

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 AUGUST 2023 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell Fr Paul Chackanikunnel Fr Raphael Madukwe Deacon Kevin Gadd

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) 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

0448463679

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.



Taken literally, Jesus' comment about 'house dogs' in today's Gospel may sound quite shocking. But when we read on, we can see He was just being sarcastic - and possibly with a smile on His face - to show-up certain xenophobic attitudes among some of His followers towards gentiles. The Canaanite woman played along with His wit in such a way that Jesus was able to give credit to her great faith and show that faith and love are far more important to God's plan of salvation than culture or race.

Fr John Lovell

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)

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time, Year A Monday—21st August

Memorial of St Pius X

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—22nd August

Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

11:00am Funeral liturgy for Palma Pia Cavicchia

Wednesday—23rd August

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—24th August

Feast of St Bartholomew, apostle

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday-25th August

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @

The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—26th August

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

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—27th August

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Isaiah 22:19-23 Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20



RECENTLY DECEASED: Shirley McHugh, Anna Russell, Margaret Casey, Palma Pia Cavicchia

ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Wooden, Jacob Poile, Helena Caskey, Brian Nunn, Evelyn Woodward, Martin Shanahan, Ken Walker, Harold Crockett and Anastasia Ladas, Dominic Palozzi, Elio Giori, Joshua Caruso

SICK: Elaine Johnson, Christine Timbrell, Twon Nguyen, Neil McGoldrick, Stewart McKinnon, Tony Nguyen, Mark Caesar, Aaron Parkes, Grayson Peers, Peter Kefecek, Carlo Rossi, Jim Bailey, Neil Thomas, Kathryn Gray, Emilie Tseronis

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.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in August.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Betty Caelli Teresa Losurdo Lynda Corrigan Anthony Mangioni Joan Adele Daly Maree Ann Martin William (Jack) Everleigh Mark Murphy Aileen Gilbert Henry Petherbridge Ashleigh Powter **Nesta Haggerty** Kathleen Hart Sheelagh Ruggero Margaret Hogg Madeleine Savage Harry Kilner Veronica (Rhona) Seath Leon Lakomy Robert (Bob) Smythe Thi Kim Loan Le Marjorie Wakely Mary Loscocco

At St Joseph's

Betty SMITH
Peter THOMPSON
Clare McDONNELL
Margaret BAILEY
Eileen BAXTER
Helena Esther CASKEY
Anne Elizabeth MEIGHAN
Marie O'CALLAGHAN

Mary CORLIS
Patricia Ethel DAVIS
Laurence Bede DOWLING
Noel DOWZER
Kevin DOYLE
Cyril FERNANDO
Francis PAGE
Thomas RAE
Norma WALTERS

Eternal rest grant unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

ART AND SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in artmaking experiences which will nourish their faith.

Dates: Thursday September 14 (9am-3pm)

Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre

Cost: \$25 per person

To register go to: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-

spirituality-workshop-september-2023-tickets-

632417346307

SEASONS FOR GROWTH ADULT PROGRAM

The Seasons for Growth Adult Program is for anyone who is living with the effects of change and loss. Many factors can cause change such as the loss of someone or something you love, family separation and divorce, moving to a new place, impact of illness, migration, and family or work-life changes.

If you, or someone you know, are dealing with significant life changes, you are invited to attend the Adult Seminar:

Date: Saturday 2 September, 9.00am-12.00pm

Venue: Toohey Room, 841 hunter St Newcastle West

RSVP: 27 August

Registration:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-for-growth-tickets-671239343947 or ring 4979 1334

THE CHUCKLE

I told my daughter to check her attitude and she looked at me and said "For complaints about attitude please contact the manufacturer. " Well played, well played.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

Over the next few months, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is being audited against its compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. Director of Safeguarding, Sean Tynan, has made an electronic recording of a 15 minute presentation, designed to let parishioners know about the audit process and, for those parishes who will be audited, what they can expect. It may be of interest for your parishioners to be able to access this information. It is recommended that, if you are one of the parishes being audited, that you give your congregations an opportunity to learn about what will be happening between now and mid November 2023.

View the presentation:

http://youtube.com/watch?v=9QmrwxXhx0U

COMMUNITY HOUSIE

- Housie is played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evening at Southern Cross Hall (841 Hunter Street, Newcastle).
- Doors open at 5pm with Tickets on sale from 6pm
- The first call of Housie (eyes down) happens at 7pm on Tuesdays and 7.30pm on Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Over 35 games are called per night.
- Paper tickets and electronic tablets/PET available for play.
- Canteen, food, drinks, cakes available for purchase
- Players must be 18 years of age or older. Sorry, no EFTPOS.
- Any questions about Housie, please call Justin Scanlon on 0458 002 526.

Community Housie is on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/communityhousie

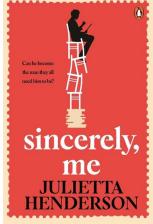
BOOKCLUB

Meets Sunday, 3rd September @ 6:15pm: to discuss

Sincerely Me by Julietta Henderson.

If you would like to participate in the discussion, please email the office





REDISCOVERING JOY DR MICHELE CONNOLLY

How are hearts set on fire with love of God and love of the world? 'The only thing that counts for me,' wrote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 'is not to propagate God but to discover him.' Join us for a day of formation with Dr Michele Connolly, current Associate Professor of Biblical Studies within the Catholic Institute of Sydney and University of Notre Dame Australia. In a retreat style and setting, Michele will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Monday 11 September, Crown Plaza Hunter Valley, 9.30am – 3.30pm, \$30pp

RSVP: 13 August 2023. Registration: https://

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rediscovering-joy-tickets-

626620176817

'COME REST A WHILE'

Reflection Day - Saturday 9 September, Charlestown, 10am to 3.30pm

In appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers, 'Come rest a while' is an opportunity to listen, reflect and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided. Details and registration at come-rest-2023.eventbrite.com.au For enquiries or registration assistance contact sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 4979 1134.

perspective

Of a disciple

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

OVERSHADOWED: FILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 18 TO 20 AUGUST 2023

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens when we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW

Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX (by 11 August)

Contact: Katherine - mglsisters.sydney@gmail.com

CAN YOU SUPPORT CATHOLICCARE DURING AUGUST?

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens offer more than just a meal. With the assistance of volunteers, CatholicCare has created a space where people can feel safe and enjoy the company of others and access other services if needed.

We ask you to give a gift to our Make a Difference Appeal to help us to continue to feed and connect people through our Community Kitchens and other non-funded programs.

At CatholicCare our programs really do make a difference in our local community. We can't do this work without the generosity of our community and people like you.

Your tax-deductible donation will go a long way. Donating is simple and only takes a few steps. Visit: www.mycause.com.au/page/318856/make-a-difference

CATHOLIC PRAISE AND WORSHIP

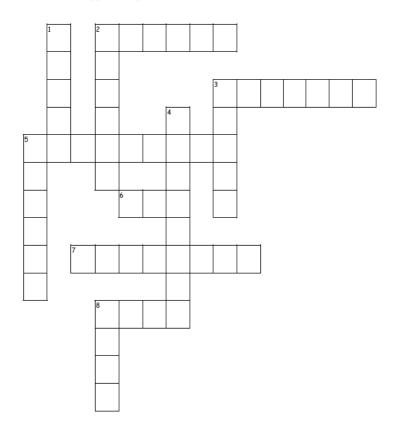
Inviting all interested people, including musicians (instrumentalists and vocalists), to our second planning meeting for a new and regular Catholic Praise and Worship event. Join the 30 people who have already expressed interest at our meeting on Wednesday 23 August from 5.30pm-7.00pm, at the Cafe at St Mary's Catholic College, 47-49 Pacific Highway, Gateshead. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call Fr Anthony Potts on 0466 140 066.

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

Meets August 23 @7pm via Zoom for Lectio Divina. Contact the parish office to join

God will come to save us

Is 56:1. 6-7 Ps 67:1-2. 4. 5 & 7. R. v.4 Mt 15:21-28



Across

- 2: truthful
- 3: the Jewish day of worship
- 5: to have a party
- 6: a four-legged animal that barks
- 7: a very high piece of land
- 8: reasonable

Down

- 1: a place where people dwell
- 2: cured
- Jesus described the people of Israel as like a flock of lost _ _ _ _
- 4: father is to son, as mother is to what?
- 5: Jesus spoke to a woman who came from this place
- 8: what we eat

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A [N20ORSUA_2005_CW3.rtf]

© 2005 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

SENIOR WORDSEARCH God will come to save us

Is 56:1. 6-7 Ps 67:1-2. 4. 5 & 7. R. v.4 Mt 15:21-28

Ε Ι Ι В Ζ Н 0 J Ι W Ν Κ В R В M CΕ С Ζ Ν Ε Ζ J С R Т В В D G R T M R J С F F 0 C Ι D 0 G Н Ι Q Q Ε F С N D S 5 0 0 Ζ D 0 Α 0 Q У Ι В R 0 У S Ζ W Κ Ε F Ι S В N S В Ι Ζ Ε G У K T Ε ٧ 0 Ε L Н H ΝE У Q Ι Ν H G Т В Ι T Ι В T С R J G Т K J Ι У R OHDW H D Μ U U M

Try to find these words:

Canaan
celebrate
daughter
dog
fair
food
healed
honest
house
mountain
Sabbath
sheep

SAFEGUARDING

Do you know about safeguarding? This week we conclude our ten-part series addressing each of the Safeguarding Standards.

In many ways this final Standard establishes the overarching support for the development of the components of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

The tenth standard; **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUPPORT THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS** has 5 criteria.

Competency: Policies and procedures document how the entity is safe for children and adults

Criteria 10.1: Policies and procedures address the

National Catholic Safeguarding

Standards

Criteria 10.2: Policies and procedures are

accessible and easy to understand.

Criteria 10.3: Best practice models and

stakeholder consultation inform the development and review of policies

and procedures.

Criteria 10.4: Church leaders champion and

model best practice implementation of the National Catholic

Safeguarding Standards.

Criteria 10.5: Personnel understand and

implement policies and procedures.

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390,

E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit their website for further information

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au



REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard SJ

One bright Sunday morning, everyone in the town got up early and went to the local church. Before Mass started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking about their lives, their families.

Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the devil incarnate. Soon everyone was evacuated from the Church, except for one elderly lady who sat calmly in her pew, not moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Satan was in her presence.

Now this confused Satan a bit, so he walked up to the older lady and said,

'Don't you know who I am?'

The woman replied, 'I sure do.'

Satan asked, 'Aren't you afraid of me?'

'No, certainly not' said the woman.

Satan was a little perturbed at this and queried, 'Why aren't you afraid of me?'

The woman calmly replied, 'Because I've been married to your brother for 48 years.'

Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus' day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God's vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still hear this line from some people today.

The Syro-Phoenician woman considers herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn't for the woman's courage and persistence, she would never have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

Again it is the woman's quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else's life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don't know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world's table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.



The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God's children to the places of honour which everyone deserves.

© Richard Leonard SJ

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.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE AUGUST RETREATS

During August the Divine Retreat Centre has a number of events on offer:

- · Spiritual Retreat 21 August St Patrick's Wallsend
- · Spiritual Retreat 22 August St Luke's Revesby
- · One Day Pilgrimage 27 August (*Divine Retreat Centre 160 Hensons Rd, Somersby, NSW*)

For more information visit www.divineretreatcentre.org

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDIATION CENTRE, 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, offers meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am – and has done so for the last 25 years, in which time many hundreds of people have taken up this prayer form. After meditation on Fridays Lectio Divina, a personal interaction with Sacred Scripture, is offered. Through both practices we open ourselves to the fullness of life; we come to know ourselves by knowing that we are known and loved by God. For more information: Carmel Moore rsj -0412122297 - or just come.

SCriptural Context

This passage is the second of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story shows Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanliness - one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story in this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand - a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.

ANOTHER CHUCKLE OR TWO

Q: What did one flea say to the other? A: Should we walk or take a dog?



Q: How are a dog and a marine biologist alike? A: One wags a tail and the other tags a whale

Q: What do you do if your dog chews a dictionary? A: Take the words out of his mouth

Q: How can you tell if you have a lazy dog? A: He only chases parked cars

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

The first reading opens with a double imperative: Observe justice; Do righteousness! This word-pair enunciates Israel's primary ethical obligation, which is social responsibility. This imperative is followed by a twofold form of divine promise: Salvation will come; Righteousness will be revealed. The language presumes a covenant relationship. Some outside the community have shown their desire to become part of it. They may be foreigners, but both internally and externally they are one with the community of believers. In response, God invites them into the liturgical life of the community. They are encouraged to proceed to God's holy mountain. God is now accessible to all, not merely to those of the blood line of Israel. Salvation and righteousness embrace all.

The psalm begins with an adaptation of the first words of the blessing used by Aaron and his descendants (v.2; see Nm 6:24-26). This suggests that the favours once promised to that priestly family are now sought for the entire people. God's goodness will enhance God's reputation among other nations. They will conclude that only a mighty and magnanimous God is able to secure such good fortune. The good fortune of one nation is testimony to the salvific activity of God, which in turn becomes the occasion of salvation for all the earth. Thus one nation becomes the source of blessing for all. This is the fulfilment of a promise made to Abraham (see Gen 12:2-3).

Although Paul is proud to be known as the 'apostle to the Gentiles', he continues to insist on Israelite privilege. Using a rabbinic form of argumentation, he explains that if the Jews' rejection of the gospel brought reconciliation to the rest of the world, how much more will their acceptance of the gospel effect? After all, they were God's special people, and it was to them that God granted extraordinary gifts. If God has shown mercy to those who originally worshipped other gods, surely God will show mercy to God's own people. The Gentiles have no reason to feel superior, for both Jew and Gentile have sinned. Both are shown mercy, not because they earned it, but because God is gracious.

The gospel story addresses several important issues: crossing territorial and cultural boundaries; women and men in public social exchange; the Christian mission to the Gentiles; and faith. It also raises important questions: Why does Jesus enter pagan territory in the first place? Why does he initially withhold his healing power? First Jesus himself disregards territorial boundaries. We are not told why. Then the woman disregards appropriate social decorum (she speaks to a

man who is a stranger) and pleads for the healing of her daughter. She even disregards his initial rebuff, thus showing remarkable faith. Moved by this faith, Jesus is forced beyond the limited confines of his own cultural experience. He accedes to her wishes and heals her daughter.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

PARISH LUNCHEON

Parish Luncheon at *Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether* (Please note the new venue). 12.30pm on Monday, 21st August. All welcome. Inquiries to Maureen on 0412 673151.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

ST JOSEPH'S, THE JUNCTION and MARY IMMACULATE, TIGHES HILL:

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.), can be placed in the basket at the back of **St Joseph's Church**, The Junction and in the foyer of **Mary Immaculate Church**, Tighes Hill. 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 or 4967 2998. The St Joseph's community kindly requests that you do not donate peanut butter.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL and ST MARY'S, NEWCASTLE:

Since June 2022, CatholicCare Food Programs have made up 138 emergency food hampers and 150 Christmas hampers for people in the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie area, all from donated food items. This year we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of requests we have received for emergency food hampers, especially from families with young children. Our hampers are given as a one off 'hand up' (not a 'hand out') and are made up completely of donated food. If you would like to donate, any of the following types of non-perishable items would be most gratefully received: UHT milk, cereal, jam, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned veggies, fruit, soup, fish, meat, dried pasta, rice, pasta sauces, teabags, coffee, biscuits, crackers, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner (even the travel sized ones from hotels), deodorant. The food collection bins are at Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary's Church, Newcastle