowner built one of these around his vineyard
11: the renters killed the landowner's _ _ _

Down

- 1: the fruit from a vine
3: significant
5: o _ _ _ your prayers to God
8: raised land mass that is smaller than a mountain
9: carved rocks used to make buildings

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Do what God commands

R C T T R F D G R A P E S Y
T U N J S E R V A N T S R X
T C O U N T R Y L N B H W U
U T S U M N S Q B R O T O H
S I I X W R E S P E C T Q T
I Q M S N G R G J Z W U J O
Q Q P H A V E U H A P I T W
J G O X T I H A R V E S T E
C F R W A L L D B S D T S R
Z M T K B H R U X S X X Z S
W A A P A M X G M Q Y S I N
P K N K F X T T A G N G R Q
B H T H X B U L H P Y P M K
Z W L K N S O N D P T U O L

Try to find these words:

country
dug
grapes
harvest
have
important
pit
respect
servants
son
tower
wall

Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7
(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)
2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
4. And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation: See John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!
I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

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Next Week's Readings

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Isaiah 25:6-10

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

Mt 22:1-14

Celebrating Seniority!



Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering for a special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications and time of life. Meet past volunteers Wendy and Mick who will share their adventures of life and laughter in PNG and Timor Leste, leaving a lasting positive impact on communities. Scan below to register or see palms.org.au/events

Date: Monday 19 October 2026

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333

palms@palms.org.au



EUCHARIST28
A moment to believe

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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