

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 27 NOVEMBER 2022 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell Fr Paul Chackanikunnel

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction PO Box 6, The Junction 2291

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (Reception & Administration) Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Anne Warren (Business Manager Finance)
Tuesday and Thursday

Dr Anne Millard (Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin)

Other Contacts

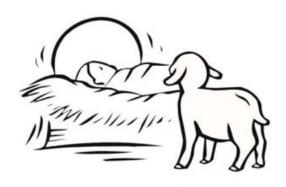
Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office **Mercy Pastoral Team**: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm

0429 923254

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

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





THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

This Sunday we begin the Season of Advent and a new liturgical year. The term Advent means 'coming'. The coming of whom? Jesus. So, as we reflect on His coming among us 2000 years ago, we are also called to prepare for His future coming: His coming for each of us individually, when our work is accomplished here on Earth, and His coming in glory in the sight of all humanity at the end of time.

Fr John

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)

First Week of Advent, Year A

Monday—28th November

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—29th November

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8.30am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday—30th November

Feast of St Andrew

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West ** Anointing Mass

Thursday—1st December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—2nd December

9:50am Rosary for Ukraine@ The Junction

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @

The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—3rd December

Memorial of St Francis Xavier

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—4th December

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (Italian)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

3:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion @ Mayfield West

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Taize Service @ Tighes Hill

6.00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

Wed December 12, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM in Sacred Heart Cathedral

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Is 11:1-10

Rom 15:4-9

Mt 3:1-12

MAYFIELD ANOINTING MASS

The Anointing Mass is on 30 November @ 9:00am at Christ the King Church, Mayfield West. All are welcome. If you need a lift, please call Kay Harvey on 0407676973

THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION (BYO BREAKFAST!!)

We are emerging from our Winter Hibernation. All welcome.

What? Share Shop – a Library of Things!

Borrow that TOOL that you don't want to buy, or that BIG saucepan, or a pair of Crutches?

Come along, listen & learn, and inspect the inventory at the cooperatively run SHARE SHOP.

Lanah – a volunteer, will explain how this is part of The Circular Economy.

When? Monday 5th Dec commencing at: 7.15am Where? The Share Shop, Shed 1, Pachamama House, 21 Gordon Ave, Hamilton

Why? Fellowship and information

Compliance? Please take Covid precautions that are usual now. Consider masks, and do not attend if you are unwell.

Enquiries to Neil Jones: neil.jones@bigpond.com or 0410 572579

JOB OPPORTUNITY: CASUAL RECEPTIONIST

The Sisters of Mercy at Tighes Hill are looking for a Relief Casual Receptionist/Secretary for a short assignment from 8 December 2022 to 6 January 2023. The days will be each Thursday and Friday from 9am to 5pm. Previous experience and an understanding of Catholic organisation is preferred. If you are interested in this assignment, please call Sister Margaret on 4964 6400.



Watch this space!

Vinnies Christmas Appeal coming to a church near you in December'

RECYCLING MADE EASIER

Curby is company that can recycle soft plastics (the sort you used to leave at Coles and Woolies), coffee capsules and fabrics. Collections take place with your yellow lid council bin. More information available at: https://www.curbyit.com/

THE CHUCKLE

What did the stamp say to the Christmas Card? Stick with me and we'll go places



THANKSGIVING MASS

The Newcastle Catholic Charismatic community invites everyone to join in celebrations for a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 2 December from 7pm at Holy Cross Catholic Church Glendale. We also want to especially invite all priests and deacons in the Diocese as a way of giving you a special thanks for your service and sacrifice as you have shepherded the community through challenging times. Please contact Wayne Caruana wayne.caruana@mn.catholic.edu.au or 0466631384 for more details and to RSVP.

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

Pray the Rosary from 9.50am on Fridays at St Joseph's Church, The Junction.



FIRST FRIDAY FISH AND CHIPS

Friday 2 December from 5pm at Bar Beach (under cover on lower level) All welcome.

BYO everything. Enquires to Chris 0419 265194

SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR MINISTRY ROLES AT THE CATHEDRAL

With the easing of Covid restrictions, it is now timely to invite all Parishioners to consider volunteering to take a more active participation in the weekend Masses. We are now seeking to refresh all of our rosters and we invite you to be either a new volunteer, or to confirm your current participation.

We are looking for

- · Greeters
- · Readers
- · Collectors
- · Gifts Presenters
- $\cdot \ \, \text{Communion Ministers}$

Choir Members

If you would like to discuss any of the roles, please discuss with Fr John, Fr Paul, Anne Millard or one of the Sacristans.

Forms are available from the table at the Cathedral entrance. For security, please leave completed forms in the Sacristy or with one of the Sacristans. We will certainly be in touch.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 11 December @ 6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss The Secret World of Connie Starr by Robbi Neal. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please CLUB email the office



MORE BULLETIN

The entire 8-page bulletin is available on the Parish website (use this QR code).

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS IN SACRED HEART

Sunday 4th December @ 7pm: The Newcastle and Hunter's 44th **Multicultural Christmas Concert** compered by Joop de Wit.

Sunday 18th December @ 2pm: The Newcastle Tudor Singers present "The Joy of Christmas" a wonderful afternoon of carols old and new, directed by Anne Millard

PRAYER

In Preparation for the Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania Fiji, 5-10 February 2023, we are invited to pray:

O God, you revealed yourself in Christ Jesus as loving, merciful and just.

Guide our Bishops of Oceania as they meet together to further Pope Francis' call to become a listening Church.

Open their hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit, that they might truly discern and faithfully serve the needs of your People and your World.

Colour our way of life and give witness to your presence among us.

You who live and reign, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WAITING WITH PURPOSE

Reflect mystagogically on the Advent gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical Reflection deepens our capacity to live from Christ: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/

Connect via Zoom during Advent each Monday at 10am: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

Meets via Zoom November 30 for Waiting with Purpose—the Advent Program. All welcome! Email the office for more info.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS- The Parish ADVENT Prayer Group will be meeting @ 9.30 am next Thursday, 1 December in the Parish Centre and continue for the next few weeks of Advent. All welcome. Please see Gwen Haggerty if you would like to be part of it.

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

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

FOOD BASKET FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food e.g. (Vegemite, cornflakes or breakfast foods, sugar, packet or tin soup, sardines, tea, coffee, tin fruit etc but NOT PEANUT BUTTER), can be placed in the basket at the back of St Joseph's Church. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. Thank you Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523/4967 2998 Collection baskets also at Tighes Hill.

BEQUESTS

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region of Parishes continue its important mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, you might consider including us in your Will. You would just need to specify which parish or parishes you would like to help with your bequest. Thank you!

BECOME AN SRE VOLUNTEER

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator?

This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics.

You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries team on 4979 1200.

BURGLARS IN THE NIGHT

The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.



NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

by Mary Coloe PBVM

The Year of Matthew

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44

'Stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Liturgical year has turned full circle and we begin the new year with the first Sunday of Advent. This year we will read from the Gospel of Matthew which was written sometime in the 80s, approximately fifty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Each of the four Gospels provides us with a portrait of Jesus, and a glimpse into the life and concerns of one very early Christian community. To really hear the 'good news' Matthew offers, it will be helpful to step inside Matthew's community, to get a sense of the colours and textures used in his portrait.

The first thing to note is that it is a Jewish world where believers in Jesus are just one particular form of Judaism in the first century alongside other Jewish parties - the Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, the Essenes, and the ordinary 'people of the land'. What is remarkable about this particular group of Jews is their belief that the long-awaited hopes of their people have begun to be realised in Jesus of Nazareth. For this group Jesus is the one the prophets promised, God's anointed one (in Hebrew this is the Messiah, in Greek it is the Christos). In the year 70CE a cataclysmic event happened for the Jewish world. Following a four year revolt, the Roman legions laid siege to Jerusalem, eventually capturing it and destroying the Temple. This event was the end of the Jewish sacrificial system and also the end of some forms of Judaism. Two groups survived - the Pharisees, who put more emphasis on the Jewish Law (Torah) than Temple sacrifices, and the followers of Jesus. This is the Jewish world in the final decades of the first century when Matthew's Gospel takes its written form possible around the years 80-85CE.

As you might expect, these two groups within Judaism now needed to redefine their identity without the Temple and both groups claimed to be the true Israel. This struggle between the heirs of the Pharisees, the Rabbis who focus on Torah, and the third generation of Jesus' followers, gives Matthew's gospel its particular focus. From a common birth in Judaism, two groups were now emerging at the end of the first century — what we now call Rabbinic Judaism, and Christianity. Both groups cherished their heritage in the Scriptures of Israel and the Law, but conflict emerged around the issue of who had the right to

interpret the Law of Moses. The Jews looked to the rabbis and their traditions, while Christians believed that Jesus, God's anointed one and Son, had an authority even greater than Moses. Another aspect of Matthew's world is that this community was opening out to the non-Jews, the Gentiles – again seen as the fulfilment of the prophecies that in the last days all nations would come to worship God. For Matthew, the last days had arrived in the person of Jesus.

So how could Matthew portray Jesus in a way that reflected and cherished his community's Jewish origins, while at the same time argue against the Synagogue leaders of his time? One way was to project back into the time of Jesus the type of conflict about the teachings of Moses that Matthew's community was currently facing. The struggles taking place in the 80s give this gospel its sharp sense of conflict and hostility between Jesus and the Pharisees, reflecting the struggles between later Christians and the rabbis.

Even in the struggles with emerging Rabbinic Judaism, and within the Roman Empire, Matthew's 'good news' is that Jesus is 'God with us' — Emmanuel. This is the name announced at his birth, and the final promise Jesus leaves his disciples, 'I am with you always.'

In the twenty-first century our struggles are different to Matthew's community: climate change, terrorism, global economic rationalism and its consequences, continuing wars, drought, genocide, and the personal daily struggles in families, relationships, work. While our world is vastly different, we still need to hear the good news that God is with us.

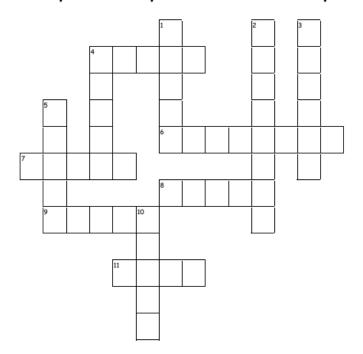
Two people are referred to in today's Gospel, Noah and the Son of Man. Both are meant to urge Christians to live with an alertness to God's reign. People were not ready for the flood in the time of Noah. According to the book of Daniel, at the end of time when all the powers of evil have been overcome, one 'like a Son of Man' will be given all authority in God's new world. The early Christian communities related this image to Jesus. Matthew is therefore urging his community to be alert and ready for the day when Jesus will return. This is the same message that Paul writes to the community in Rome – 'wake up now'.

Amidst the signs of Christmas and toys we too need to be reminded that the focus of this time is Jesus. He can be lost amidst the glitter and excitement if we are not attentive.

© Mary Coloe

Stay awake, you must be ready

Mt 24:37-44



Across

- 4: a substance that comes from wheat
- 6: consuming liquid
- 7: prepared
- 8: picked up and removed
- 9: someone who steals
- 11: God told this man to build an ark

Down

- 1: meadow or grassland
- 2: dividing into pieces, pulling apart
- 3: arriving
- 4: protect from danger
- 5: to have removed dust or dirt with a broom
- 10: overflow with water

1st Sunday of Advent, Year A [N01ADSUA_2004_CWG.rtf]

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Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-13a Mt 24:37-44

Ps 122:1-2, 8-9 R.v.(see 1)

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord will gather us in eternal peace

Try to find these words:

G Ε N В С J G Ε Ρ Ρ W 0 G W R S Ι 0 0 Ε Q Q S W R U D S Ν C Ρ Ι D L G Н Т X Ζ Т 0 0 S W 0 R D S Α Ρ E Ρ R Ρ Ρ X S G Ι 7 Ι F В D Q 0 Ε Α M D Α E Ν L K Q Ρ S W D Α X У S 0 G R D Α D D R Ν C Н G 0 В 0 Ε Κ D Q L G Ρ Ι Ν Ι R Ρ Ε J G Н Т M 0 Ε Ι Н Ι 0 S У У D Н Ε Q S Ι G Ι

field flood guard light mountain night Noah swords taken thief

worship

wake

REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard

Night and day is the dominant image presented to us in today's readings. The season of Advent is for the Church the time just before the dawn of Christmas, when the fullness of God's love took human flesh in Jesus.

The moments before dawn are often special: cities are still, the air is damp, noise is at a minimum and, at least on clear days, there is an anticipation of the sun bursting forth into daylight. No wonder Paul and Matthew found it such a rich metaphor for the coming of Christ.

American lyricist and composer, Marty Haugen has found the image of light and darkness inspirational in his text, God of Day and God of Darkness (© 1984, 1995, published by GIA Inc.) He writes:

- God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night;
- As the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright.
- All creation still is groaning for the dawning of your might,
- When the Son of peace and justice fills the earth with radiant light.
- Still the nations curse the darkness, still the rich oppress the poor;
- Still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more.
- Come and wake us from our sleeping so our hearts cannot ignore
- All your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.
- Show us Christ in one another, make us servants strong and true;
- Give us all your love of justice, so we do what you would do.
- Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our lives anew,
- Make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you.

Marty Haugen's take on the light and dark in the world is entirely consistent with the way Catholic mystics have applied these metaphors. Being in the light is not just about what we see, it is about what we do. St Ignatius Loyola often spoke about the things we keep buried in the dark. For Ignatius the experience we won't speak about, the sins we won't confess and the memories we suppress are the signs of the bad spirit. They gain an inordinate power over us and we displace a lot of energy keeping them buried in the dark.

Ignatius always saw the hand of the good spirit when these things came into the light. Every time someone says to me, 'Father, I've never told anyone this before, but I want to talk about it now...' I thank God that the good spirit is alive and active. St Ignatius encourages us to be alert to all the ways we con ourselves that keeping secrets hidden in the dark is a necessary or acceptable way to live.

May this Advent be the season in which we bring to consciousness all the things that stop us from being fully alive and basking in the light. May our preparation for Christmas confirm us in the truth of Haugen's words about Jesus Christ and humanity.

- You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns;
- Shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn,
- For our hearts shall wander restless, 'til they safe to you return;
- Finding you in one another, we shall all your face discern.

© 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2022

<u> Christmas Eve – 24 December</u>

- 5.30pmCathedral
- 5.30pmThe Junction
- 6.00pm Mayfield West
- 7.30pm Cathedral
- 10pm Cathedral Polish Mass

<u>Christmas Day – 25 December</u>

MidnightCathedral

7.30amSt Mary's

8am Tighes Hill

9am Stockton

9.30amCathedral

11amThe Junction Italian Mass

11.30amCathedral Polish Mass



TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading: Is 2:1-5

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

- I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

 And now our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
- It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.
 For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.
 There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. (R.)
- For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!

 May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' (R.)
- For love of my brethren and friends
 I say: 'Peace upon you!'
 For love of the house of the Lord
 I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 13:11-14

The time has come, our salvation is near.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

Sunday December 4 @ 3pm, Christ the King Church, Mayfield West. All welcome.

Consultation on the Synod on Synodality's *Document for the Continental Stage (DCS)* on Sunday 27 November 2022 9.00-10.00am at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill. Please read the 56 page DCS beforehand either at https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch or collect a copy from the Parish Office. The consultation questions are:

- 1. Experiences of Church
- After having read and prayed with the DCS, what resonates most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent?
- Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?
- 2. Challenges to Address
- After having read and prayed with the DCS, what significant tensions or differences emerge as particularly important in your continent's perspective?
- ★ Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?
- 3. Priorities and Calls to Action
- What are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world?
- ★ What should be discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Tomasz Zaremba, Sr Lynette Pearce rsj

ANNIVERSARIES: Anne Heggs, Paul Mather, John McGuire Turner, Carol Power, Patrick Gregory, Alfredo Peverini, Jim Murphy, Eric O'Beirne, Delores Hamilton, Pat Croke, Marie Sweeney, Joan Sullivan, Frank Rabbitt (Snr), Molly Mackay, Kathleen Bryant

SICK: Helen Tumbers, Phil Bawden, Madge Humphries, Ronnie Jennings, Eileen Howard, Eva Grant, Colin Bryant, Maureen Sunman, Maree Halbert, Carlo Rossi, Kath Murray, Veronica McCann, Peter Skinner, Tiani Bishop, Tom Parker, Sam and Margaret Broad, Ronald Watt

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.

TAIZE SERVICE

Venue: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill Date: Sunday December 4

Time: 5.00pm – 6pm

followed by a shared supper.

