

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 20 March 2022 Third 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

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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



There is a tough but fair Lenten message in the parable of the fig tree: before it is chopped down and reduced to dead wood, the tree is given one more chance to be fruitful. There is a 'be warned' side to this story and a 'take heart' aspect as well. Yes, be warned because every one of us has to be fruitful in our own way, and yes, take heart because God is on our side.

What is the dead wood in your life and what needs nourishment?

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)

Third Week of Lent, Year C Monday—21st March 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—22nd March 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday—23rd March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West
9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill Followed by Stations of the Cross

Thursday—24th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral 8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—25th March

Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord 10:15am Mass @ The Junction 11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—26th March

- 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—27th March

4th 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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

First Reading: Jos 5:9-12 The Lord removes the reproach of Egypt Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:17-21 All is new in Christ Gospel: Lk 15:1-3. 11-32 Parable of the prodigal son. **Next week in the Cathedral we will use readings from Year A due to the Scrutiny

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, 3rd April @ 6pm to discuss Treasure and Dirt by Chris Hammer. If you I would like to participate in book club Book Club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

LAETARE SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Lent, known as Laetare Sunday. The term "rose" is used to describe this lighter shade of the colour violet in the Roman Rite. Laetare Sunday is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigours; a day of hope with Easter at last within sight. To celebrate, please wear rose (aka pink) to Mass. If you attend Mass at the Cathedral next Saturday evening, please stay for "Super Saturday, Sips and Chips." Along with an opportunity to chat, it will provide a chance to farewell Fr Andrew.

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

The schedule for March is:

March 23 (Week 4): Lectio Divina

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Leonie Witt, John Walker **ANNIVERSARIES:** Faye Martin, Keith Martin, Catherine Cook, Sr Marguerite Chapman rsj, Thelma Doohan,



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, Sam and Margaret Broad

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.

DEPARTURE OF FR ANDREW DOOHAN

As I am sure you are all aware by now, Fr Andrew Doohan is leaving the City Pastoral Region after Easter Sunday and going on a well-deserved sabbatical. I have received a number of calls expressing the desire to leave a token of appreciation for Fr Andrews years of service to the Parishes of Stockton, Mayfield and Inner Newcastle. Those of you who cannot attend a Mass where Fr Andrew is presiding, please feel free to send any correspondence, gifts etc to the office and we will ensure he receives them. Fr Andrew Doohan C/- Po Box 6, The Junction, 2291. Jade Simonsen

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.

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

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

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)

St Vincent De Paul envelopes marked with Flood Appeal

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.

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

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-ofmaitland-newcastle-18080128129

REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard

The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, 'What effect would adultery have on your marriage?'

In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together.

Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by saying, 'Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault' or 'I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless'. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship.

The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again.

Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world.

© 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.

SCRIPtural Context Parables

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH God will help us bear fruit

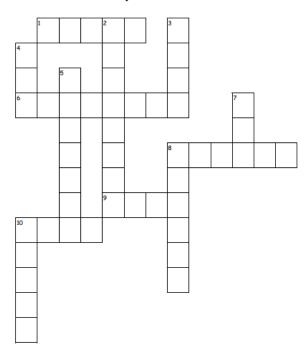
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Try to find these words:

cut dig down figs found gardener growing leave manure master vineyard year

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C [N03LESUC_2004_WSG.rtf]

crossword God will help us bear fruit



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Lk 13:6-9

- 6: someone who works in a garden
- 8: a servant's boss
- 9 the opposite of up

10: the vineyard owner couldn't find any _ _ _ _

Down

- 2: a plantation of grape vines
- 3: a long measure of time
- 4: turn over and remove earth or dirt
- 5: getting bigger
- 7: to slice with a sharp tool
- 8: used to help fertilise plants
- 10: past tense of 'find'

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FAITH MATTERS | SHARE YOUR STORY

Each fortnight Faith Matters aims to explores 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

<u>rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au</u> or send your story to <u>shareourstory@mn.catholic.org.au</u>.

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 Ioretta.heffernan@mn.catholic.org.au 0408 895 951

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

"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/iniziative-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.

<u>Before We Say I Do</u>: 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.

<u>FOCCUS:</u> (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.

<u>Enhance</u>: 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: <u>robyn.donnelly@mn.catholic.org.au</u>



THE ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE CROSS

Join us on Sunday, 3rd April, 2022, as we walk through the last moments of Jesus' earthly life with the Ecumenical Way of the Cross. This year, we have taken up the theme of 'Church without Walls.' At each station, we will hear a personal story in response to Jesus' invitation to follow him. These stories of mission and outreach will come from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches.

Details:

Sunday, 3rd April, 2022 3pm start St Joseph's Parish Grounds (meet at St Joseph's Community Centre) 140 Wangi Rd, Toronto Afternoon tea provided. For more information contact Brendon Mannyx P: 0426426892 E: <u>brendon.mannyx@mn.catholic.org.au</u>

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

PRAYER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW BISHOP

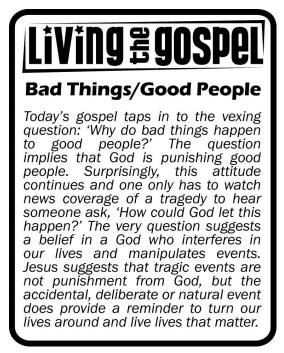
Shepherding God you reveal your way of unfailing love in the image of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, shows compassion knows and is known by the sheep and lays down his life for them.

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.



TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading: Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

- My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
- It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
- The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
- 4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
 For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4: 17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

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THE CHUCKLE

This year I'm giving up spreadsheets for 40 days and 40 nights. It's going to be Excel lent

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

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