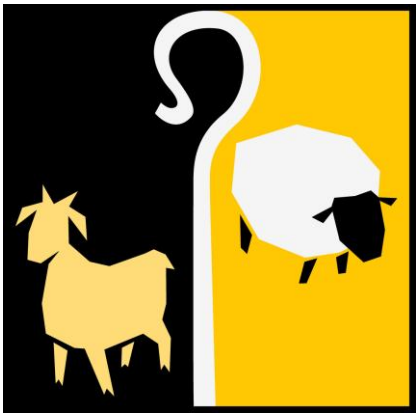
City Pastoral REGION
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE
The Parish Vine

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 22nd November 2026 — *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*



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,

This week I travelled to Taree for the blessing and official opening of CatholicCare's new offices. Many will remember the devastating floods that affected Taree and surrounding communities. Homes, businesses and lives were profoundly disrupted, and recovery remains a long journey for many. Their former office was also affected by the flooding, limiting its ability to provide essential support during a time of great need. The opening of the new premises, safely located above the flood line, was therefore more than the blessing of a building. It was a celebration of a ministry that continues to walk alongside individuals and families with compassion, encouragement and practical assistance. Although the waters have receded, many families continue to live with the consequences of that disaster.

Behind every CatholicCare program are real people: children seeking stability, young people searching for direction, parents carrying heavy responsibilities, and families striving to overcome difficult circumstances. CatholicCare accompanies many who might otherwise feel alone. In particular, the Specialist Care Leaver Program supports young adults as they transition from care into independent living, helping them build confidence, resilience and hope for the future. One area of urgent need is foster care. CatholicCare is always seeking families willing to open their hearts and homes to children who need safety, stability and care. Some very young children are currently living in temporary accommodation while suitable placements are sought. When I hear this, it reminds me that the call to care for the vulnerable is not an abstract idea but a real and pressing Gospel invitation. Perhaps for some families, fostering may be a way of answering that call.

When I was the parish priest of Forster, I helped established a partnership between the parish and CatholicCare to provide daily sit-down meals in the parish hall. There is something deeply affirming about being invited to sit at a table with a tablecloth, crockery and cutlery. It may seem like simple things, but they communicate an important truth: you are valued, you are respected, and you belong. Such moments can restore dignity as surely as a meal satisfies hunger. Today, Community Kitchens operate in Toronto, Forster and Taree, while CatholicCare also partners with St Vincent de Paul to provide hot food in Civic Park on Saturday evenings. Together, these ministries remind us that charity is not only about meeting immediate needs; it is about building relationships and helping people rediscover hope.

As members of Christ's Body, each of us shares responsibility for caring for those in need. I invite you to support in some way the work of CatholicCare through prayer, volunteering, financial support, using its social enterprises, or perhaps considering whether foster care may be part of your own response to God's call. Whenever we reach out to another person with generosity and compassion, we make visible the love of Christ. Through these simple acts of charity, we help create a community where no one is left out, where every person is treated with dignity, and where all can know that they are valued, loved and not alone.

They encounter people not simply as clients, but as individuals made in the image and likeness of God, deserving of dignity, respect and hope.

Fr Greg, Parish Priest

We acknowledge the Awabakal and Worimi peoples - the traditional custodians of these lands.

The Parish Diary…

34th week in Ordinary Time, Year 2

Mon 23 Nov
- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 5.30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Tues 24 Nov *Sts Andrew Dũng-Lạc, priest, and companions, martyrs*
- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wed 25 Nov
- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thur 26 Nov
- 7:30am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton
- 5:30pm Mass at Seafarers, Wickham

Fri 27 Nov
- 10:15am Mass @ The Junction (St Joseph's school Mass)
- 11:00am Exposition, Adoration and Reconciliation @The Cathedral
- 12.05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sat 28 Nov
- 9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by Reconciliation

First Sunday of Advent

Sat 28 Nov
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 29 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*



Giving Tree

We are asking for donations of gifts for children aged 0-17 years who are supported through CatholicCare programs in our region. Your kindness will make a big difference to a child's Christmas.

Unwrapped gifts can be brought to the parish office on weekdays, or to Masses at the Cathedral from next weekend.

Prayer Requests



Recently Deceased: Judith Vial, Owen Onida, Kristine Cozens-Brown, Sr Coral-Ann Flemming rsj, John Turyn, Joan Bowen, Leonie Casey

Anniversaries: Paul Mather, Romeo Ling, John Yu, Lourdes Yu, Francois Ragoo, Murielle Teeluck, Anthony O'Beirne, Eric O'Beirne and Dolores Hamilton, Michael Hill

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, Allan Boys, Sinéad Williams

***Columban Calendars** are now available from the parish office. Cost $10.*

***From Monday,** 23 November, there will be Mass at The Cathedral on Mondays at 5.30pm*

Our Columbaria

Those with November anniversaries of death:

At The Cathedral:
David Bound
Monica Bound
Colleen Bryde
Anne Veronica (Bonnie) Cook-Moore
Mary Ferry
Gwen Fuge
Neil Gibson
Kevin Hayes
Frank Holmes
Gwydir (Gwen) Holmes
Desmond (Des) Ledlin
Paul Mather
Elva Letitia Murphy
Helen Murray
Peter Murray
Antonietta Rossetti
Andrea Rufo
Mary Scott
Mary Synott
Marceline Tynan
Pauline Wenman

At St Joseph's:
Thelma Mateer
Gloria Brown
Frederick Bruyn
Betty Grant
Mary Henderson
Pat Koch
John Maher
Michael McGlynn
Nancy Struck
Lionel Skinner
Byron Vial
Maureen Callen
Marie Tynan
Edward (Ted) Jordan
Dawn O'Doherty
Denis Griffin
Peter Grime
Robet Palmer

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



"Presence" Advent Program 2026



Advent

starts

Next Sunday!

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.

For those who ordered them, the books are now available at the Parish Office.

Correct change would be appreciated but not essential!



Join us for an incredible afternoon of Beach Volleyball at **Newcastle Beach volleyball nets** and some optional evening dinner hangout!

Contact: Henrique
Number: 0411174407
Email: henriqueantevere08@gmail.com

You are also invited to **Adoration and a Holy Hour** on Wednesday 9 December in The Cathedral starting at 6pm.

Parents' Alpha with Little Ones

After school drop-off, why not join us for a cuppa, conversation and connection with other parents? Bring your little ones along to Parents' Alpha, a welcoming space to explore life, faith and meaning while your children enjoy our Children's Ministry program.

Fridays, 9:30am-11:30am, commenced Friday 13 November at the Diocesan Resource Centre (Next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral).
All parents are warmly welcome.
Register via QR code or contact mary-anne.deluca@mn.catholic.org.au for more details.

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.

Parish Group Meetings






Book Club is in recess in December and January, resuming February. 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 will be meeting on Thursday 26 November in the former parish office, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction.

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; Men's Rosary first Saturday of the month after 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.

The Chuckle



Did you hear about the cheese factory explosion?
There was nothing left but de-brie.

Children's Liturgy



As we enter the joyful season of Advent, our parish is delighted to launch our first Children's Liturgy during the Sunday morning Mass at the Cathedral on 6th December 2026.

Children aged 5 to 12 years are warmly invited to join this special program, where they can explore and reflect on the Gospel in a way that is meaningful, engaging, and suited to their age. Our Children's Liturgy team has recently completed their formation and compliance and is excited to welcome the children, helping them grow in faith and deepen their understanding of God's Word.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for their dedication and commitment to this wonderful ministry. We look forward to welcoming our young parishioners on this exciting faith journey!

Please scan the QR code to sign up!

Purchase a Caritas Australia Global Gift this Christmas

With Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, you can give a meaningful Christmas card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Whether you're shopping for family, friends or colleagues, you'll find a gift that continues to make a real difference long after Christmas Day.

Each Global Gift card you buy helps make the world a little better every day. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school.
Give a gift this Christmas that reflects the true spirit of giving and makes a lasting impact.

Browse the full range of Global Gifts: https://www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts



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.

Exhibition

Celebrating the Life and Work of Fr Julian Tenison Woods

October Until 20 December, Diocesan Resource Centre
Monday and Friday 10am-5pm, 1st and 3rd Saturday of the Month 10am-2pm.

Inspired by Sr Jan Tranter's recently published book, the exhibition offers a unique insight into Fr Wood's life through geological specimens, photographs, books, a looping presentation and other historical materials.
Learn More:
https://tinyurl.com/CDMNJTWoods

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/

40th Anniversary of Saint John Paul II's Historic Alice Springs Address

Sunday 29 November, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

As we light the Candle of Hope on the First Sunday of Advent, we commemorate a significant moment in the life of the Church in Australia: Saint John Paul II's historic Alice Springs address of 29 November 1986. This Mass will include

- Smoking Ceremony
- Traditional Welcome by an Elder
- Cultural Dance and Song
- Yidaki (Didgeridoo) Players
- Prayer and reflection inspired by Saint John Paul's message
- Morning Tea on the grass grounds.

To Learn More: https://tinyurl.com/CDMNJPIIAliceSprings

or email
Mission@mn.catholic.org.au

SRE & Children's Ministry Reflection Day with Bishop Michael

Thursday 17 December, 9.30am-2pm, Tea Gardens

Join us for a special day of reflection, renewal, and community as we gather for the SRE & Children's Ministry Reflection Day with Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Learn more: https://tinyurl.com/CDMNChildrensMinistry

Position Vacant

– Financial Administrator – Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar

The Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar are currently seeking applications for a Financial Administrator to work with the Congregation Leader and Team to manage the financial and material resources of the Sisters. The position is based at the Congregational Administration Centre in Warners Bay, with applications closing on 30 November 2026. Further details and a full statement of duties are available from louise.gilchrist @ssjl.org.au; ph. 02 49 484063.

Safeguarding: Indicators of Reportable Abuse

Maltreatment of children and vulnerable adults can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, financial abuse and neglect. Recognising the warning signs is essential to protecting individuals from harm.

Physical indicators may include unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, frequent injuries or injuries that do not match the explanation given. Emotional indicators can include anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, withdrawal, fearfulness, sudden behavioural changes or becoming unusually quiet around certain people. Sexual abuse indicators may include inappropriate sexualised behaviour, knowledge beyond developmental age, unexplained sexually transmitted infections, injuries or reluctance to be alone with particular individuals. Neglect indicators include poor personal hygiene, malnutrition, untreated medical conditions, unsuitable clothing, unsafe living conditions or lack of appropriate supervision and care. Financial abuse indicators may include unexplained withdrawals, missing belongings, changes to financial arrangements, unpaid bills or another person controlling their money without consent.

Other warning signs include social isolation, fear of a particular person, reluctance to speak openly and changes in relationships or daily routines.

It is important to remember that one indicator does not automatically prove abuse, but concerns should be taken seriously. Suspected abuse with a record of factual observations, including dates, times and details of incidents should be reported to http://officeofsafeguarding.org.au, (02) 4923 0636

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Coming soon to a church near you!

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

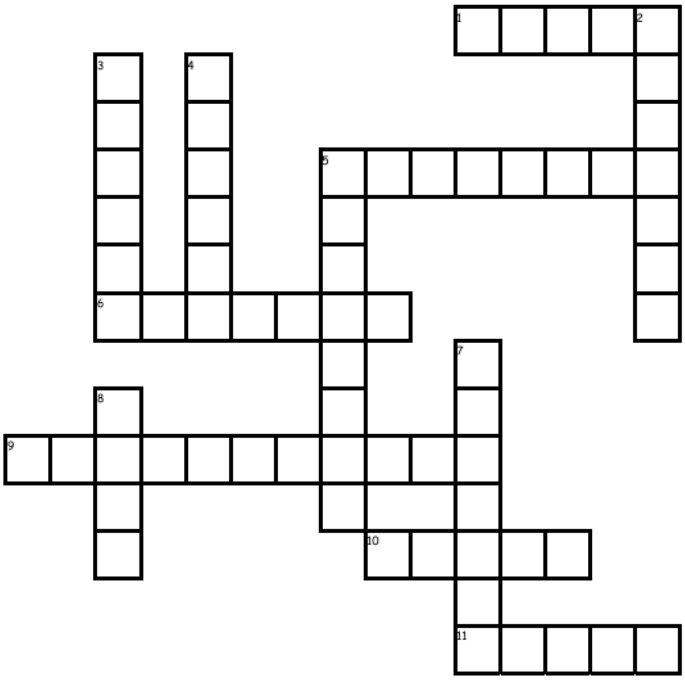
San Clemente High School: Emma South *(Principal)*
78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
(02) 4014 7300
www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic's Catholic College: Rachel Jones *(Principal)*
76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
(02) 4968 1295
www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au

CROSSWORD

Come and receive the kingdom that is prepared for you

Mt 25:31-46



Across

1: the opposite of left
5: someone you don't know
6: life that is forever is said to be this
9: of little or no importance
10: the Son of Man will come in g_ _ _ _
11: an animal that is farmed for its wool

Down

2: in need of a drink
3: ahead, previously
4: a special chair for kings and queens
5: to split into groups
7: people of all _ _ _ _ _ _ _ will be brought before the Son of Man
8: unwell

Christ the King, Year A

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

I will lead you and watch over you

Ez 34:11-12, 14-16abce
Ps 23:1-2ab, 2c-3, 5-6, R. v.1
1 Cor 15:20-24a
Mt 25:31-46

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

Try to find these words:

Adam
bandage
dark
end
eternal
glory
lost
right
sheep
shepherd
stranger
throne



Multicultural Christmas Concert

Sacred Heart Cathedral - Sunday 6 December 7pm
Admission: Free. A collection will take place to cover the expenses for the night.
Our theme this year is "seeking peace in a troubled world".
Further information available from Joop de Wit on 0412 671 848 or 4954 5227

Today's Liturgy of the Word



First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. (R.)

2. Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. (R.)

3. 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.)

4. 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: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation: Mark 11:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

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Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Advent, Year B



Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Planning Ahead



For the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, we invite the children to come dressed as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds or kings.

On the 3rd weekend in January we celebrate the feast of **Santo Niño** ("Holy Child"), a feast originating in the Philippines. For the Vigil Mass on 16 January, bring your statues of the child Jesus, or any statue, for a special blessing.

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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