



Sacred Heart Cathedral,  
Hamilton



St Joseph's,  
The Junction



St Mary, Star of the Sea,  
Newcastle



Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Tighes Hill



St Laurence O'Toole's,  
Broadmeadow



Christ the King,  
Mayfield West



St Peter-in-Chains',  
Stockton

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

## SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH 2020 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.*

*Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.*

### Clergy in the Region

Fr Andrew Doohan  
Fr James Odoh  
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

### Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction  
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291  
P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644  
E: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
W: [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)

### Regional Office Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager*)  
Anne Warren (*Administration*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music, Liturgy & Sacramental Program*)

### Other Contacts

**Lingard Hospital Team** Contact the Regional Office  
**Mercy Pastoral Team** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116  
**St Joseph's Pastoral Team** Contact the Regional Centre

### Regional Bulletin

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

*The following is taken from a letter dated Thursday, 19 March 2020, from Bishop Bill Wright, detailing the Maitland-Newcastle diocese's response as we confront the COVID-19 pandemic.*

"...On 18 March 2020, the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research made an Order under section 7 of the *Public Health Act 2010*. The *Public Health (COVID-19 Mass Gatherings) Order 2020* ('the Order') took effect from 5pm on 18 March 2020 and will remain in effect until midnight on 16 June 2020 unless repealed earlier.

**The effect of the Order is to prohibit any gathering of more than 500 persons in a single undivided outdoor space, or of more than 100 persons in a single undivided indoor space.**

**There is no exception under the Order for religious events**, and so the Order and its prohibitions apply to the liturgical life of the Church, particularly the celebration of Sunday Masses and other major liturgical events in the immediately foreseeable future. Section 10 of the *Public Health Act 2010* makes it an offence to not comply with a direction contained in an Order made by the Minister and significant penalties apply.

As we wish to take all reasonable and proportionate precautions to ensure the good health of all concerned, and taking account of the directives of the Government authorities, I advise that the following provisions are to be observed within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle **with immediate effect**, and until otherwise notified. Note that this affects arrangements for this weekend.

- 1. The public celebration of Mass is suspended until further notice.** This suspension applies to both Sunday Mass and Weekday Mass, and includes Sunday Celebrations of the Word (with Communion) and weekday Liturgies of the Word (with Communion).
- 2. All members of the faithful, other than priests, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.** Members of the faithful should observe the holiness of Sunday by observing one of the options listed in the Appendix document, which is available in the churches.
- 3. Priests of the Diocese will continue to celebrate Mass on Sundays...** offering it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation.
- 4. While there will not be a public celebration, I or my Vicar General will celebrate Sunday Mass in the Cathedral each week.** The Diocese is currently investigating arrangements for livestreaming the Cathedral Mass. Further details to follow when they are available.

... These provisions may appear, at first glance, to be an extreme response to the crisis facing our nation. They

are certainly a painful sacrifice of sacred practices that are at the heart of Catholic life. They are accepted, however, as something which we can do in the interests of the common good and our neighbours' health and safety. We look forward to the time when they will not be required, when we can once again celebrate the very heart of who we are as Church, the 'source and summit' of the Christian life that is Eucharist.

This time of crisis is an opportunity for all members of the Church to come together in prayer for our world, for our nation, and for each other. The solidarity of praying together – even when physically separated – is a reminder of the common baptismal priesthood that we all share, and which we are called to exercise in the current situation. Coming together in solidarity of prayer is one concrete way in which we, the Church, can contribute to an increase in healing, compassion, and love across our fragile world...

I strongly urge all members of the Diocese to take appropriate measures to protect themselves, their loved ones, and other members of the community. We should be considerate of others' needs by not hoarding things for our own use and by checking on neighbours who may be less able to care for themselves...I thank you for your support in implementing the temporary measures necessary to ensure the health and safety of our brothers and sisters in the Church, as well as our fellow citizens in the broader community."

Yours in Christ, Most Reverend William Wright

#### **IMPORTANT TO NOTE!**

The COVID-19 situation means the public celebrations of the Chrism Mass, the ceremonies of Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum are all cancelled.

The Sacramental Program in the Region will not proceed this year. Enrolments will be deferred until 2021.

Reconciliation will be available at the Cathedral from 11am to 12 noon on Fridays and on Saturdays from 10.30am.

There will be no Mass at the Cathedral on Fridays.

There will be no Novena, nor Mass at the Cathedral on Saturdays.

Until further notice, there will be no meetings of parish groups in the region. This includes the City Region Catholic Centre at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction.

The monthly baptism meeting will not be held.

Special conditions will apply to the celebration of baptisms, weddings and funerals.

**Contact arrangements for the  
Regional Office**

Until further notice, please do not attend the  
Regional Office at 25 Farquhar Street,  
The Junction in person.

All inquiries are to be made via email to  
newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au  
or by phone on 4979 1101

*A Coronavirus Prayer*

*Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages  
"curing every disease and illness". At your command,  
the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the  
midst of the global spread of the Coronavirus, that we  
may experience your healing love.*

*Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they  
regain their strength and health through quality  
medical care.*

*Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from  
working together and neighbours from helping one  
another.*

*Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim  
invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.  
Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time  
of uncertainty and sorrow.*

*Be with those who have died from the virus. May they  
be at rest with you in your eternal peace.*

*Be with the families of those who are sick or have  
died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from  
illness and despair. May they know your peace.*

*Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all  
medical professionals who seek to heal and help  
those affected and who put themselves at risk in the  
process. May they know your protection and peace.*

*Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the  
foresight to act with charity and true concern for the  
well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give  
them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that  
will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May  
they know your peace, as they work together to  
achieve it on earth.*

*Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by  
many people suffering from this illness or only a few,  
Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn,  
persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us  
your peace.*

*Jesus Christ, heal us.*

*Amen*

**First Reading 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David  
king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. 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.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. 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.)
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 Eph 5:8-14**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

## **Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## **Gospel Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.'

Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

## **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come,  
I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;  
never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

## **IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**ANNIVERSARY:** Barry Gordon, Maurice Craddock, Kate Booker, Sr Marguerite Chapman rsj, Phoebe Bourke, Fr Patrick Grace, Fr William Hourigan, Bishop Patrick Dwyer, Fr Edward Quinn

**SICK:** Bill Parker, Elizabeth Evans, Terry Davies, John Belcher, Libby Oates, Graeme Burrage, Brian Swift, Monica Bound, Peter McCabe, Joan Haynes, Tom Towers, Kerry Davies, Lawson Rankin, Patricia (Pat) Gillett

*Names may be placed here by contacting the  
Regional Office. Please refer to the Policy  
Document on the Regional website—visit  
[www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*

