



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

**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 21ST APRIL 2024

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

#### Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell  
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel  
Fr Anthony Coloma  
Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi  
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](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
W: [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)  
W: [www.sacredhearthatilton.org.au](http://www.sacredhearthatilton.org.au)

#### Our Staff

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

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)  
*Tuesday and Thursday*

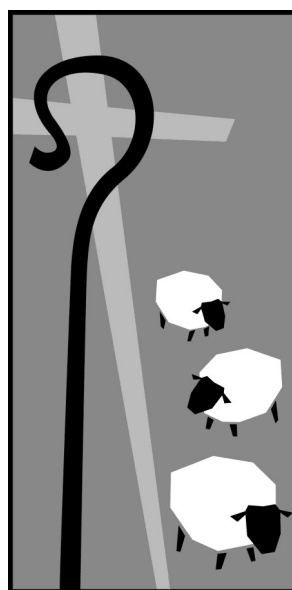
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)  
Thelma Dickson (*Administration*)  
Elul Teclé (*Administration*)

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

#### Promoters of Safeguarding

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

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



This week alone we witnessed a series of violent and horrific tragedies both on the global and local scenes. One wonders where we can find the love God has lavished on us. Yet as we take a second look at those painful events, we find anecdotes of goodness and courageous kindness from individuals who, in ordinary times, are strangers to each other; yet, due to their shared anguish and suffering, they have become neighbours who struggle for the good of others.

May our concern for each other radiate the face of the Good Shepherd who will even lay down one's life for the service and care of others. Fr Anthony

#### Other Contacts

**Bereavement Team:** Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard P: (02) 4979 1252  
**Mercy Pastoral Team:** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm 0448463679

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

*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)

4th Week of Easter, Year B

Monday 22nd April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 23rd April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 24th April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Christ the King, Mayfield West

10:00am Funeral Mass for Sr Josephine Hoffman  
rsm @ The Cathedral

Thursday 25th April

Anzac Day

8:00am Mass @ The Cathedral \*\*NOTE EARLIER  
TIME FOR ANZAC DAY ONLY

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 26th April

Feast of St Mark, evangelist

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 27th April

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 28th April

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

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

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

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

\*\* The Vietnamese Mass is now celebrated fortnightly

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Josephine Hoffman rsm, Kay Silke

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Dionisio DiSanto, Maria Chocholowski

**SICK:** Neil McGoldrick, Lisa Woodland, Maria Therese Perera, Tui Innes, Marko Kefecek, Ronoel Diwa, Jolina Joyce Saranillo, Maureen Dwyer, Angela Cottier, Joshua Zalanardo, Rosa Silivinec, Harry Melville, Doreen Mason, Elaine Johnson, Stewart McKinnon, Mark Caesar, Peter Kefecek, Carlo Rossi, Neil Thomas, Kathryn Gray, Emilie Tseronis, Josephine Diwa



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

## OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in April:

At Sacred Heart

Leo Burke

Beryl Coferos

Lorraine Driscoll

Mary Duggan

Kathleen Gibson

Monica Hayes

Joy Patricia Jarrett

Mary Noreen Long

Alice Martin

Ian Edward McDonald

Cary McNabb

Patricia Mather

Krystyna Mazalo

Laurel May Murray

Nola Margaret Phillips

Frank Keith Pilgrim

Sandra Rufo

Henrietta Vujeva

Elaine Iris Wilson

At St Joseph's:

John Barber

Bruce Buckland

Joseph Callen

Mark John Chappell

Elsie Craig

Norma Patricia De Lore

Harry Fleming

Peter Groombridge

Jim Heaney

Kathleen Hiscox

Michael Johns

Warren Kelly

Milheim Lettoof

Joan Nelson

Jeremiah O'Doherty

Frank O'Sullivan

Ellen Palmer

Mossie Smith

Edna Sowerby

Lorna Wakely

Leo Wallace

John Joseph Willcock

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

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

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8



## LAUDATO SI' WEEK MAY 19-26 2024

### THEME: SEEDS OF HOPE

#### Our Water

Pope Francis in Laudato si' (LS) says: "Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right"

LS #30 ·

From reflection to action: "In Australia, water must be treated as a scarce and precious resource. · How can you embed water-saving practices?"

### MAGDALENE AWARD:

Nominations are open from Monday 8 April

The Magdalene Award recognises a woman living in, and committed to, the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. This is a public affirmation of a life lived in ways that echo the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

For more information, visit [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024)

### SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or

[www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

### BBI SHORT COURSE

Ethical Foundations: Human Dignity Mondays 20 & 27 May, 4pm -5:30pm

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at <https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>

### BEREAVEMENT

Margaret Beard, a parishioner of Stockton, is a member of the recently formed Bereavement Team for the City Region. Should you know of anyone in need of care or counselling, please make contact with Margaret.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 25 May, 9.30am - 2.30pm

John and Anne Gray will lead this event, opening a space for inner silence, gratitude, love and divine beauty. The duo will lead us in Imaginative Contemplation and share the aims of the Worldwide Prayer Network.

Where: St James School Hall (Vista Parade, Kotara) – parking available on Church grounds or Street.

Morning tea provided. Bring your lunch. RSVP: [anne-cuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:anne-cuskelly@hotmail.com) or 0407 436 808

\$10 donations would be appreciated

### SSEC'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

#### PAUL, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Saturday 4 May, 8.30 to 5pm

Join the Society for the Study of Early Christianity (SSEC) for an enlightening journey into the world of Paul the Apostle at our upcoming conference, delving into the fascinating places Paul visited and the diverse array of people he encountered. Paul's letters are filled with people and allusions to their households and cities sit tantalizing in the background. How did these people come to be the early church? And what was Paul's role in shaping the house churches in so many cities across the Mediterranean? Whether you're a scholar, a history enthusiast, or simply curious about the life and travels of Paul, this conference promises to be an immersive and enlightening experience. Don't miss this opportunity to uncover the enduring legacy of one of history's most influential figures.

Registration link: <https://mq-ssec.org/2024-annual-conference/>

### TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 5th May Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5.00pm – 6pm  
*followed by a shared supper.*

You can read about it in the Aurora article "A spirit of joy, simplicity and reconciliation" available in the Diocesan website: <http://mnnews.today>



### CATHEDRAL MORNING TEA

Abundant thanks to the wonderful parishioners who brought food last weekend!! And thanks to those who stayed for the great fellowship. Our next morning tea at Sacred Heart Cathedral is May 12th.



## REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard SJ

Sometimes a piece of theatre can be so powerful it stays with you for your whole life. Many years ago I saw Jesuit dramatist Michael Moynahan perform his mime entitled 'Come-Passion'. It starts with a clown happily doing tricks and juggling for the audience. Soon, Jesus is led in by the soldiers and is crucified. The clown watches on in horror. When Jesus dies and the soldiers go home the clown remains at the foot of the cross. He removes the nails from the hands and feet of Jesus and cradles the corpse in his lap, as in Michelangelo's Pieta. He weeps for the evil that saw a just man crucified. Just then, the soldiers return and find the clown grieving over the body of Jesus. They crucify the clown. The clown suffers and dies on the cross. As they leave Jesus is raised to life, he sees the suffering clown, removes the nails, cradles him in his arms and holds him for what feels like an eternity.

When I saw this mime you could have heard a pin drop, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The word compassion comes from the Latin word *compati* meaning to bear or suffer with. It's not pity, sympathy or commiseration. Those words imply that we stand outside an experience and feelingly look in on it. Compassion is about 'fellow-feeling'. It's what the Good Shepherd embodies, and what Easter is all about. If we are worthy followers of Jesus we will all have our fair share of Good Fridays, but Easter Sunday tells us that just as the Father remained faithful to Jesus, so Jesus will remain faithful to us, as one with us.

In recent years the bishops, who are often called shepherds of the local Church, have come under extraordinary scrutiny. And rightly so. All of us who are living the Christian life are accountable for what we have done and have failed to do, and the bishops are no exception. It's a tough time to be the local shepherd. The flock is highly educated and we no longer follow anyone's lead with a herd mentality. We want to know our shepherd, hear his compassionate voice call for justice for victims everywhere, but especially ones who have been injured in any way by the Church. We want to be confident that what our local shepherd says and does is what Christ the Good Shepherd would say and do. Over these past years our sense of dismay has come from a very few bishops who have chosen the so-called good name of the church, its social status and power, their public profile and even the threat of moral and financial liability over the voices of the most vulnerable members of our flock.

Today's Gospel reminds us what Christian leadership should look like. Jesus didn't liken it to princes in palaces or governors of provinces. His metaphor was of a compassionate shepherd who sleeps in the field with his flock, one who knows them so well and loves them so dearly that he lays down his own life for them.

Let's pray at this Eucharist that we always have the leaders we deserve, ones whose compassion is so transparent that it inspires us to be the same, even towards them.

© Richard Leonard SJ. <http://www.liturgyhelp.com>

**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.



## ALPHA AT THE MACKILLOP PARISH

The Mackillop Parish invites you to join them for Alpha. Alpha is a friendly, informal environment for people with various beliefs to explore the meaning of life, faith and God. The program is simple: we start with dinner, watch a thought-provoking video exploring life from a Christian perspective, and then have time for sharing our perspectives in small groups. No cost, no pressure, no judgment. All are most welcome.

Event Start Date: Thursday 2 May Time: Thursdays 6.30pm to 8.30pm Location: Mackillop Function Room: - 7 Milson St, Charlestown NSW 2290. RSVP: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/>

## **STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS: THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE AND LIBRARY AND THE 2024 TWEC DINNER – FRIDAY 31 MAY**

It is with much excitement that you are invited to join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library. The Library, which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Catholic Library, offers our community access to resources relating to Religious Education, Scripture, Theology, Liturgy and more.

Following on from the official opening, the celebration continues with the reimagining of the TWEC dinner with guest speaker Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Director of Mission at the Diocese of Broken Bay. Kelly was amongst five Australians chosen personally by the Holy Father to participate in the General Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Library Opening – 4.30 PM

Free entry. All welcome

Dinner & Speaker – 5.30 PM

\$40 pp includes buffet meal and guest speaker presentation. Dinner

Registration link: [https://](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597)

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597)



### **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.

### **GOSPEL FOCUS**

The John gospel writer's use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

### **CHILDREN'S MISSION PARTNERS:**

The collective efforts and generosity of the Tighes Hill Catholic community will be celebrated at the monthly morning tea in April, after a significant fundraising milestone was achieved recently. Following the 8am Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Catholic Mission is inviting locals to celebrate the achievement of \$50,000 worth of donations, from parishioners over the past three decades. There also will be an acknowledgement of the individual efforts of long-term Tighes Hill resident and parishioner, Margaret Crockett. She has been collecting the funds from different parishioners, recording them in her exercise books and passing the funds on to Catholic Mission, for its work with children in need around the world. All are invited to join the community for morning tea, after Mass on Sunday, April 21.

### **VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO**

View, Chew, and Chat meets May 1 for Episode 4 of The Chosen. To participate, please email the parish office.

### **BOOK CLUB**

**Sunday, 5th May @ 6:15pm:** Bookclub meets to discuss *Search Party* by Inga Hannah Richell. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



### **MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE**

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDITATION 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.

### **THE CHUCKLE**

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.



## 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.

## SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL & 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.

## HUMAN LIBRARY AT THE DIOCESAN LIBRARY

On Friday 26 April, the Diocesan Library will hold its first Human Library event, the theme being War and Spirituality. Our human "books" are two members of our Diocesan family, each has experienced war and the effects of war. One in the military and one as an innocent person living in a war zone. They are both people of faith. How have they maintained their faith in a space that can be so destructive to our belief in God? Did they ever struggle with their faith in the face of what they experienced? Do they ever feel fear now when they are safe from the physical aspect of war? What impact did their experience of war have on their family?

We invite you to come and listen to their stories, to ask the questions, to share and create relationships.

Date: Friday 26 April, 2024

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Place: Diocesan Resource Centre Library - 12 Tudor Street, Cnr Parry Street, Newcastle West Bookings Encouraged: <https://forms.office.com/r/1GEzWxaDiq>

## 2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The preparations for the sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and First Eucharist in the Inner Newcastle Parish are now underway. Over 80 children in Years 4, 5, 6 and in high school are now enrolled. They will complete the preparations with families via online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Next week, those involved in the program will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please include these children in your prayers.

Enrolments are still open:

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/>

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

## "TILLING THE CHURCH: THEOLOGY FOR AN UNFINISHED PROJECT". ZOOM DISCUSSION

While Father Richard's visit in 2023 was short, he last left our Diocese with riches which we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

We will continue the discussion in 2024!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project" chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087>

## MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary will be held on the first Saturday of each month @ 1pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. For more Information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.



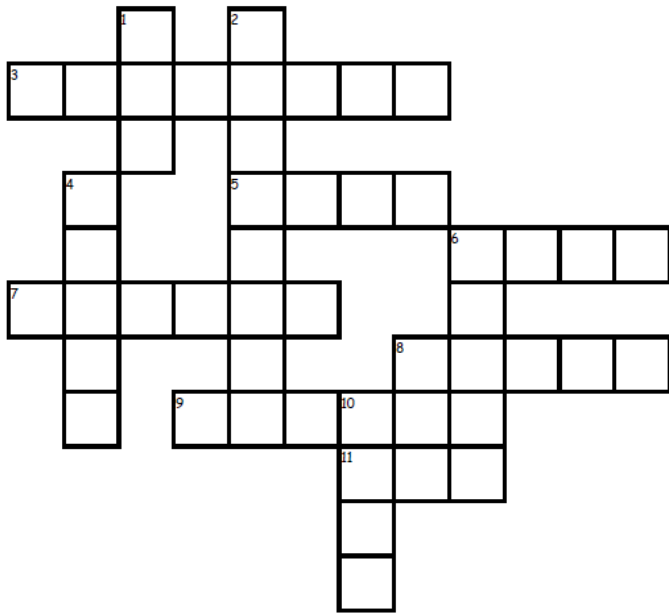
## EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Are you aged between 20 and 40? Are you interested to share your faith with like-minded young adults? Then our new faith sharing group might be for you! We meet Thursdays @ 7pm in the Cathedral precinct. Email [Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au) to find out more.

# CROSSWORD

The stone the builders tossed aside is now the most important

Acts 4:8-11  
Ps 118:1 & 21. 22-23. R. v.2  
1 Jn 3:1-2  
Jn 10:11-16



## Across

- 3: someone who looks after sheep
- 5: Jesus died on a cross but God raised him to \_\_\_\_\_
- 6: Peter told the leaders and elders that only Jesus has the power to \_\_\_\_\_
- 7: to go back to a place is to r\_\_\_\_\_ there
- 8: when you speak people hear your \_\_\_\_\_
- 9: Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the good shepherd. I \_\_\_\_\_ my sheep, and they know me."
- 11: the number before two

## Down

- 1: when Christ returns we will \_\_\_\_\_ him as he truly is
- 2: God loves us and calls us his \_\_\_\_\_
- 4: a woolly animal that says "baa"
- 6: Peter described Jesus as the most important \_\_\_\_\_ of all
- 10: this animal sometimes attacks sheep

# SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The stone the builders tossed aside is now the most important

Acts 4:8-12  
Ps 118:1 & 21. 22-23. R. v.22  
1 Jn 3:1-2  
Jn 10:11-16

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

Try to find these words:

- children
- know
- life
- one
- return
- save
- see
- sheep
- shepherd
- stone
- voice
- wolf

## SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The story in Acts follows a familiar biblical pattern: someone faces a challenge; at first the challenge is not met; a miraculous event occurs; a second chance is given. Here, the claims made by Jesus constitute the trial; the rejection is at the hands of the leaders of the people; the wonder is the healing of the crippled man; although rejection calls down judgment, God's judgment never precludes ultimate salvation. At the heart of Peter's message is the fundamental gospel formula: 'whom you crucified, God raised from the dead.' Jesus' resurrection became the fountain from which springs salvation of every kind. For the crippled man, salvation took the form of healing; for others, it can take the form of spiritual transformation.

The psalmist reminds a group of believers of God's faithfulness and calls them to give thanks. Two proverbs in the 'better ... than' form insist that trust in God far exceeds trust in mere human beings, even powerful princes. Next is a testimony of God's goodness addressed to the community. In it, God's attentiveness and saving intervention are acknowledged. In a reversal of fortune, the rejected stone becomes the most important stone. The psalmist claims that the one who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed or happy, regardless of what the surrounding society may think. The psalm ends with the summons to give thanks. The goodness of God has been profiled. Gratitude is the only fitting response.

The point of the short reading from the Letter of John is the love that God has for believers. This love (*agápe*) is generative; it makes believers children of God. As God's children, they are a new reality; they no longer belong to the world, the old reality. The implications of this are clear. Believers should be prepared for the same kind of rejection, even persecution and death, that befell Jesus. A second theme, eschatological fulfilment, flows from the first. As a consequence of God's love, believers have already been reborn as children of God. However, their transformation is dependent upon a future manifestation. The 'now but not yet' of Christian eschatology is clearly seen.

With words that suggest some kind of divine revelation, ('I am' *ego eimi* [cf. Exod 3:14]), Jesus identifies himself as the 'good shepherd'. He sketches the external behaviour of a good shepherd, and then he explains the reason for such unselfish attention. This becomes quite clear in the second section. Jesus is not like the shepherds condemned by the prophets (cf. Ezekiel 34). They failed their responsibilities and actually took advantage of their charges. On the other hand, Jesus is willing to protect his flock even to the point of risking his own life for them. The universality of Jesus' shepherding is clearly stated. He is willing to care for and die for other sheep who, though they are not yet included in his flock, are nonetheless his.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

## DIFFERENT VIEW

### The Modern-Day Shepherd

*Today's audiences can tend to struggle a bit with the image of Jesus as the good shepherd. In countries like Australia and the United States, the image of sheep is one of huge flocks of sheep that number in their hundreds and thousands and roam freely over enormous open plains. I guess we also tend to look on sheep as pretty stupid animals that will follow anything anywhere. It doesn't seem to work to put Jesus into this image of vast sheep stations. The idea of a shepherd knowing his sheep individually seems a bit ridiculous in this context.*

### 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

### 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](http://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](http://www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au)

#### St Columban's Primary School

Penny Banister (*Principal*)

Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 3315

W:[www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au)

#### St Peter's Primary School

Michael Punch (*Principal*)

Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

P:(02) 4928 1861

W:[www.stockton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stockton.catholic.edu.au)