

Sunday 25th October 2026

30th 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

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 (*Administration*)

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 don't like talking about money, but I do want to thank you for your generous support through planned giving and our Sunday collections. I know that money is tight for many families in these difficult times. You have bills to pay, just as our parish does, and the dollar does not go as far as it used to. With the cost of everything from petrol to coffee rising again, your kindness helps keep our parish afloat and, quite literally, keeps the lights on. Thank you very much.



I've been asked when it is appropriate to use the Eftpos machines located in the middle of the church. You are welcome to use them when you first arrive, while the collections are being taken up or on your way back to your seat after Communion, or as you leave the church. Few people carry 'real' money anymore; that is simply part of modern life. There are also many other ways to give, and I am grateful for every contribution that supports the mission of the parish.

Our Regional Finance Council is working hard to ensure that our community of parishes remains fiscally responsible and sustainable. Its work is focused on supporting our mission and ensuring that our decisions are informed by the message of the Gospels.

In the early days of the Church, particularly once Christian communities began gathering in larger buildings, members of the faithful literally brought the work of their hands to the altar: vegetables they had grown, chickens and other livestock, weaving, woodwork and other crafts that could be sold to support the Church's mission. Can you imagine the chaos and noise as those gifts were brought forward to the altar? Today it is a little quieter as we pass the baskets or give by Eftpos, direct debit or bank transfer, but the symbolism remains the same: what we offer is still the work of our hands. There is a part of me that would like to see a return to the way things were 2,000 years ago. One reason we sing hymns during the procession of gifts is to accompany the activity and noise. I'm not sure what they might have done about the smell. Maybe that is one reason we use incense?

The Regional Parish Council meets this coming week to finalise the Apostolic Action Plan, with the last comments now coming in. I am really looking forward to launching this exciting new stage in the life and mission of our parishes, and I pray that you are too.

Kind regards,

Greg, Parish Priest

The Parish Diary...

30th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 26 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 27 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Mass @ Badcoe House, Newcastle West

Wed 28 Oct *Sts Simon and Jude, apostles*

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thur 29 Oct

7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Funeral Liturgy @ The Cathedral for John Donoghue

5:30pm Mass @ Seafarers Mission, Wickham

Fri 30 Oct

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

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

12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 31 Oct

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

Solemnity of All Saints

Sat 31 Oct

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 1 Nov

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: Sr Philippa Jones OP, Domenic Monaco, Annette Tracey, John Donoghue, John Turyn, Joan Bowen, Leonie Casey

ANNIVERSARIES: Krissie Gracz, Jennifer Hickey, Con Cagney, Tony Vial, Gerard Tobin, Tess Connell, Maureen Clare, Sr Trish Jackson rsj, Piero Barille

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

In November We Remember



During the month of November, we remember in a special way all those who have died and have gone before us. If you would like a Mass offered for your loved one/s, there will be envelopes available at the churches which can be placed on the regular collection plates at weekend Masses.

On **Monday, 2 November** (All Souls Day), there will be a 6pm Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral to remember all those who have died in the past twelve months

and whose funeral was celebrated in one of our churches (Newcastle, Mayfield and Stockton parishes). At that Mass, too, we will honour the memory of those entrusted to the care of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Columbarium. After Mass, there will be prayers in the Columbarium area, followed by a small reception.

Those entrusted to the care of the Columbarium at St Joseph's Church, The Junction, will be remembered at the 10.15am Mass at St Joseph's on **Friday, 6 November**. A blessing in the Columbarium area of the church will follow the Mass.

We are currently sending invitations to the deceased's family members / next-of-kin as shown in our parish records. This is via email where possible and otherwise via Australia Post. If you would be expecting an invitation and haven't received it by Thursday 29 October, please contact the parish office by email at newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or by phone on 4979 1101.



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

On behalf of the Church in Malawi, thank you once again for your generosity.

Your support is helping create spaces where children like Yamikani* can learn, families can rebuild, and communities can move forward together.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, please visit catholicmission.org.au/united to lend your support today.

To learn more about the impact you can make through Catholic Mission, visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work to see other examples of life-giving programs around the world.

*Name changed for privacy



Clergy Retreat 2026

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
VOCO Kirkton Park, Hunter Valley
11 - 16 October 2026

Facilitator: Fr. David Hore, C.Ss.R.

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:

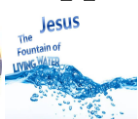
newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

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

Cinema employee: "That's an adults only movie. When is your birthday?"

Teenage boy: "October 12th"

Employee: "What year?"

Boy: "Every year."



Concert in the Cathedral

Presented by the Australian Army Band:

Sunday 1 November 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Entry by donation.



Chapter: Dominican Sisters

The Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands will gather for their Tenth General Chapter at Baulkham Hills from October 24th until the 29th.

At this time of change and transition, weighty decisions will be taken and new pathways will emerge...a quite daunting task.

Therefore, we will greatly appreciate the prayer of the Diocese on our behalf. Be assured that you too are daily in our prayer.

Safeguarding: Drowning of Seniors

The National Drowning Report 2026, prepared jointly by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia, provides an analysis of fatal drowning across Australia between 01 July 2025 and 30 June 2026. Older Australians (65+ years) accounted for nearly one-third of all 313 drowning deaths, highlighting the importance of water safety awareness among the ageing population. In the last 10 years, 736 seniors have drowned – 81% were males, 32% were born overseas. This raises concerns about the risks older adults face around water.

Many older Australians enjoy swimming, fishing, boating and other aquatic activities to maintain their health and social connections; however, age-related changes in physical strength, balance, mobility and cardiovascular health, or underlying medical conditions, medication side effects, fatigue and overestimating physical abilities increase the risk of drowning. Environmental factors, including cold water, strong currents and limited access to assistance, can further contribute to these risks.

Safeguarding older Australians from drowning requires targeted education and practical safety measures. Older adults should consider their health and swimming ability before entering the water, avoid swimming alone, use appropriate flotation devices when boating and choose supervised swimming areas where possible. Regular health assessments and discussions with healthcare professionals can also help identify individual risk factors.

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 link:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOMNLibrary>

OR use the QR code.



Called to Know More – Prison Sunday – 10 Years of Mercy and Hope

Wednesday 4 November, 12pm, Diocesan Resource Centre – Newcastle West

Join us for the next Called to Know More gathering as we welcome Correctional Centre Chaplain, Bernard Leslie, who will share insights into prison ministry, the realities faced by those in custody, and the vital role chaplains play in bringing hope, dignity, and human connection to some of the most marginalised members of our community. Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CTKMPrisonMinistry>



Nourishment Day for Sacristans and Servers – Newcastle

Saturday 14 November, 10am-3pm, Toohey Room

A Day of Prayer, Formation, Fellowship and Renewal. Sacristans and Servers are warmly invited to a special day of spiritual nourishment and community. Activities include Formation Session, Practical Workshop, Fellowship & Sharing, Lunch and Refreshments. "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8. Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNNourishmentDay2026>



Real Women Café Night

Monday 16 November, 7:30pm – 9:15pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Warner's Bay

Bookings have opened! The guest speaker is Joel Howlett, an international award-winning performer and entertainer, bringing impact and fun to the final Real Women's event for 2026. Get your ticket here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMNNRealWomenCafe>



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.

First Sacraments:- Year 2 and Year 3

The City Pastoral Region is delighted to support your family as your child prepares to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. We are also happy to discuss Baptism if your child requires this.

As parents, you play the most important role in nurturing your child's faith. Our sacramental preparation process aims to support you and your family as you journey together towards your child's reception of these special sacraments.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Reconciliation begins with a compulsory Parent Information Session to be held at Sacred Heart

Cathedral on **Wednesday, 4 November, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.**

Proposed Preparation Sequence:

2026- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Term 4)

2027- Sacrament of Confirmation (TBA)

2028 - Sacrament of First Eucharist- Sundays between June 18 and July 16

Link or QR code to register is here. If there is more than one child, please fill out one form for each child.

Students in year four, five and six are also welcome to join the process.

<https://tinyurl.com/CityRegionSacraments>

Contact:

Mary-Anne de Luca

mary-anne.deluca@mn.catholic.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>



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

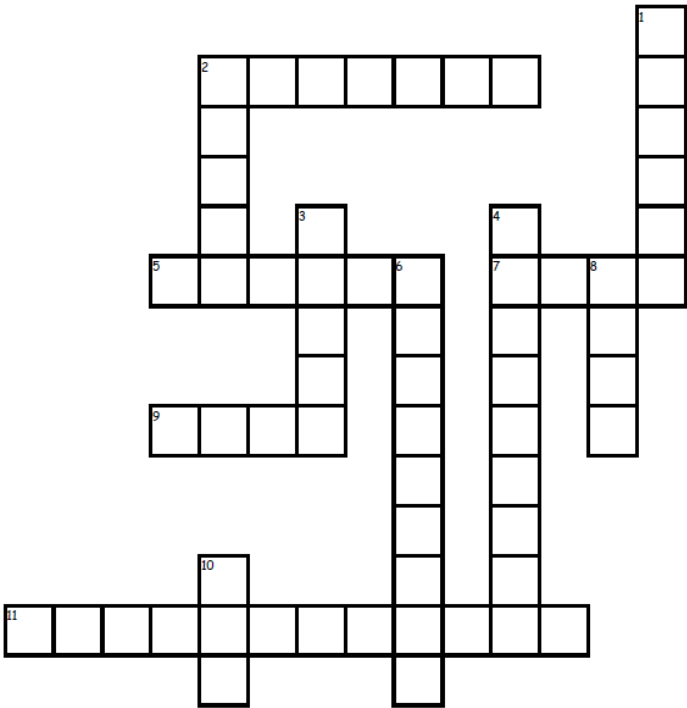
www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic's Catholic College: Rachel Jones (*Principal*)

76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

(02) 4968 1295

www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au



- Across
- 2: unwise
 - 5: Jesus said, "Love _____ as much as you love yourself"
 - 7: more than all others
 - 9: an examination
 - 11: God's laws that were given to Moses

- Down
- 1: someone who knows a lot about a specific subject
 - 2: the opposite of last
 - 3: the organ that pumps blood through the body
 - 4: significant
 - 6: the S_____ were foolish
 - 8: Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, _____, and mind"
 - 10: a rule that must be obeyed

“Presence” Advent Program 2026



This Advent and Christmas, discover the God who is closer than we think. Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026 is a beautifully presented, 84-page, full-colour book of daily reflections inviting you to

slow down, become attentive, and rediscover the presence of Christ in your everyday life. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent (29 November 2026) and continuing through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January 2027), Presence offers a prayerful companion for the entire Advent and Christmas journey.

Cost \$5.
Use the link or QR code to order.

<https://tinyurl.com/PresenceAdvent2026>



Upcoming Young Adults event:

On Friday 6 November (**Note the change of date**), 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.



Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Ex 22:20-26

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan,
my anger will rage against you.*

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2 (R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:5-10

*You turned away from idols to serve God and
await his Son.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my
Father will love them and we will come to
them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

*You shall love the Lord your God and your
neighbour as yourself.*

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published
and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and
Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English
translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the
Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for
Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy,
Inc. All rights reserved.



Next Week's Readings

Solemnity of All Saints
Revelation 7:2-4,9-14
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

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.

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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