

Sunday 18th October 2026

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

World Mission Sunday

Dear Parish Family,

I first heard what is a favourite poem of mine in a scene from what is a favourite movie. I absolutely love English comedies, and 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' sits right at the top of my list and it contains my favourite poem. My second favourite is 'Death at a Funeral'. Both films are packed with that distinct English humour I love. While it may not appeal to everyone, it shares a wonderful synergy with Australian humour—the unique ability to laugh through and within the deeply serious moments of our lives. They both touch my funny bone. The poem I love is 'Funeral Blues' by W. H. Auden and it simply says this:



'Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone, prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone, silence the pianos and with muffled drum, bring out the coffin, let the mourners come. Let aeroplanes circle, moaning overhead, scribbling on the sky the message, 'He is Dead'. Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves, let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my north, my south, my east and west, my working week and my Sunday rest, my noon, my midnight, my talk, my song; I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong. The stars are not wanted now; put out everyone, pack up the moon and dismantle the sun, pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood; for nothing now can ever come to any good'.

It sums up perfectly how we feel in the immediate wake of loss. The overwhelming sadness of the words deeply touches my heart. It lacks hope. Grief is a powerful emotion, and if it goes unchecked—without some sense of light, hope, and tomorrow—it can sit around our hearts like a padlocked chain. We are so blessed to have a funeral liturgy that, when celebrated properly, reminds us that while we may feel the despair reflected in Auden's poem, tomorrow remains full of promise, hope, and gives permission to eventually know happiness, joy, and light again.

On the other end of the spectrum, my other favourite poem is "Warning" by Jenny Joseph. I love it for all its pure joy. I first heard it at a funeral, where a loving son read it to reflect the immense joy the poem had given his late mother. It has an irreverent, rebellious spirit that reminds us to embrace life fully and without apology. I also offer it today as it reminds me, too, of the joy that comes from living life and living it the full – life that comes from knowing the joy that comes from a God that loves us unconditionally and wants us to be happy:

'When I am an old woman I shall wear purple, with a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me. And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves, and satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter. I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired and gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells and run my stick along the public railings and make up for the sobriety of my youth.

I shall go out in my slippers in the rain and pick the flowers in other people's gardens and learn to spit. You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat and eat three pounds of sausages at a go or only bread and pickle for a week and hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry and pay our rent and not swear in the street and set a good example for the children. We must have friends to dinner and read the papers. But maybe I ought to practise a little now? So, people who know me are not too shocked and surprised when suddenly I am old and start to wear purple.'

God bless,

Greg, Parish Priest



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>

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

Or scan QR code:



The Parish Diary...

29th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 19 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 20 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:15am Mass @ Stockton (School Mass K & Yr 6)

11:00am Mass @ Moran Aged Care, Stockton

Wed 21 Oct *St Pedro Calungsod*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thur 22 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10.15am St Columban's School Mass K & Yr 6 (library)

Fri 23 Oct

10:15am Mass @ The Junction (School Mass)

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

1.30pm St Columban's School Liturgy
Grandparents' Day

Sat 24 Oct

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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 24 Oct

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 25 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

Prayer Requests



RECENTLY DECEASED: Adam Dalton,
John Turyn, Joan Bowen, Leonie Casey

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Kelly, Greg Boland, Arthur Richards, Martin Crittenden, Maurice Crittenden, David Roche, Merv Guillier, Michael Palmer, Betty Russ

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

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 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.

EUCHARIST28
A moment to believe

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.

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.



Upcoming Young Adults event:

On Friday 30 October, at 7pm, there will be a talk on 'Sanctifying our Ordinary life' by well-versed speaker, Liam Aquilina, in the Toohey room, next door to the Cathedral.

There will be free dinner beforehand at 6pm and we invite anyone who might be interested in coming and meeting other like-minded young adults.

You're welcome to contact Susanna on 0406 862 339 with any questions.



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



Thank you for your generous support of the Church in Malawi and the communities it serves.

Because of your kindness, children like Yamikani* will have greater access to education, nourishment, and the opportunity to build a hopeful future.

And if you chose to become a Mission Partner with a monthly gift - thank you so much for your ongoing commitment.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission in Malawi and around the world, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work.

Thank you again for your compassion, and please keep this impactful work in your prayers.

*Name changed for privacy

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.

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.

A Chuckle

Noah is speaking to God:

"Lord, the elephants are taking up too much room."

God replies, "That's irrelephant."



Seniors' Disaster Safeguarding

Seniors should be prepared for disasters (fires, floods, storms – even earthquakes) because they can face greater risks during emergencies. Older adults may have limited mobility, cognitive impairment, health conditions, require regular medication, or live alone - making it harder to respond quickly when a disaster occurs. Being prepared can help reduce these risks and make emergencies less stressful.

One important reason for disaster preparedness is access to medication and medical equipment. Seniors should have enough essential medicines, medical supplies, and important health information available in case pharmacies, hospitals, or doctors are temporarily unavailable.

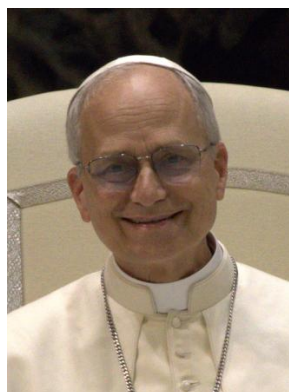
Another reason is that disasters can cause power outages, damaged roads, or disruptions to transportation. Seniors who rely on electricity for medical equipment or assistance from carers may need alternative arrangements. Having an emergency kit with water, food, a flashlight, batteries, first-aid supplies, and a phone charger can help them stay safe. This kit should also have emergency contact numbers and copies of important documents.

Finally, having a plan can provide peace of mind. Seniors should discuss emergency plans with family members, neighbours, carers, or friends who know where you should go if evacuation is necessary. Preparing before a disaster happens can help seniors remain safer, and better able to cope during an emergency.

Pope Leo on Mission Sunday

Here is a link to a YouTube video of Pope Leo speaking about the 100th World Mission Sunday:

<https://tinyurl.com/PopeLeoMissionSunday>



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

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>



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



Invitation - Mission and Evangelisation in partnership with MacKillop Parish invite you to a Parish Mission

With special participation from the Little Nuns and Little Friars of Jesus and Mary

2 to 12 November 2026



The Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary are coming to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for a ten-day mission of faith, prayer and renewal. Known for their distinctive habits, joyful spirit and

dedicated commitment to Christ, their lives are centred on prayer, community, service and helping others discover the joy of faith. Their witness is both refreshing and challenging, raising important questions about purpose, happiness, and what truly matters.

Come for one event or many. Bring your questions and an open heart. You never know where God might lead.

View the schedule here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNLittleFriarsandNuns>.

Or scan the QR code:



Exhibition

Celebrating the Life and Work of Fr Julian Tenison Woods

*Monday and Friday 10am-5pm, 1st and 3rd
Saturday of the month 10am-2pm.*

The Diocesan Resource Centre (DRC) is hosting an exhibition that brings added depth and context to Sr Jan Tranter's recently published book, *Julian Tenison Woods: The Human Journey – Priest, Founder, Friend*.

Featuring geological specimens, photographs, books, a continuous visual display, and a range of historical resources, the exhibition offers a fascinating insight into the life, ministry, and legacy of Fr Julian Tenison Woods.

Running through to the end of the year, the exhibition offers a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the life, work and legacy of Fr Julian Tenison Woods.

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



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/>



2026 LGBTIQ+ Liturgy

Friday 6 November – 6pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill

Every year since 2022, our Diocesan community has gathered to pray with LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends, and supporters. All are welcome to attend and join in for supper following the Liturgy.

Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNLGBTIQLiturgy>



The Office of Safeguarding

From Thursday 15 October the Office of Safeguarding is relocating from the office at 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield, to 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. People visiting the Office of Safeguarding are asked to please attend Reception at 841 Hunter Street where a member of Safeguarding will meet you. For sensitive matters, a member of Safeguarding will make personal arrangements for the visitor to attend discreetly. If you need support from the Office of Safeguarding at any time, please:

Phone: 02 4979 1390

Email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au

Visit their website at

<https://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

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

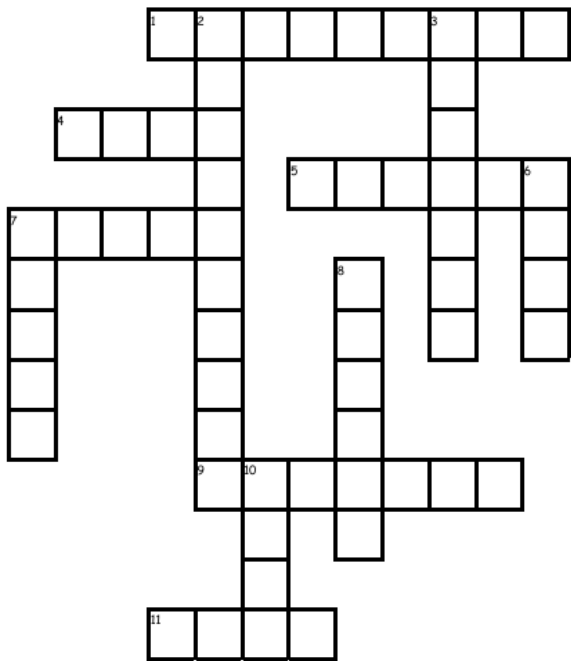
(02) 4968 1295

www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au

CROSSWORD

God has chosen you

Is 45:1, 4-6
Ps 96:1 & 3, 4-5, 9-10abef, R. v.7b
Thes 1:1-5b
Mt 22:15-21



Across

- 1: these men tried to trick Jesus
- 4: this man wrote to the Thessalonians to tell them the good news
- 5: someone who doesn't lie is this
- 7: these were used for paying taxes to the Romans
- 9: someone who teaches
- 11: the part of a fence that opens

Down

- 2: the _____ is the third person of the Trinity (two words)
- 3: there was a picture of the Roman _____ on the coins
- 6: an examination
- 7: the Lord took the right hand of C_____
- 8: the place where people worship
- 10: the opposite of west

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Give to God what belongs to God

Mt 22:15-21

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

Try to find these words:

- belongs
- coins
- Emperor
- honest
- Pharisees
- respect
- silver
- taxes
- teacher
- test
- trick
- truth

Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Isaiah 45:1.4-6

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations
before his countenance.*

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and
to God the things that are God's.*

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Next Week's Readings

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Exodus 22:20-26

1 Thess 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

Organ Recital with David Drury

Join us at 2:00 pm on Sunday 25 October 2026
at St Peter's Anglican Church, East Maitland, for
a special organ recital celebrating 150 years of
the historic Father Willis organ.

Renowned Australian organist David Drury will
perform a varied programme of works by Bach,
Erbach, Böhm, Byrd, Purcell, Dearnley and
Mendelssohn

Tickets:

<https://tinyurl.com/DavidDruryWillisOrgan>

Tickets can be booked online using the link
above, or you are welcome to contact Thomas
directly on 0432 786 775 to reserve seats.

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

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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