



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

**Inner Newcastle Parish:** Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

## SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

### Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr John Vo

### 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  
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

### Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
Maryanne Hewitt (*Reception & Administration*)  
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)  
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

### Other Contacts

**Lingard Hospital Team:** Contact the Parish Office

**Mercy Pastoral Team:** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm  
(02) 4979 1116

**St Joseph's Pastoral Team:** Contact the Parish Office



Luke's version of the Transfiguration story is rich with images of light and darkness. While bright light seems to emanate from Jesus and his two companions, the disciples are in the dark in more ways than one. It is from within their darkness, however, that they hear the voice of God.

Art and reflection by Jenny Close

**Parish Bulletin:** Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

*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.*

## THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Second Week of Lent, Year C

Monday—14th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—15th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—16th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

Followed by Stations of the Cross

Thursday—17th March

*Solemnity of St Patrick*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—18th March

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @  
The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—19th March

*Solemnity of St Joseph*

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the  
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
(followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral \*\*

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—20th March

*3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C*

7.30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral \* \*\*

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral \*\*

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

\* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—  
[www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton](http://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton)

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

**At the Cathedral: 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A**

Ex 17:3-7 || Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 || Jn 4:5-42

**Region churches: 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C**

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15 || 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 || Lk 13:1-9

\*\* The readings at Sacred Heart Cathedral over the next three weeks will be from Year A instead of Year C, because we have a person preparing for Baptism.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS @ TIGHES HILL DURING LENT

Immediately following 9:15am Mass on Wednesday.

### THANKS FROM THE BROWN SISTERS

Sr Margaret-Mary sends her love, her profound thanks and her continued promise of prayer to everyone who helped in any way to make the Mass marking the 60th Anniversary of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor in Newcastle such a wonderful success. Joy filled the Cathedral that day!! Thank you to everyone involved.

### BOOK CLUB

**Sunday, 6th April @ 6pm** to discuss

*Treasure and Dirt* by Chris Hammer. If

you would like to participate in book club

meetings, please email  
[newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

I  Book Club

### MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, on Wednesday at 7.30am and Friday at 11.00am. All are welcome, including new meditators, but you will need to be at least double-vaccinated and you must wear a mask. Hand sanitizing is still required. Wednesday is usually a small group and would suit those who do not wish to go into crowds.

The Monday evening group is not resuming, but a meditation group is available on Tuesdays at 6.00pm at St Philip's Church, Vista Parade, Kotara.

### VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

The schedule for March is:

March 16 and 23 (Weeks 3 and 4): Lectio Divina

All meetings are online via Zoom. All welcome to participate regularly or occasionally.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Rodney Pearson

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kathryn Allan-Oultram (tenth anniversary), Barry Gordon

**SICK:** Maree Halbert, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Wayne Bishop, Peter Skinner, Carmel Blair, Peter Keddie, Tiani Bishop, Jason Yu, Joel Samy, Tom Parker, Max Williamson

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



## APPOINTMENT OF FR JOHN LOVELL



Fr John Lovell, currently stationed in the Chisholm Region, will assume the role of Moderator of the City Pastoral Region and Rector of the Cathedral (in the temporary format of administrator) with effect from the Second Sunday of Easter.

### THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION

We continue to be *Covid-safe*, so please **BYO coffee and eats!!**

Our last speaker *before* lockdown (in May last year) will be our first *after* lockdown when we return to our 'home' venue.

Back by popular demand will be **Kris Smith**. A visual artist and former Co-Ordinator of *Photomedia* in the School of Creative Industries at the University of Newcastle, Kris will discuss and illustrate projects with which he has been involved. He will also describe his current art practice.

**When? Monday 21st March** Commencing at: **7.15am**.  
**Where?** Rear Entrance – **St Benedict's Centre, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction**

**Why? Fellowship and information**

**Who? All** welcome

**Enquiries?** Neil Jones 0410 572 579

### FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

In case you're a bit hazy on the "official" rules for Lent. Here's what the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference instructs:

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.

2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.

(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL FLOOD APPEAL

St Vincent De Paul have launched their 2022 Flood Appeal to assist people affected by the catastrophic flooding in the Northern Rivers and Lismore areas.

Money raised will be distributed by the SVDP Coordinator in coordination with the local community.

Donations can be made:

Online at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-flood-appeal> (use the QR code at St Joseph's The Junction or Sacred Heart)

Via St Vincent De Paul envelopes marked with Flood Appeal

### PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

[rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

### CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY...

#### BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD TOGETHER IN 2022: LENTEN REFLECTION

During Lent we are invited into prayer to renew and refocus our relationship with God, with ourselves and others, so we can fully celebrate the Paschal Mystery and live life to the full.

Continuing our synodal journey, you are invited to come together in parishes, schools and across the Diocese, both face-to-face and online, to remain connected during the season of Lent.

The resource provides the opportunity to encounter scripture and our synodal themes through the process of Mystagogical Reflection. As you encounter the mystery of God in the scripture, this will lead you to discover the mystery of God in one another through sharing of life and experience. This resource is available on the Diocesan website: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/lent-2022](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/lent-2022)

The Diocese will be hosting Mystagogical Reflections each week during Lent, Monday mornings at 10.30am and Thursday evenings at 6.30pm. To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/diocese-of-maitland-newcastle-18080128129>

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Our Lord has power over everything

Phil 3:20-4:1  
Ps 147:1, 3-4, 5 and 7 R.(Is 30:18)  
Lk 9:28-36

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

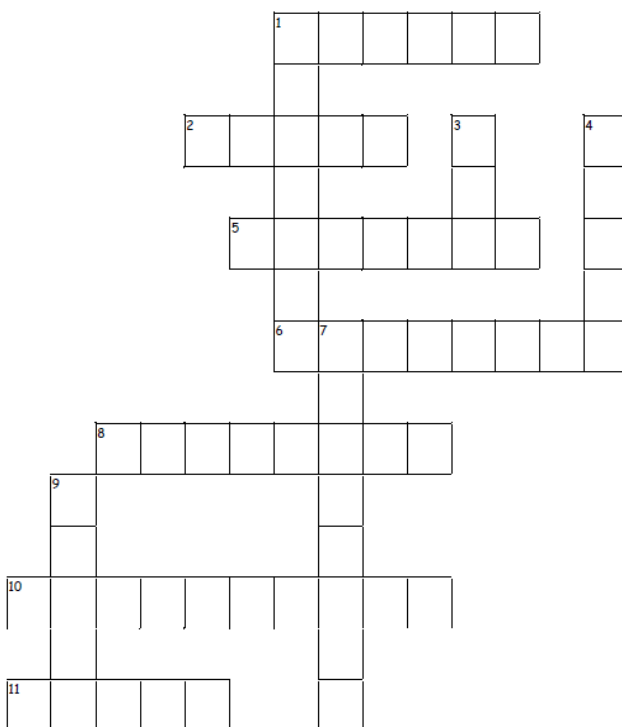
Try to find these words:

- clothes
- cloud
- everything
- faithful
- friends
- joy
- Moses
- mountain
- Peter
- pride
- shelters
- sisters

CROSSWORD

This is my chosen Son. Listen to what he says!

Lk 9:28-36



Across

- 1: to be selected
- 2: Jesus and the disciples heard God's voice coming from this
- 5: bright with light
- 6: places that protect you from wind and rain
- 8: the high place where Jesus took his disciples to pray
- 10: afraid, scared
- 11: this man wanted to build three shelters

Down

- 1: things we wear
- 3: Mother is to daughter, as father is to \_\_\_
- 4: he appeared with Elijah and spoke to Jesus
- 7: "They appeared in \_\_\_\_\_ glory"
- 9: Peter wanted to build this many shelters



## REFLECTION

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago.

At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us.

God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'

Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too.

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

**Richard Leonard SJ** is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

## EMERGENCY PLUS APP



A number of the parish staff and Cathedral Sacristans completed our First Aid Certificate last week. The trainer suggested we get this emergency app on our phones.

The **Emergency+** app is a **free** app developed by Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners.

The app uses **GPS functionality** built into smart phones to help a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical location details required to **mobilise emergency services**

## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### Gospel Parallels

*The account of the Transfiguration appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The word, synoptic, means 'seen together' and these three gospels can be seen together because they have so much material in common. It is now accepted that the gospel of Mark was the first written as so much of it appears in the other two, while the gospels of Matthew and Luke both seem to have also drawn on another source of Jesus material (known as the 'Q' source). Despite the parallels, each writer uses the same story to convey the particular message of that gospel.*

## FAITH MATTERS | SHARE YOUR STORY

Each fortnight Faith Matters aims to explore individuals and communities rich experience of their faith.

We invite you to share your faith story.

Everyone has a story.

No matter how ordinary yours may seem, we all have a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it.

You could use the following questions as a guide.

- Who are the people who guided your faith journey? How did they do that?
- Describe some defining moments of your faith journey? What made them significant?
- How has your faith been reflected in your work, your hobbies, your values, your choices, and your priorities at various times in your life?
- In what ways has your faith guided and supported you over your lifetime? How has your church/faith community guided and supported you?

We hope to use the stories as part of a Faith Matters.

For more information or if you would like to be interviewed, please contact

[rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au) or send your story to [shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au).

## WHAT ARE THE SCRUTINIES?

Part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (whereby we welcome adults into the Catholic Church), the scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent.

These very special rites are celebrated on the middle three Sundays of Lent, at liturgies where the Elect are present. The Elect are those in our midst who are preparing for Baptism. Part of their journey to the font is that they have been received among us, and they have been enrolled in the Book of the Elect in the Rite of Election (which took place last weekend).

As we have a young man who is to be baptised at Easter, we will include the scrutinies at the 9:30am Mass at the Cathedral over the next three weeks. It can be wonderful to reflect upon the journey these Elect are making during Lent, as an inspiration and source of renewal for us in our journey.

These are ancient rites and they may, at first, seem strange to us. But they are profoundly rooted in our human experience. We need to examine (scrutinize) how we are, the areas of our lives where we are tempted, or seriously sin - in what we do and what we fail to do. We really need healing and the strength that can come from the support of our sisters and brothers.

The scrutinies are based on the magnificent readings from cycle A of the Lectionary. Three wonderful stories unfold for us our own journey to Easter. The Samaritan woman at the well, the healing of the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead. These three powerful stories symbolise the faith journey of each one of us.

We are reminded that in baptism we are given life-giving waters, we are given new eyes of faith, and we are given new life. We are reminded that Christ is the living water, the light of the world, the resurrection and the life. The special Mass prayers used on these days reinforce those powerful images.

## SEASON FOR GROWTH: ADULT SEMINAR *UNDERSTANDING CHANGE, LOSS AND GRIEF*

This seminar is an educational experience, so the activities are designed to be objective rather than tap into Participants personal stories of loss and grief.

This session will provide you with an opportunity to:

Examine the meaning of grief

Review the range of changes and losses experienced in life

Explore grief reactions and factors that influence them

Identify different styles of grieving

Explore strategies of empowerment, including the role of choice in the grief journey and the importance of networks of support

Date: Saturday March 12

Time: 9am-12pm

Venue: Diocesan Office, Toohey Room, Newcastle

RSVP: by March 1 to

[loretta.heffernan@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:loretta.heffernan@mn.catholic.org.au) 0408 895 951

## THE CHUCKLE

A truck loaded with Vicks Vaporub overturned on the highway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.

## ONLINE FORUM FOR PARISHES

### Implementing Laudato Si'

This is a follow-up forum to an earlier event organised by St Dominic's Parish, Camberwell, Victoria, with the assistance of the Parishes of Cheltenham and Highett.

The Forum will invite you to:

Consider models and resources available to parishes for implementing the Laudato Si' message of care for our common home

Engage in Q&A around what initial steps can be taken to build a systematic response to this pressing call.

Date & Time: Tuesday 8 March 2022, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Registration: Register free at [www.trybooking.com/BVHTM](http://www.trybooking.com/BVHTM)

## "AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR " 19 MARCH 2021- 26 JUNE 2022

The "Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives.

This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection.

To access this resource:

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

## MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Pastoral Ministries offers a range of innovative, evidence based, award-winning marriage and relationship education programs that have been designed to enhance your relationship with your partner.

Before We Say I Do: This program provides opportunities to explore your relationship, build on your strengths and gain essential knowledge and skills that you will use for years to come. Topics covered include: Expectations of Marriage; Influences of Family of Origin; Communication Styles; Regulating Conflict; Commitment and Dedication; Values and Intimacy.

FOCCUS: (Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding & Study) Prepare/Enrich involves an in-

depth, user-friendly questionnaire designed to help you and your partner learn more about yourselves and your unique relationship. Topics covered in the three-part program include: Lifestyle Expectations; Friends and Interests; Personality Match; Communication; Problem Solving; Spirituality and Values; Parenting Issues; Financial Issues; Family of Origin and Commitment and Dedication.

Enhance: At times, we all need a bit of extra help to keep our relationship vibrant and on-track. Enhance is designed for couples to work with an educator in private session(s), where you will be provided with support to address specific issues or challenges in your relationship, based on evidenced informed research. However big or small the perceived issue, we can help. Couples often come to us to discuss re-igniting the spark, communication breakdown, destructive patterns, strengthening the friendship and building the emotional connectedness of the relationship.

Sessions are currently operating on Zoom. Booking is essential 3- 6 months prior to the wedding to secure placement in the Before We Say I Do program. For more information contact.

Robyn Donnelly- Marriage & Relationship Education- Pastoral Ministries

P: 02 4979 1370 M: 0412 637 090

Email: [robyn.donnelly@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:robyn.donnelly@mn.catholic.org.au)

## PRAYER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW BISHOP

Shepherding God you reveal your way of unfailing love in the image of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, shows compassion knows and is known by the sheep and lays down his life for them.

We your people of Maitland-Newcastle are without a bishop to shepherd us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit who moves through this great south land, inspire the choice of our new Bishop, empower his 'yes' and open our hearts in hospitality and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us Mary MacKillop of the Cross pray for us.



## POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY

In the prayer at the beginning of the Mass we asked the Lord for two graces: "To listen to Your beloved Son", so that our faith might be nourished by the Word of God, and another grace — "to purify the eyes of our spirit, so that we might one day enjoy the vision of glory". To listen, the grace to listen, and the grace to purify our eyes. This is directly related to the Gospel we heard. When the Lord is [transfigured](#) before Peter, James and John, they hear the voice of God the Father say: "This is my beloved Son! listen to him!". The grace to listen to Jesus. Why? To nourish our faith with the Word of God. And this is the duty of the Christian.

What are the duties of the Christian? Perhaps you will say to me: to go to Mass on Sundays; to fast and abstain during Holy Week; to do this.... Yet the first duty of the Christian is to listen to the Word of God, to listen to Jesus, because he speaks to us and he saves us by his word. And by this word he makes our faith even stronger and more robust. Listen to Jesus! "But, Father, I do listen to Jesus, I listen a lot!". "Yes? What do you listen to?". "I listen to the radio, I listen to the television, I listen to people gossip".

We listen to so many things throughout the day, so many things.... But I ask you a question: do we take a little time each day to listen to Jesus, to listen to Jesus' word? Do we have the Gospels at home? And do we listen to Jesus each day in the Gospel, [do we read a passage from the Gospel](#)? Or are we afraid of this, or unaccustomed to reading it? To listen to Jesus' word in order to nourish ourselves! This means that Jesus' word is the most nourishing food for the soul: it nourishes our souls, it nourishes our faith! I suggest that each day you take a few minutes and read a nice passage of the Gospel and hear what happens there.

Hearing Jesus, and each day Jesus' word enters our hearts and makes us stronger in faith. I also suggest that you have a little Gospel, very little, to carry in your pocket, in your purse, and when we have a little time, perhaps on the bus ... when it's possible on the bus, because on the bus it's often a bit difficult to keep our balance and guard our pockets, isn't it?.... But when you are seated, here or there, you can also read during the day. Take the Gospel and read two little words. Having the Gospel with us always! It was said that several of the early martyrs — St Cecilia for example — always carried the Gospel with them: they carried the Gospel; she, Cecilia, carried the Gospel. Because it is truly our basic meal, it is Jesus' word, which nourishes our faith.

And then the second grace we requested was the grace of purifying our eyes, the eyes of our spirit, to

prepare the eyes of the spirit for eternal life. Purifying the eyes! I am invited to listen to Jesus, and Jesus manifests himself, and by his Transfiguration he invites us to gaze at him. And looking at Jesus purifies our eyes and prepares them for eternal life, for the vision of heaven. Perhaps our eyes are a little sick because we see so many things that are not of Jesus, things that are even against Jesus: worldly things, things that do not benefit the light of the soul. And in this way, this light is slowly extinguished, and without knowing it, we end up in interior darkness, in spiritual darkness, in a darkened faith: darkness, because we are unaccustomed to looking and imagining the things of Jesus.

This is what we asked today of the Father, who teaches us to listen to Jesus and to gaze at Jesus. To listen to his word, and think about what I was telling you about the Gospel: it is very important! And to see, when I read the Gospel imagining and looking at what Jesus was like, how he did things. And thus our minds, our hearts go forward on the journey of hope on which the Lord places us, as we heard he did to our father Abraham. Always remember: to listen to Jesus, to make our faith stronger; to gaze at Jesus, to prepare our eyes for the beautiful vision of his Face, where we all — may the Lord grant us the grace — will be at a Mass without end. So be it.

### **ART EXHIBITION: SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR**

In the 2021-2022 Social Justice Statement Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, Pope Francis reminds us that encounter, dialogue, and listening with an open heart enable God's transforming love to move more powerfully in the world.

Artists are invited to create a work based on the themes found in the Social Justice Statement. Works can be 2 or 3 dimensional no larger than 1 x 1 metres. Name, title of work, school, parish and phone number clearly labelled on the back. This information, plus a 150 word (maximum) artist statement, must accompany the work and be emailed before 29 April through to [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

Delivered to Catholic Schools Office reception, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West 2302

Exhibition date: Saturday May 14

Location: TBA

Time: 2pm–5pm

Categories Stage 3, Stage 4, Stage 5, Stage 6, Adult. \$150 prize for the winning entry in each Category