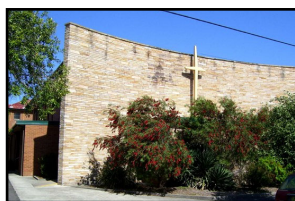


Sacred Heart Cathedral,  
Hamilton



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, 12TH APRIL 2020**  
**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

*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  
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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.

### IMPORTANT TO NOTE!

The COVID-19 situation means the churches are all now closed and public celebrations of Mass and sacraments are all cancelled. This includes all weekday and weekend Masses. There will be no baptisms, nor will reconciliation be available in any church.

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

Attendance at weddings is limited to the bride and groom, the celebrant and two witnesses (five people in total). Attendance at funerals is limited to ten mourners. In both instances, the 'one person per 4 square metres' rule must be observed.

While we cannot currently run our regular book club meetings, we have an alternative! 'Zoom' technology offers free video conferencing for sessions of up to 40 minutes. We will use this for our next book club meeting at 6.30pm on Sunday, 3rd May, when we will share our thoughts on the book, *The Museum of Modern Love*, by Heather Rose. If you would like to participate in future book club meetings, please email the parish office to request instructions.



### **Current contact arrangements for the Regional Office**

Please do not attend the office at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction in person.

All inquiries are to be made via email to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or by phone on 4979 1101

### *HE IS RISEN!*

This day is a day of celebration.

Jesus is ALIVE today.

Jesus is ALIVE in what we do and say.

Every time we smile at someone, every time we check in on someone, Jesus is present.



*May the joy of the Risen Christ be with you and those whom you love, this Easter season and always, and may we all carry the light of the Resurrection to those we encounter.*

**Bishop Bill will be celebrating Sunday Mass** in the Cathedral and he invites you to join with him in prayer from home. You will be able to watch by Ctrl + clicking on this link at 9.30am on Sunday: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/> ...or use the same link to watch at a later time. Share the link with family and friends, and let's gather online to pray as a community at this difficult time of physical isolation.

To support your prayer life, you can also access resources from the following links:

<http://mnnews.today/>

[www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus)

[www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess](http://www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/generalaccess)

[www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray](http://www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/mn/pray)

[www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au)

Lumen Christi YouTube Channel

### **City Pastoral Region Online and Telephone groups**

Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region have started two groups to connect and pray with each other. You and your friends are welcome to join.

#### ***Praying the Sunday Gospel***

Each Tuesday 5.00-5.45pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/147952077>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 147952077#

#### ***Praying the Rosary***

Each Thursday 5.30-5.50pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/654882094>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 654882094#

**Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches.** *We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.*

Gracious God, we give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with Him after His resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2, 16-17,22-23. R. v.24**

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

**Second Reading Col 3:1-4**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the

life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

**Sequence**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,

hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;

shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you  
into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

**Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Jn 20:1-9**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

### *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.



### EASTER MESSAGE 2020 – Bishop Bill Wright

#### *A time for hopeful people*

Easter comes upon us this year in most extraordinary and difficult times. We have been taken unawares by the suddenness with which COVID-19 has spread throughout the world, and we do not know when we shall see an end of it or what to expect in the meantime. Already there have been many, many deaths and, in response, whole societies have more or less shut down, travel has ceased, and daily work has been put on hold. We do not touch each other, we speak at a distance, and we do not know for how long life will be like this.

Into this fearful, apprehensive world comes the story of Easter. For many, of course, it is just that, a story. In a time of great scepticism about religions, indeed, it can be represented as a story that churches have told to keep their people in a state of dependence and conformity, a false hope that keeps people coming back to the church for the lifeline to God and heaven that the world cannot provide. Many will read my remarks today in exactly that sense.

For believers, however, the death and rising of Jesus are not a story, but a memory. That memory was first spoken of by people who had been broken by loss and grief and fear. That had just seen how all that was dark and unpredictable in the world had put an end to a man and his movement that had been all about love and goodness. They were shattered and hopeless when, all unexpectedly, Jesus rose from the dead. What happens to us in this world then took on an entirely different meaning. His suffering and dying had been very real. Yes, life and the world can be full of awful things and the cost of goodness and hope can be very high. But ultimately life is not a series of meaningless tragedies. Ultimately the universe is not indifferent to our living and dying. Ultimately God is a Father who cares and who, having loved us into existence in the first place, will love us through all the ups and downs, and will love us to the end and, indeed, beyond the end.

Easter faith is a finely balanced thing. It takes Good Friday with full seriousness. Actually, it was one of the first recognised heresies to suggest that Jesus's suffering and death weren't real and terrible. Hence all the hospitals and leprosaria, the charities and social reformers of Christian history. We are to take the human suffering of others very seriously and to fight it resolutely. But we also look to how Jesus bore his own suffering and to see how that transformed a meaningless evil into an act of love. Hence, we accept that we must go on doing good and thinking of others' needs before our own, even when that costs us dearly. So, in the midst of difficulties such as we have today, we are to be there for one another and not let fear induce us to think only of number one. Finally, our faith takes Easter morning seriously. What we do in this life has meaning beyond the present. Christianity cannot be stripped of its belief in the promise of eternal life. That hope is the central message of Easter. Death is not meant to be, or going to be, the end of us.

Right now, the world needs hopeful people and, if they've really heard the good news of Easter, that is what Christians are. It is Easter hope that frees us up for service of others, even at cost to ourselves. It is that hope that separates reasonable caution from obsessive fear for myself. It is the confidence we have to face whatever comes. Yes, we may hope that science will overcome COVID-19. Yes, we may hope that economic measures will enable societies to recover. But above all, we have the hope that, if all else fails as it did in the life of Jesus Christ, we are yet in the hands of the God who raised Jesus even from death.

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



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Renato D'Amico

**ANNIVERSARY:** Fr Patrick Hallinan,  
Fr Leo Driscoll, Fr Michael Dwyer, Fr James Walsh,  
Fr Michael Barron, Faye Martin

**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

**SPECIAL INTENTION:** Please pray for all those  
throughout the world who are affected by COVID-19

*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).*