



Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Sacred Heart Cathedral is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, a church of St Benedict's Parish, Inner Newcastle, and part of the City Pastoral Region.

Our People

Fr Andrew Doohan VG (*Rector of the Cathedral*)
Email: rector@sacredhearthamilton.org.au
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music*)

Our Social Media

Website: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au
Facebook: @SHCHamilton
Twitter: @HeartHamilton
YouTube: SacredHeartCathedralHamilton

Our Bulletin Our Bulletin is published weekly, and is also posted on our website each Saturday. Please submit any prayer requests or items for inclusion in the Bulletin via the Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

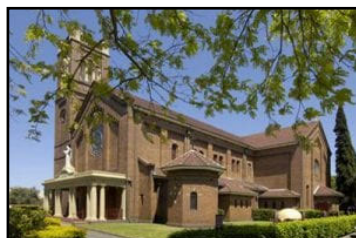
Our Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Office Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
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Sacred Heart Cathedral sits on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.



We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and their continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past, present and future, and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

At this time of the year we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness:

*Prepare
the way
of the
LORD.*

Can we include some time to **pray**, to **reflect** on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and **seek** reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations?

CATHEDRAL DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Second Week of Advent

Monday—7 December

Memorial of St Ambrose

8:15am Mass

Tuesday—8 December

Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass

Wednesday—9 December

8:15am Mass

Thursday—10 December

8:15am Mass

6pm Choir Practice @ The Cathedral

Friday—11th December

8:15am Mass

11am Exposition (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation

12:05pm Mass

Saturday—12th December

10am Reconciliation

Sunday—13th December

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am Mass

Live streamed via the Cathedral's YouTube channel

11:30am Polish Mass

5pm Mass

LIVE-STREAMING NOTICE

The 9.30am Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral is live-streamed (and recorded) each week. The camera is located under the choir loft and faces towards the sanctuary, though it can be directed to various parts of the Cathedral if needed.

Parishioners should be aware that they may be filmed during the celebration of the 9.30am Mass. This filming will mostly capture their image from behind. We cannot guarantee, however, that their faces will not be featured on the live-stream or recording, particularly the case during the Communion Procession. The live-stream will make use of multiple camera angles to minimise the identification of individuals as much as possible, but this will not eliminate the possibility of being filmed.

Parishioners with concerns about being filmed or recorded should speak with the Cathedral's Rector in the first instance.

PARISH NOTICES

PRAYING THE GOSPELS THROUGH ADVENT: Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region and across the Diocese are invited to connect and pray with each other from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and through artist's images of the Gospel message. Each Wednesday 5—5.45pm. You and your friends are welcome to join via the internet:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/92777151360>

Password: Prayer

BOOK CLUB meets at 6pm on Sunday 6 December to share our thoughts on the book, *The Survivors*, by Jane Harper.

If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please send an email to the Regional Office, newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

MISSION TO SEAFARERS: Christmas is fast approaching! Over the next few weeks, we'll be asking for donations of specific items to include in Christmas packs for seafarers.

To start with, we're collecting: 1,000 packs of razors, 1,000 bottles of shampoo, 1,000 bottles of conditioners.

Christmas is usually a difficult time for seafarers and this year seafarers are going to feel the separation from their families even more acutely.

Last year, with your help, we managed to supply 850 packs to seafarers far from home. However, this year, we hope to reach 1,000 seafarers.

CAROLS ACROSS THE HUNTER

Rhema FM will present a video stream featuring churches and groups from across the Hunter performing Christmas carols.

The event will be streaming on their Facebook page, Youtube channel and at www.CarolsAcrossTheHunter.com.au at **6pm on Saturday, December 19.**

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir will be performing as well as the newly formed **Sacred Heart Schola Cantorum. Don't miss it!!**



COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

Maximum Number of Persons in Cathedral

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated as the lesser of allowing 4 square metres per person within the building, or 300 persons.

In the Cathedral, that limit is **110 persons**.

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, except funerals (limit is 100 persons).

Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (e.g. Mass, weddings, funerals, Baptisms, etc.).

If a 'discrete' group attends, e.g. a family, a husband and wife, people from the same household etc., only one (adult) member of the group is required to provide their contact details.

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival.

A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details. It is also possible to use your mobile phone with either the Service NSW QR Code or the third-party QR Code which are accessible via the posters at the doors.

General Requirements

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, refraining from communal singing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

Requirements for Attending Mass

There is presently no need to register in advance to attend Mass. If you wish to attend Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

Entrances to the Cathedral

We will now revert to using the main doors of the Cathedral for both weekend and weekday Masses.

REACHING BEYOND 2020



People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment.

See www.palms.org.au, email palms@palms.org.au, or talk to Roger on 0431 995 058



The Vinnies Christmas Appeal launches this weekend and you are asked to be as generous as possible to assist those who will struggle this Christmas.

The Society also starts collecting goods for Christmas Hampers, over three Sundays—29 November, 6 December, and 13 December. While any contribution on any Sunday will be very much appreciated, we focus on tinned goods and packet foods such as pasta and rice, followed by breakfast foods and finally sweets, treats and toiletries.

For more information and details about the importance of the survey, go to Liturgy Matters
To complete the survey go to: [surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy)
If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.

What liturgical growth needs fostering?
What suggestions do you have for our liturgical response in future crises?
What were the liturgical challenges and opportunities you experienced during COVID-19?
What liturgical insights and questions do you have as a result of your experience?
What did you find helpful? Unhelpful?
What could we let go of?

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live



www.mn.catholic.org.au

DOMN COVID-19 LITURGY REFLECTIONS SURVEY

Let your voice be heard! The DoMN COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live! This is an important opportunity to voice your liturgical insights and experiences during COVID-19.

If you do not have access to a computer, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy. Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturgy>

TWO GOSPELS

by Fr Michael Tate

An inscription has been found dating back to nine years before Jesus of Nazareth was born. It celebrates the birthday of the Emperor Augustus whom it describes as a god and announces that his birth was the beginning of 'gospel' (good news) for the world.

Around the mid 60s, in the midst of a terrible persecution of Christians in Rome, a document was written by St Mark which took aim squarely at this pretension of such Roman Emperors.

It has a title which announces itself: 'Beginning of the "gospel" (good news) about Jesus, Christ, the Son of God.'

St Mark is telling us that a great contest is going to unfold between the emperors of this world and the figure of Jesus. And the superior Gospel will be that of Jesus because he *is* the Christ, he *is* Son of God.

There will be a battle as to who will reign over the world, a battle which will not be won by overwhelming military power but with ... with what, by whom?

Here, St Mark immediately introduces the strange figure of John the Baptist to start to supply the answer. He was a man living in dire poverty scavenging for the honey of wild bees and eating grasshoppers.

He attracted quite a following to the River Jordan where he would immerse his disciples in water. The Greek word for plunging someone into water is 'baptiseo'. So John was called, 'John the Immerser', or 'John the Drencher' = 'John the Baptist'.

But John realised that the baptism he performed was only half the story. It symbolised the washing away of sins. It put the past in the past and prepared his followers for the future, but he could not bring about that future. John knew he did not have the power to effect a completely new future for humanity.

But what if someone came on the scene who *could* inundate people, flood their lives with Divine Power? John's baptism would pale by comparison. This is why John says: 'Someone is following me, someone more powerful than I am ... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

There is someone who can immerse, dip, drench people in the Holy Spirit, in the dynamic life of God. John does not identify the 'Someone', but we know that the 'Someone' is the One announced in the heading: 'Jesus Christ, Son of God'.

He is the One who will inaugurate the reign of God, and the reign of the Emperor will be superseded. That is *the Good News*. That is *the Gospel*.

There is a superior dynamism at work in human history: the Holy Spirit. Christians have been immersed in that Spirit when they were baptised as the Lord commanded, '... in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

The emperors of this world, over the centuries and even today, the emperors of this world: political supremos, social elites, financial overlords, force or brainwash people to do them homage, to bend the knee, like Augustus, to treat them as gods.

But there is a worldwide community with a different allegiance. Sometimes, actually quite often, we need to remember that we are a worldwide community of dissidents: a worldwide community which sees that most emperors have no clothes.

This is the worldwide community baptised into 'the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' This Spirit-filled community, the Church at its best, introduces a new dynamic into human history.

That is bad news for most emperors. It is very good news, very good Gospel for the whole world, for the whole of human history.

© Fr Michael Tate. <http://www.liturgyhelp.com.au>



IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Catherine Horner, Francis Sleishman, Doreen Fox

ANNIVERSARIES: Julia Kelly, Gladys Broad, Wallace Henry Humphries, Fr Harry Hughes

SICK: Baby Oliver Robens, Beth Wooden, Kate Newsome.

Names may be placed here by contacting the Office. For more information, please refer to the Policy Document on the Cathedral website—visit www.sacredhearthatilton.org.au/resources

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Weekday and Sunday readings can be found at www.usccb.org



CHRISTMAS @ SACRED HEART

The Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) is one of the highlights of the Christian year, and for very good reason.

Our celebrations in 2020, however, will look significantly different to what they have in the past because of the continuing presence of COVID-19 in our community. This presence requires the observing of a number of restrictions in the way we celebrate Christmas in the Cathedral, largely concerning the number of persons who will be able to attend, and the regrettable absence of the singing together of well known carols (at least according to the rules in place when this edition goes to print).

The schedule of Christmas Masses in the Cathedral for 2020 will be:

Christmas Eve	5pm * (Currently full)
	7pm
	10pm (Polish)
Christmas Day	Midnight *
	7.30am
	9.30am *
	11.30am (Polish)

The Masses marked with an * will be live-streamed so that those unable to attend can join the worshipping assembly in a virtual fashion.

And now, the bad news.

Because of the restrictions on the number of persons who can be in the Cathedral, each of the Christmas Masses (apart from the two Polish language Masses) will need to be 'ticketed', i.e. you will need to register in advance in order to attend.

We regret the need to do this, but believe it is the only way to manage the situation efficiently and with some equity.

Registration will be via the Eventbrite website as this permits both the addition of extra spaces if public health orders change, and will also permit the easier collection of contact details of those attending.

Registration for Christmas Masses is available via the Eventbrite website (www.eventbrite.com.au) and entering the event number 127681140729 into the search function. For those without internet access, please contact Fr Andrew or the Regional Office (49791101) who will assist you.

We are giving our regular parishioners first option on registering. The event will not be placed on the Cathedral website, or our various social media outlets until the beginning of December.

In terms of registration, there are a few requests that I would make.

1. Please do not register to attend more than one Mass, as this will take up spaces that others might access. Please be considerate of your brothers and sisters.
2. Please do not register for more people than have confirmed will be attending as this too will take up spaces that others might access.
3. If you register, and subsequently determine that you are unable to attend, please let Fr Andrew know so that the space can be offered to another person.
4. Please do not assume that you can simply turn up on the evening and be admitted—only those with valid registrations will be permitted to enter the Cathedral. To do otherwise is simply unjust to those who have registered in advance.

One of the advantages of using the Eventbrite website to manage registrations for our Christmas Masses is that it is easier to increase the number of spaces available should public health orders change to permit this.

The other advantage is that the Eventbrite website allows for the creation of a 'waitlist' for each of the Masses so that if a space becomes available those seeking to attend a particular Mass can be contacted automatically.

I realise that the additional requirements necessary to attend Christmas Masses this year are burdensome, and I truly wish we had another option. We don't, however, and so I ask for your patience and cooperation as we seek to celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Fr Andrew

AdVent flection

Visit the Cathedral (www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au) or Parish (www.newcastlecatholic.org.au) and sign up at the bottom of the homepage to receive a daily 'Advent Vflection' straight to your email Inbox.

Every morning of Advent, Fr Andrew will post a fresh video reflection as part of the journey through Advent towards the celebration of Christmas.

TODAY'S LITURGY

INTROIT:

Choir: People of Zion behold,
the Lord is coming to save all nations;
and the Lord shall cause you to hear his majestic voice
for the joy of your heart.

All speak: **O Shepherd of Israel hear us,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end, Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

***Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your
salvation***

1. Let us hear what our God proclaims:
Peace to the people of God,
salvation is near to the ones who fear God.
2. Kindness and truth, justice and peace;
truth shall spring up as the water from the earth,
justice shall rain from the heavens.
3. The Lord will come and you shall know his love,
justice shall walk in his pathways,
salvation the gift that he brings.

Text: Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.;
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SECOND READING: 2 Pet 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

We pause for silent reflection.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths;
All people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with
the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father
almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS:

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free

COMMUNION HYMN:

ON JORDAN'S BANK

A VOICE CRIES OUT

RECESSIONAL: Instrumental Music

ADVENT

We're on our yearly Advent journey on the road to Christmas. On that road we encounter **John the Baptist**; indeed we can't by-pass him! He is a fiery figure calling us to examine our lives and repent.

The antiphony to the Christmas frenzy of December, John stands in the middle of the road to Christmas **shouting** *'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths'*

John calls us to make a U Turn!, to

- open our eyes to the needs of others
- discover the presence of God in our lives
- open our heart to the true beauty of Advent days

This week we hear Mark's Gospel, Chapter 1, *'The beginning of the **Gospel** of Jesus Christ, the Son of God'*.

In the first reading from Isaiah, the author considers Jerusalem to be the 'herald of glad tidings'. As we saw last Sunday, Isaiah is superb in creating powerful images when dealing with the mystery of God in our lives. This Sunday he images 'God's people' gathered in the folds of God's garments - the way a shepherd makes a large pocket out of his outer garment to carry a stray lamb.

This is our vocation as the Church, the new Jerusalem. We are the 'heralds of glad tidings' - we are a **Gospel** to others.

The sobering note of Christmas - in the midst of celebrating the coming of Christ, who came to make us free - are those who 'hate' or 'detest' Christmas.

Perhaps because they have no family to rejoice with. How can we make a difference? We can't escape John the Baptist. As a Church we need to prepare the way of the Lord for all people.

During Advent we have different sights and sounds in our liturgy and worship space.

- **Pregnant Mary:** Mary is heavily pregnant with anticipation of the birth of Jesus. We journey with her, and allow Mary to fully reveal to us the dignity and potential of our discipleship.
- **The Advent Wreath** reminds us of the eternity of God and the freshness of His love for us.
- People hang Advent Wreaths on their doors as a sign of welcome, of hospitality. We welcome Christ who comes to our home, that is our Parish Church, in the person of the stranger, the visitor.
- **Mark's Gospel** with its year-long theme of *Who is Jesus*.
- **The Music of Advent** reflects our expectations. It is neither the penitential song of Lent nor the joyful song of Christmas. The sound of the music for Advent attempts to provide a sense of beauty and profound longing and a joy-filled faith that expects fulfilment.
- **The Colour for Advent** is not the colour of Lent. In Advent the dark blue of the winter sky in Europe is replaced in the southern hemisphere by the colour of the Jacaranda. This is our native colour of Advent.

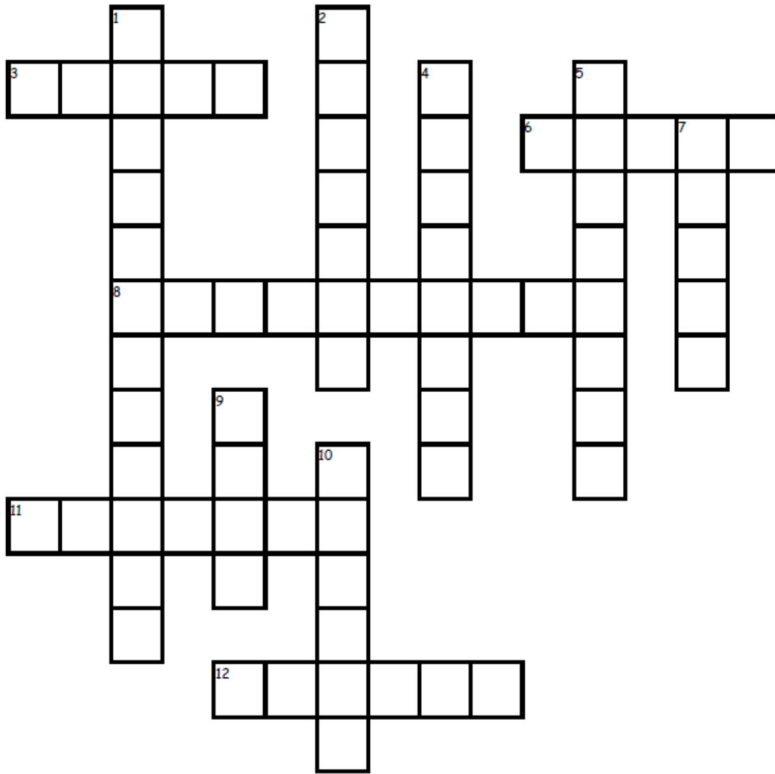


PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Parish Office will close at 5:00pm on 24 December and reopen at 9:00am on 4 January 2021.

We wish all a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas and a bright 2021.

Clear a path for the Lord



Across

- 3: what we say when we apologise
- 6: what you hear when someone speaks
- 8: John told the people God would baptise them with the H___ S_____ (two words)
- 11: to get ready
- 12: John the Baptist baptised people in this river

Down

- 1: John ate these insects
- 2: John the _____ baptised people in the Jordan River
- 4: the opposite of crooked
- 5: a very high piece of land
- 7: a large group of people
- 9: a pathway used by vehicles
- 10: a hot and sandy place

Clear a path for the Lord

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

Try to find these words:

- Baptist
- crowd
- desert
- grasshoppers
- Holy Spirit
- Jordan
- mountain
- prepare
- road
- sorry
- straight
- voice