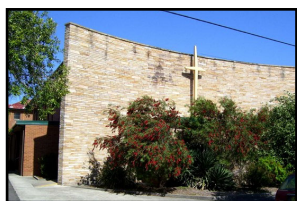




Sacred Heart Cathedral,
Hamilton



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, 3RD MAY 2020 4TH 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
P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: 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 book club meeting at 6.30pm this 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: Brian Chiarelli

ANNIVERSARY: John Keeling

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.



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.

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#

For anyone who has Project Compassion boxes, please hold off on returning them until our Churches are open again and the normal Mass schedule resumes. Thank you.



First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. 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 1 Pt 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, is the World Day of Vocations known as Good Shepherd Sunday.

The name derives from the gospel reading for the day, where Christ is described as the "Good Shepherd" who lays down his life for his sheep.



Please pray for vocations:

LORD of the Harvest,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—

for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

Pope Francis

(Adapted from the Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations.)

Praying the Rosary in the Month of May

Pope Francis has asked us to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary. By doing so we will be united with believers around the world, asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.

"Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, our mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican on 25th April.

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view."

"You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow."



Pope Francis wrote two prayers to Mary that can be recited at the end of the rosary, prayers he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you." Both prayers acknowledge Mary's closeness to her son's followers and ask for her protection and for her intercession - just as she interceded with Jesus on behalf of the newlyweds at Cana who had run out of wine for their wedding feast.

Pope Francis' prayers also include specific intentions for those who are sick, for those who care for them, for those who have died and those who mourn for them, for scientists seeking cures and vaccines and for government leaders who must find a way to protect their people.



Pope Francis' Prayers

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but
deliver us always from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world
is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother
of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your
protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid
this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are
distraught and mourn their loved ones who have
died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves
them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned
for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to
prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to
them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the
uncertainty of the future and the consequences for
the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God,
the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may
end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead
with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the
families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and
their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and
volunteers who are on the frontline of this
emergency, and are risking their lives to save others.
Support their heroic effort and grant them strength,
generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day,
and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and
fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support
everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women
engaged in scientific research, that they may find
effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom,
solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of
those lacking the basic necessities of life and may
devise social and economic solutions inspired by
farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the
enormous funds invested in developing and
stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting
effective research on how to prevent similar
tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all
members of one great family and to recognise the
bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity
and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless
situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in
faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your
children in distress and pray that God will stretch out
his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible
pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal
course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of
salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O
Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

*"Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all
members of one great family and to recognize the
bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity
and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless
situations of poverty and need."*

How to Pray the Rosary

1. On the crucifix, make the sign of the cross and then pray the Apostles' Creed.
2. On the next *large* bead, say the Our Father.
3. On the following three small beads, pray three Hail Marys.
4. On the *chain*, pray the Glory Be.
5. On the large bead, meditate on the first mystery and pray the Our Father.
6. On the ten beads after that, pray a Hail Mary on each bead; on the chain, pray a Glory Be.

Repeat Steps 5 and 6 four more times to finish the next four decades.

Say the Hail Holy Queen:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Concluding Prayer:

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation; grant we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mondays and Saturdays:

The Joyful Mysteries remind the faithful of Christ's birth: The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38); The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56); The Nativity (Luke 2:1–21); The Presentation (Luke 2:22–38); The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

Tuesdays and Fridays:

The Sorrowful Mysteries recall Jesus' passion and death: The Agony of Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26:36–56); The Scourging at the Pillar (Matthew 27:26); The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31); The Carrying of the Cross (Matthew 27:32); The Crucifixion (Matthew 27:33–56).

Wednesdays and Sundays:

The Glorious Mysteries focus on the resurrection of Jesus and the glories of heaven: The Resurrection (John 20:1–29); The Ascension (Luke 24:36–53); The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–41); The Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God, into heaven; The Coronation of Mary in heaven.

Thursdays:

Pope John Paul II added The Mysteries of Light, also known as the Luminous Mysteries, in 2002: The Baptism in the River Jordan (Matthew 3:13–16); The Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1–11); The Preaching of the coming of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15); The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8); The Institution of the Holy Eucharist (Matthew 26).

