

St Benedict's 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 17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

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
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Our Staff

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

Anne Warren (Business Manager) Tuesday and Thursday

Thelma Dickson (Administration) Monday-Friday

Elul Tecle (Administration)

Dr Anne Millard (Music, Liturgy, Sacraments)

Other Contacts

Bereavement Team:P: (02) 4979 1252Mercy Pastoral Team:Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
0448463679St Joseph's Pastoral Team:Contact the Parish Office



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The name given to the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, which means **rejoice**. Amidst the various crosses we must carry in our daily lives and the many troubles of our world, the Lord is inviting us to reflect on the many good things we have received, especially the gift of His only begotten Son, and to see these as a sign of His immense and unwavering love for us. *Fr John*

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

Promotors of Safeguarding

Fr John Lovell p: (02) 4979 1106 Gail Lovell P: (02) 4979 1256 Anne Millard P: (02) 4979 1252

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.

Brd Week oj	f Advent, Year B
	8th December
8:15am	Mass @ The Cathedral
Tuesday—1	9th December
8:15am	Mass @ The Cathedral
9:00am	Mass @ Stockton
Wednesday	—20th December
	Mass @ The Cathedral
9:00am	Mass @ Mayfield West
	2nd Rite of Reconciliation @ The
	Cathedral
Thursdav—	21st December
	Mass @ The Cathedral
	Mass @ Stockton
6:00pm	Choir Practice @ The Cathedral
Friday—22r	nd December
	Mass @ The Junction
11am	Exposition, Adoration, and Reconciliation
	@ The Cathedral (until 12pm)
12:05pm	Mass @ The Cathedral
Saturdav—2	23rd December
•	Mass @ The Cathedral followed by
	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
	(followed by Reconciliation) *Cancelled
	this week
5:30pm	Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West
	Mass @ The Cathedral
5:30pm	Mass @ The Junction
Sunday—24	th December
Fourth Sund	lay of Advent
7:30am	Mass @ St Mary's
	Mass @ Tighes Hill
	Mass @ Stockton
	Mass @ The Cathedral
	amed via the Diocesan website:
	.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/
	Italian Mass @ The Junction
11:30am	Polish Mass @ The Cathedral
CHRISTMAG	EVE MASSES
	@ Sacred Heart Cathedral
-	@ The Junction
-	@ Mayfield West
•	@ Sacred Heart Cathedral

7.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Clement (Sonny) Fitzsimmons,

ANNIVERSARIES: Sr Clare Tobin rsj, James Maher msc, Matthew Forman, Des Howard, Stephen Howard, James (Jim) Bridges, George & Mary Bridges, Maxwell, George & Patrick Bridges, Catherine Horner, Marion Bridges, Manuel Zaunders, Mary-Lou Alexander, Mary Ethel Sattler

SICK: Joshua Zalanardo, Cooper James, Jim Eves, Rosa Silivinec, Neil McGoldrick, Sr Rosemary Jackson rsj, Gerard Pearce, Harry Melville, Doreen Mason, Elaine Johnson, Stewart McKinnon, Mark Caesar, Peter Kefecek, Carlo Rossi, 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.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 4th February @ 6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss That Bligh Girl by Sue Williams (postponed from December). If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. We are using the Diocesan Advent program. If you'd like to join us just for Advent, there's room!

The program for December is as follows: 20th December: 4th week of the Advent Program

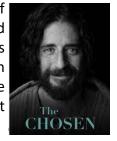
We then take the month of January off. We begin the series The Chosen in February.

To participate, please email the parish office.

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a series that brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by

Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness the transformation of each of his first followers.



OUR BELOVED DEAD

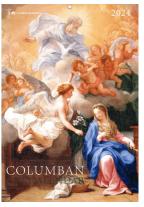
We remember those in our Sacred Heart Columbarium whose anniversaries occur in December.

- Mario Cannavale Aileen Joyce Carey Kathleen Mary Cashman Joan Cunningham Bertha Docherty Paul Ferry Maria Franceschi
- Kevin Fuge Louis William Harris Margaret Ireland Anthony (Tony) Losurdo Helen O'Sullivan James Savage Patrick Scott Margaret Tuxworth

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

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

This iconic Catholic Calendar, well -known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. The calendars are available through St Vincent de Paul for \$10 each. They can be purchased from the office



OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will close on Christmas Eve and reopen on January 2nd. We wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas season. Thank you for your support over the past year. It's been an honour to work with our beloved parishioners.

CLERGY NEWS

Bishop Michael Kennedy this week appointed Fr Raphael Madukwe as Assistant Priest in the parishes of Booragul, Boolaroo-Warners Bay, St Joseph's Toronto, as well as St John Vianney Morisset, effective 31 January 2024.

Mr Christopher Voigt (currently Parish leader at Toronto) is the successful candidate for a newly created position of Manager Bishop's Office.

Fr Anil Kuchipudi and Fr Anthony Coloma are appointed as Assistant Priests for the Newcastle Inner City Pastoral Region. Fr Anthony will continue his school chaplaincy roles.

Mr Anton Perera will continue his discernment/ formation for ordination at Taree under the direction of Fr Kevin Corrigan.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Christmas Eve – 24 December

5.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral5.30pm @ The Junction6.00pm @ Mayfield West7.30pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

<u> Christmas Day – 25 December</u>

Midnight @ Sacred Heart Cathedral 7.30am @ St Mary's 8:00am @ Tighes Hill 9:00am @ Stockton 9.30am @ Sacred Heart Cathedral 11:00am @ The Junction (Italian Mass) 11.30am @ Cathedral (Polish Mass) 5:00pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral 5:00pm @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

*Please note that Christmas Eve is a Sunday, so the regular 5pm Mass @ The Cathedral will not take place. Instead, it will be 5:30pm and the Vigil for Christmas Eve.

There is NO Vietnamese Mass on Christmas Eve @ Mayfield West.

St Stephen's Day 26 December

8:15am Sacred Heart Cathedral 11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

THE CHUCKLE

Wife says: "Our new neighbours are so in love. He kisses her, stroked her hair and hugs her. Why don't you do that?"

C RMM

I said, "Because I don't know her that well yet."

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.

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 <u>www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au</u>



REFLECTION By Richard Leonard

Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent *Laudete* Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way *Gaudete* Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel John the Baptist is the model of humility, opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied, waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did.

In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Just like Farmer Fleming or Lord Randolph Churchill, he could not have known the implications of what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

No wonder we have him as our focus on *Gaudete* Sunday. And so may we all rejoice today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.

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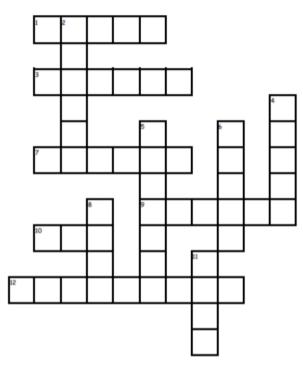
CHRISTMAS CONCERT @ SACRED HEART

The Newcastle Tudor Singers, directed by Dr Anne Millard, present "Favourite Things: Christmas Music we love" Sunday December 17 @ 2pm.





crossword I have been chosen to prepare for the Lord



Across

- 1: to have no war or fighting
- 3: the opposite of brother
- 7: selected
- 9: a sandy place where not much grows
- 10: the number before two
- 12: an important religious group at the time of Jesus who strictly obeyed Jewish law

Down

- 2: John was asked if he was the Messiah,
 - E_ _ _ _ , or the Prophet
- 4: before all others
- 5: people who lead
- 6: John used this to baptise people
- 8: twelve months
- 11: the Lord sent Isaiah to tell the good _ _ _ _

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

I have been chosen to prepare for the Lord

Ρ	R	т	т	S	L	Κ	Е	Μ	D	т	Ν	I	Е	
Ι	F	0	۷	Μ	Ζ	Н	Μ	У	Е	F	Ν	С	I	
Ν	κ	D	R	Ν	Е	W	S	0	S	Ι	V	D	Ν	
Ρ	Е	Α	С	Е	Q	J	G	0	Е	R	Ζ	Ρ	Μ	
J	Ρ	G	F	С	D	S	В	Ρ	R	S	W	W	Ν	
У	Μ	Х	С	Н	0	S	Е	Ν	т	Т	W	У	J	
L	R	R	У	R	Α	Е	У	Е	L	Ι	J	Α	н	
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R	У	G	D	Κ	Μ	F	Н	G	D	Α	S	F	С	
S	Q	Н	R	L	0	Ν	Е	υ	т	F	F	0	Q	
Ζ	Е	У	Е	Α	R	т	В	Ρ	х	J	Α	L	В	
R	Ρ	н	Α	R	Ι	S	Е	Е	S	L	D	У	κ	

Is 61:1-2 Lk 1:47 & 49, 53-54, R, Is 61:10b 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:19-28

Try to find these words:

chosen
desert
Elijah
first
leaders
news
one
peace
Pharisees
sister
water
year

FOOD BASKETS 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), can be placed in the basket at the back of **St Joseph's Church**, The Junction and in the foyer of **Immaculate Heart of Mary 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.

ST MARY'S, NEWCASTLE:

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.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

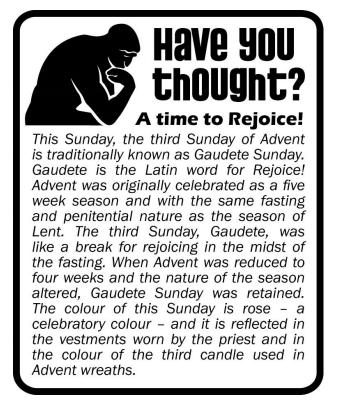
This is non-denominational and everyone is very welcome. Please come.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start WHERE: Mercy Offices, 20 Union Street

(Next door to Mercy Services)

Off street parking available

The Meditation session begins with short guided relaxation exercises then we have a reading from Fr. John Main which leads into 20 minutes of silent meditation



THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS



When the song of the angels is stilled and the star is gone from the sky.

When kings and the princes are home and the shepherds are back

with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to heal the broken hearted, to set prisoners free, to heal the cities, to unite families, to build the nations and feed the poor, to wage peace and make music in the heart.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Appeal launched last weekend. With more and more vulnerable people experiencing poverty and on the brink of homelessness this Christmas, we urgently need your help.



Your donation can help provide the emergency assistance families, and many others, desperately need to survive, and the long-term support they need to build better futures. Please help!

USED STAMPS FOR MARY MACKILLOP TODAY (MMT)

"Mary MacKillop Today" is helping the poorest of the poor with <u>used stamps</u>. Please leave any used stamps in the box provided at the entrance to St Joseph's Church The Junction, or drop them off at the office. Money raised through their sales provides access to learning opportunities for the poorest communities in Australia and internationally.

2024 – LENTEN REFLECTION – TRANSFORMATION THROUGH REVELATION

During the season of Lent, we are called to look deeply at the human condition, just as Jesus, the Son of God, experienced. We are reminded during this time of hardship, suffering, and ultimately dying that we must stretch ourselves. We must pray and fast from whatever is taking hold of the fullness of life. This time calls for personal reflection and encourages us to look out with missionary eyes to intentionally give to those in need.

To access our Diocesan Resource, Transformation Through Revelation, please visit https:// www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6680/0003733-dio-2024-lenten-program-06.pdf

SIMBANG GABI MASSES

Our Filipino community celebrate their annual Christmas Simbang Gabi novena of Masses in the Sacred Heart Cathedral each night at 7.30 pm from Friday 15th to Saturday 23rd December 2023.

Everyone is welcome. At each Mass a collection plate will be passed around to support the Cathedral.



Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery - it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John's gospel greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2023 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A child's catholic faith journey began with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues by the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The preparations for these sacraments in the Inner Newcastle Parish run between February and June of every year and is designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2024. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2024 program. If you are interested in being apart of the program this year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramentalenrolment-form/

For more information please contact the office on 49791101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

ST PETER'S CHURCH CLEANING

There will be a Working Bee at the church on Wednesday 20th at 9.00am for a final clean before Christmas. 'Many hands make light work' Hope to see you there!

THANK YOU

After 26 years of true and loyal service, Rose Jones (Corrigan) is retiring from St Peters' School Office. On behalf of **St Peters' Church Community**, past and present, we would like to extend to you our sincere thanks for your generosity of time, service and co-operation over all those wonderful years. You will be sadly missed. Our best wishes for a wonderful well earned retirement.



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday, 20th December

@ Sacred Heart Cathedral

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.

Advent 2023: With Anticipation and Joy

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. With Anticipation and Joy is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. 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.

To access the resource, go to: https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/ media/6563/0003487-dio-advent-reflectionbook 2023.pdf

POPE FRANCIS: CHRISTIAN JOY IS NOT EASY, BUT WITH JESUS IT IS POSSIBLE

Vatican City, Gaudete Sunday, Year B

Arriving at Christian joy is no cakewalk, but if we put Jesus at the center of our lives, it is possible to have a joyful faith, Pope Francis said on Sunday.

"The invitation to joy is characteristic of the season of Advent," the pope said in his Angelus address Dec. 13. "This is joy: to point to Jesus."

He reflected on the day's Gospel reading from St. John, and encouraged people to follow the example of St. John the Baptist -- in his joy and in his testimony to the coming of Jesus Christ.

St. John the Baptist "undertook a long journey to come to bear witness to Jesus," he pointed out. "The journey of joy is not a walk in the park. It takes work to always be joyful."

"John left everything, from a young age, to put God first, to listen to his Word with all his heart and all his strength," he continued. "He withdrew into the desert stripping himself of everything superfluous, to be freer to follow the wind of the Holy Spirit."

Speaking from a window overlooking St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to use the occasion of the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, to reflect on whether they live their faith joyfully, and whether they convey the joy of being a Christian to others.

He lamented that too many Christians look like they are attending a funeral wake. But we have so many reasons to rejoice, he said: "Christ is risen! Christ loves you!"

According to Francis, the first condition necessary for Christian joy is to focus less on one's self and to put Jesus at the center of everything.

This is not about "alienation" from life, he said, because Jesus "is the light that gives full meaning to the life of every man and woman who comes into this world."

"It is the same dynamism of love, which leads me to come out of myself not to lose myself, but to find myself while I give myself, while I seek the good of the other," he explained.

St. John the Baptist is a good example of this, the pope said. As the first witness of Jesus, he achieved his mission not by drawing attention to himself, but by always pointing to "the One who was to come."

"He was always pointing out the Lord," Francis

emphasized. "Like Our Lady: always pointing out the Lord: 'Do what He tells you.' Always the Lord at the center. The saints around, pointing out the Lord." He added: "And whoever does not point out the Lord is not holy!"

"In particular, [John] the Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they can do so only in detachment from themselves and from worldliness, not by attracting people to themselves but by directing them to Jesus," Pope Francis stated.

The Virgin Mary is an example of a joyful faith, he concluded. "This is why the Church calls Mary 'Cause of our joy.'"

Article by Hannah Brockhaus Painting: © 2023 Lisa Abbott



OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Primary School

Karen McGinlay (*Principal*) Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291

P:(02) 4961 2827 W:www.merewether.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Primary School

Ann Jackson (Principal) Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291

P:(02) 4963 3009 W:www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au

St Columban's Primary School

Danielle Reed (*Principal*) Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 3315 W:www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

St Peter's Primary School

Mark Konik (Acting Principal) Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

P:(02) 4920 1736