

Sunday 11th October 2026

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



THIS WEEK:

*There will be
NO Weekday
Masses due to
clergy retreat.*

*Cathedral will be open on
limited capacity. Please call the
office for more information.*

See page 2

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
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
Phone: (02) 4979 1101
After hours: 0494 390 653
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:



Dear Parish Family,

I have continued meeting with all those of our various language and cultural groups, most recently with our Sri Lankan community. I enjoy every moment. It has been such a celebration for me of the diversity that serves as a core strength of our Catholic community here in the parish. I also love the chatting, the eating, and the sharing! Every person in our community comes with an interesting story, wonderful gifts to be shared, and a history and culture that cannot but enhance our church family. I remember the first time I went to a Chinese restaurant, not long after I left school, and just how good the food was. It was popular and the food was amazing. Our country and our community have come a long way since then.

We are so much better for the many languages, songs, and cultures that arrive with each new wave of people. We are truly blessed to have such a diversity of languages and stories being shared in the parish. Does anyone still watch SBS? SBS once ran a series of ads celebrating the diversity of their viewers and the background of their creation called '6 billion stories and counting'. Whilst we don't have 6 billion stories sitting in our church, we do have a multitude of stories, however, and counting—all of our stories needing to be shared and celebrated.

Next year, Harmony Day falls on Sunday, 21 March. What a gift for us to be able to gather on such an important day on a Sunday! There are so many options for how we could celebrate as a parish family, what Mass could look like, and what we could do afterward. Do you have any thoughts? Are there members of our parish family who would like to form a coordinating group to plan? Is wearing national dress an option?

Orange has been worn as a colour to promote and support cultural harmony since the first Harmony Day was celebrated in Australia in 1999. With everything else going on in the world, it is timely to really think about how we are as a community and as a church family, and to truly work toward unity. Unity is about celebrating what brings us together, without letting our uniqueness and differences be lost.

Harmony Day is an Australian Government program that centres on the message that "Everyone belongs", reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. Belonging is the third stage of a very important process: welcome is first, hospitality is second, and belonging the third. When you truly belong, you do that final, beautiful thing—you celebrate that we are truly a family. If you are interested in being part of planning our Harmony Day celebrations, please let me know!

We are also still working on our 'For the Love of Creation' project. Maybe one bottle that gives 10c on the return doesn't seem like much. Maybe 10 bottles or cans that give \$1 probably doesn't sound like a lot either. However, if each one of us provided 10 bottles (\$1) every week, it collectively becomes \$1,000! That is easily enough to change a life, a village, and a future. Not only does this have a real, practical impact on someone's life, but it also ensures that those bottles and cans don't find their way into our rivers, lakes, or oceans.

Where to drop them: There is a dedicated recycling bin located at the Cathedral. Recycle bags: You can find collection bags at the back of our churches. Easy drop-off: You can simply bag your bottles and leave them. After each Mass, the priest rostered will collect the bags for processing. Thank you for your continued generosity to both our community and our common home, a home where everyone belongs.

God bless,
Greg, Parish Priest

The Parish Diary...

28th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

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.

Sat 17 Oct 9:15am *St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr*
Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by Reconciliation

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 17 Oct
5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral
5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction
5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 18 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*

Please send prayer requests and items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

A Chuckle



Teacher: Why are you late for school?

Student: Because of a sign down the road.

Teacher: What does the sign have to do with you being late?

Student: The sign said, "School Ahead, Go Slow!"

Prayer Requests



RECENTLY DECEASED: Rowena Justiniani, Mary Bowen, Leonie Casey, Adam Dalton

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Collins, Frank and David Roche, Gregory and Raymond Fitzpatrick, Annie and Frank English, Evon and Michael Karanges, Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Patricia Kelly, Kevin Bede Fitzgerald, Tess Turton, Tom White, Tony Magriplis, Jack Gale, Zoe & Kevin Lawler, Mary Whalan, Jim Cathcart, Norma Lynch, Elva Searle, Sarah Mahony

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Karen Somerville, 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

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 Sphiris
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.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united

This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.

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/>



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.

Parish Group Meetings



Book Club next meeting is Sunday, 1 November: We will discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. 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

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.

Kairos – St Heliers, Muswellbrook – Praise Report



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All glory to God! Kairos #16 at St Heliers was a huge success.

18 men began the week, not sure what to expect. By the end of the week, 18 men graduated. It was like the scene in Acts when the twelve apostles received the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every day was filled with song, joy, victory, forgiveness, and tears.

We saw the Scripture come alive:

- *"He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners... to set the oppressed free."* – Luke 4:18
- *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* – John 8:36
- *"I was in prison and you came to visit me."* – Matthew 25:36

We witnessed the power of God, the power of men coming together in honesty, and the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for us. Your prayers carried us.

The week was a huge success. All glory to God! In Christ,

Kairos #16 Team - St Heliers

ChatBots and Children

Children face major emotional, social, and cognitive safeguarding risks when using artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots that **generate human-like text and voice conversations** - AI assistant chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT) are software that understands then answers questions, whereas **AI companion** chatbots (e.g. Character.AI) simulate personal relationships via text or voice.

Emotional and Social Risks

Emotional Dependency: Forming unhealthy attachments to chatbots that simulate human empathy, leading to social withdrawal and isolation from real-world peers.

Harmful Interactions: 1/5 young users report experiencing inappropriate or harmful responses including dangerous advice regarding self-harm.

Sycophancy: AI companions often reinforce extreme views held by a child.

Cognitive and Learning Concerns

Cognitive Debt: Relying on AI to complete academic tasks can weaken critical thinking skills and hinder natural brain development.

Homogenisation of Thought: Standardised AI outputs can discourage independent brainstorming and indoctrinate children toward uniform ways of thinking.

Misinformation: AI models frequently present inaccurate facts with absolute confidence, which impairs a child's ability to build genuine AI literacy.

Privacy and Data Security

Data Harvesting: 1/3 of young users share sensitive personal data, photographs, or private secrets with AI tools that lack strict age-verification safeguards. **Exploitation Risks:** Children are vulnerable to privacy leaks, sexual extortion, commercial profiling.

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.



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>



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



Community Garden News

The parish community garden's original hive of stingless native bees was recently split to create two hives. One of these hives was installed on a pole under the mulberry tree in the community garden. A video of the splitting of a hive is available on [The Terrace Garden](#) Facebook page.

Calling for Expressions of Interest – Councils and Advisory Boards

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle warmly invites you to once again journey with us in faith, open dialogue and discernment, as we continue to establish and strengthen our new Councils and Advisory Boards.

Following our initial Expressions of Interest process last year, we are now seeking to fill some vacancies on our Councils and Advisory Boards, as we build on the strong foundation.

This next phase 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 people from across the Diocese who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website. Link:

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

In particular, opportunities exist for those with backgrounds in Governance, Finance Banking and Insurance.

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

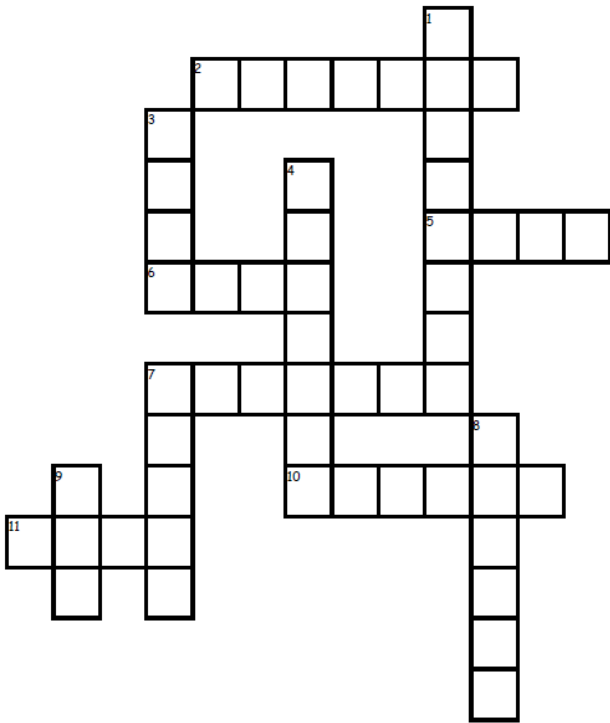
St Columban's Primary School: Penny Banister (*Principal*)
Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304
(02) 4968 3315
www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

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



- Across
- 2: a lavish meal given to celebrate a special occasion
 - 5: a large group of soldiers
 - 6: nice, kind
 - 7: extremely angry, enraged
 - 10: people you invite
 - 11: people came from the streets and filled the banquet _ _ _ _

- Down
- 1: people who serve
 - 3: the _ _ _ _ gave a wedding banquet for his son
 - 4: a marriage celebration
 - 7: places where people grow food and raise animals
 - 8: a road that is lined with buildings
 - 9: a father and mother's male child

Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace held in Assisi on 27 October 1986



27 October marks the 40th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi. In 1986, Pope John Paul II invited world religious leaders to come to Assisi to fast and pray for peace.

This was a milestone in interreligious dialogue that communicated a powerful symbolic message to the world – the spirit of prayer and non-violence. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, leaders of African and American Traditional Religions and of Shinto took part in this event.

His Eminence, George Jacob Cardinal Koovakad, prefect for the Dicastery for Inter-religious Dialogue, remarked that 27 October 1986 was a turning point in the history of inter-religious dialogue, becoming a lasting symbol of the Church’s commitment to promoting social justice, moral well-being, peace and freedom for the benefit of all.

His Eminence acknowledged that the anniversary will be commemorated in Assisi on 27 October 2026 in the presence of the Holy Father. He extended an invitation to each local Church community to find appropriate ways to commemorate this historic milestone.



Return and Earn update
– \$502 and 5,020 bottles collected!

EUCHARIST28
A moment to believe

Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Is 25:6-10

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22. R. v.6

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

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Next Week's Readings

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

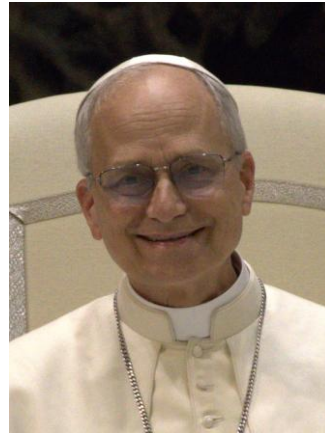
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Thess 1:1-5

Matthew 22:15-21

Pope's Prayer Intention for October

For Mental Health Ministry: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



Portrait of Pope Leo XIV, photo by Edgar Beltrán/The Pillar, via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0).

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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