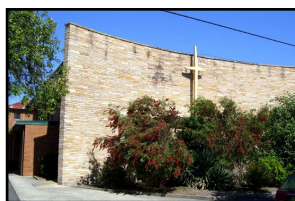




Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hamilton



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, 19TH APRIL 2020 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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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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 or by phone on 4979 1101

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Maurice Kerr, Helen McEnearney

ANNIVERSARY:

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.

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 Crtl + 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.

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.



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#

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (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.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his
sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we
have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance
that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade
away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith, God's power will guard you until
the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at
the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you,
even though you may for a short time have to bear
being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus
Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and
proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold,
which is corruptible even though it bears testing by
fire – and then you will have praise and glory and
honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and
still without seeing him, you are already filled with a
joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because
you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your
faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen
me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among
them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the
week, the doors were closed in the room where the
disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and
stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with
you,' and showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the
Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came. When the
disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered,
'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his
hands and can put my finger into the holes they
made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I
refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again
and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed,
but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be
with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your
finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your
hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but
believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus
said to him: 'You believe because you can see
me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet
believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and
the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this
book. These are recorded so that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that
believing this you may have life through his name.

**Prayers and a bouquet
of Masses during the
coronavirus pandemic**



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

The coronavirus pandemic is testing all of us, but as people of faith, we believe in the power of prayer. At this time there is so much to pray for; those who have the virus, those who are losing their jobs, those who are scared, those who lead us, those who we love, and those who have died.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is arranging a spiritual bouquet of Masses, imploring the graces each of us need at this time. ACN will give the Mass offerings to poor priests who have no other means of material support and the priests will offer Mass for the intentions of the benefactor. Mass is the most perfect prayer and prayer is multiplied when united. It is as if each person brings a single rose, yet when combined, the beauty is shared by all. When we cannot currently attend Mass and receive the Eucharist, this unites the participants to a Mass that is offered for their intentions. To participate, please contact ACN by phone on 1800 101201, or visit www.aidtochurch.org/coronavirus



**Prayer during the coronavirus
pandemic**

Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for your nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms and help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet
(using Rosary beads)**

Step 1: Introductory Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross, then say the following prayer:

"You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!"

Step 2: First Three Prayers

On the first three beads above the crucifix, pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostles Creed.

Step 3: Eternal Father Prayer

Then on the first Our Father bead, say the Eternal Father prayer:

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Thy dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

Step 4: Sorrowful Passion Prayer

After each Eternal Father prayer, on the ten Hail Mary beads, say the following prayer:

"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

(Repeat Steps 3 and 4 for all five decades).

Step 5: Holy God Prayer

Say the Holy God prayer, repeated three times:

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Step 6: Concluding Prayer

"Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself."

