



# 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 9TH JUNE 2024

# 10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 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  
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au  
W: 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*)

Peter Davies

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



Throughout the Gospel of Mark, the author explores the question of who people believe Jesus to be. Whilst his disciples have a less than perfect understanding of the question, 'Who do you say I am?', those whose faith

reveals the truth of Jesus are quickly sworn to secrecy. In today's gospel, the misunderstanding of Jesus' family and the misunderstanding of the Scribes show their incomplete grasp of who Jesus is. Whilst the language about Satan, evil and unclean spirits is unfamiliar language today, the gospel writer uses this imagery to further his point that Jesus is the Messiah, the one who saves the world.

### 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)

10th Week of Ordinary Time, Year B

Monday 10th June

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 11th June

Memorial of St Barnabas

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 12th June

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

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

Thursday 13th June

Memorial of St Anthony of Padua

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton (Anointing Mass)

Friday 14th June

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral (Anointing Mass)

Saturday 15th June

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 16th June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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

5:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (Vietnamese) \*\*  
Not this week

\* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—  
[www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton](http://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton)  
and on the Diocesan website

\*\* The Vietnamese Mass is now celebrated fortnightly

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Ez 17:22-24

2 Cor 5:6-10

Mk 4:26-34



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Callum Drinkwater,  
Sr. Denise Edmunds rsj, Sr. Catherine Grant rsj,  
Sr. Audette Mansour rsm



**ANNIVERSARIES:** Perce Jennings, John Geatches, Eileen McCosker, Mary Sinclair, John Hilton, Frank Gallagher, Sheila Lennan, May Maloney, Jean Parkes, Brian Nolan, Mary Rees, Maureen Dixon, Peter Dougherty Daniel Close, Cassie Bleakley, Jeanette Mary Davis, Anna Cesta, Frank & Frances Hinchey, Patricia Hinchey, Bill & Phyllis Martin, Corazon Manlapaz, Leonardo Diwa, Sr.

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

**Speak the name of the dead and they will live forever.**

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

At Sacred Heart

Reginald Bennett

Coral Dawn (Diri) Cooke

Joy Doran

Clifford Ellicott

Barry (Appo) Garside

Leo Ireland

Helen Elizabeth McLachlan

Basil O'Brien

Moira O'Brien

Herbert Presland

Michael (Mick) Rabbitt

Colleen Ray

Clyde Henry Rowley

John Ruggero

John Shearer

Stanley Wenman

Noela Margaret Yazbeck

At St Joseph's:

Vaudrey BRUYN

Paul BYRON

John CAVENAGH

Robert CRAIG

Yvette DAVIS

Christine DOWLING

Elaine GROOMBRIDGE

Ethna HARVEY

Ena HAWKINS

Helen Margaret HUMPHRY

Ronald John JAMES

Kenneth George LANE

John Augustus LARKIN

Mark Joseph LEWIS

Eileen MOORE

Dolly O'MALLEY

Eric & Coralie PARKINSON

Lynette PUNSHON

Greg RADECKI

Richard Joseph WAKELY

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

## PRAYER GROUP

Junction Prayer/Discussion Group Monthly meetings occur on the last Thursday of each month at 9:30am in Parish meeting room.

## 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)

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE

Expressions of Interest for 2024/2025 Christian Formation Course are now open.

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

- The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units
- All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
- grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 23 July, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more, go to <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course>

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

## VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets June 12 to discuss Episode 6 of *The Chosen*. To participate, please email the parish office.

## TIGHES HILL NATIVE BEE HIVE

The Parish's Community Garden next to the Tighes Hill church is keen to get a hive of stingless native bees. The wild hive of European bees that lived there was killed due to the varroa mite. The native bees are mite resistant and will be great pollinators. They don't produce enough honey for humans - just enough to get the hive thru the hard times. The cost is about \$700 for bees, hive and stand. Please consider making a donation at the GoFundMe appeal:



## 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.

## BIBLICAL EXPLORATIONS: MOSES AND THE EXODUS

The exodus was one of the fundamental events that came to define God's people. It's not much of an exaggeration to say that the rest of the Bible was written as a reaction to God's decision to rescue Israel from Egypt in the exodus. Understanding the exodus helps unlock the whole Bible. Even the gospels draw on the exodus. In this subject, we'll raise some of the key questions about the exodus and think about the different ways that people have interpreted the book of Exodus. We'll also think about what the book of Exodus means in a Christian context and how the gospel writers used Exodus ideas to make sense of Jesus' life.

RSVP by 8 June to attend at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or in your parish.

Dates: Thursdays 20 & 27 June

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/6WZSV8CTnT>

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

As we enter winter, more people in our community will need help. CatholicCare's Community Kitchens can be accessed by anyone who needs a warm meal or support. Five locations operate across the Hunter and Mid-North Coast. including:

- Hamilton South: Every Wednesday, 12pm to 1pm at 29 Fowler Street, Hamilton South
- Newcastle: Every Saturday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm (6.30pm to 7.30pm during Daylight Savings) at Civic Park, King Street, Newcastle
- Toronto: Every Thursday, 5pm to 6.30pm at 97 The Boulevard, Toronto

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE CATHOLIC CARE REFUGEE HUB

The CatholicCare Refugee Hub is looking for volunteers to support its Driving and Tutoring programs.

As part of the Driving Program, you will mentor participants and help them build their skills through both practical and theory lessons. Using CatholicCare's insured fleet cars, you will also assist them in completing their logbook hours to get their license.

In the Tutoring Program, you will support primary and high school students from refugee backgrounds with their schoolwork. The program runs from 2.30pm to 5pm on Tuesdays during the school term.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.catholiccare.org.au/community-programs/community-refugee-hub/volunteer/](http://www.catholiccare.org.au/community-programs/community-refugee-hub/volunteer/)

## THE CHUCKLE—ALL ABOUT ANTS

5 ants + 5 ants = Tenants

An ant at the top of its game = Brilliant

A very small ant = Infant

An ant who changes its ways = Repentant

A proud ant = Arrogant

An ant that isn't willing = Reluctant

A huge ant = Giant

An extremely fast ant = Instant



The hand of Christ  
blesses the cup



The hand of love  
offers the cup



The hand of suffering  
receives the cup

**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL  
ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN THE  
CHURCHES NOW**

## WORKPLACE GIVING MONTH

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) In the month when the Pope asks us, as members of the Universal Catholic Church, to pray for immigrants and refugees, it is perhaps timely to also reflect on all the ways we are blessed, as people of God. In thinking of those who have been forced to flee their homeland, or those who have left loved ones behind, we can pause and give thanks for all the ways our faith leads us to "prosper" and enjoy the good things in life: a roof over our heads, social times with family and friends, work that is fulfilling and allows us to maintain a healthy standard of living. If, like me, you are someone who has many things to be grateful for, you may like to consider this special invitation during June:

As someone who works for Catholic Mission, I have decided to make several contributions to charities, including my own, through regular deductions from my fortnightly salary. This is known, in fundraising circles, as 'workplace giving'. It just so happens that June is nominated by the not-for-profit sector as 'Workplace Giving Month'.

If you are a member of a workplace; if you are someone who runs a business that employs people; if you are employed in a school, hospital or aged care facility; if you are a young person setting out on your career path; if you are someone working but nearing retirement; if you work in a bank or an accounting practice, on a road crew or a construction site, are part-time or full-time...whatever your 'workplace' looks like, you may like to, prayerfully, consider your capacity to share some of your regular pay with those less fortunate. This could include local Catholic charities such as Vinnies and CatholicCare or Catholic agencies with a global focus, such as Caritas and Catholic Mission.

The beauty about workplace giving is that you have the power to make the decisions. You can decide the amount you want to contribute. You can decide which causes you support. You can decide whether you let the charities know that you are supporting them (my recommendation is that you do, so that each organisation can keep you informed about the impact your support is having.)

If you would like to know more about 'workplace giving', and how to put it into practice, please drop me a line or give me a call. The more Catholics supporting Catholic agencies in this way, the more efficient our fundraising becomes and the greater the impact your generosity will have.

David McGovern Diocesan Director Catholic Mission (Maitland-Newcastle and Bathurst Dioceses)  
0431 481 731 or [dmcgovern@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:dmcgovern@catholicmission.org.au)

## AVOIDING THE REAL JESUS

This Gospel passage portrays two ways in which we can reject the *real* Jesus Christ. One way is quite common and we all engage in it to one degree or another. Thank goodness it is forgivable. The other is rare but has very dire consequences.

The first way is to domesticate Jesus, and that is what members of his blood family were trying to do. They thought he was 'out of his mind', already provoking a severe reaction from the religious and political authorities. He was madly putting himself in harm's way and he had to be restrained.

But Jesus would not give up his mission to establish the reign of God on earth, the signs of which were the curing of bodies and minds, and the forgiving of sins, embodying the merciful healing presence of God, come what may (and he did know what was coming!).

His Nazareth family were trying to reduce him to manageable size so that he did not imperil himself, and them. So, he dramatically creates a new family constituted by those who, like him, are dedicated to doing the will of God.

You and I have to ask: 'Have I tried to domesticate Jesus Christ, to reduce him to a non-threatening Jesus-meek-and-mild?' If so, we are closer to the family of Nazareth standing just outside his circle, ready to run for cover, than to the family of Jesus Christ seated around him really listening to him and therefore vulnerable.

The second way to reject the real Jesus Christ is to completely, and with malice aforethought, misconstrue all the evidence of Jesus' mission on earth and claim that it must be Satanic, that he must be in league with the devil.

Jesus quickly retorts that, if that were the case there must be a civil war going on in Satania, because he is constantly undoing the devil's work by merciful healing. The charge is non-sense.

Worse than that, if you grievously mislead others by saying publicly, as did these religious leaders, that Jesus is diabolically acting because 'He has an unclean spirit', then it is this malicious misleading of others that is unforgiveable. You have deliberately put the salvation of others at risk.

This is real blasphemy, not some outburst of language disrespecting God, but a deliberate turning against God's plan to send the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ amongst us for our salvation.

You have also made yourself the sort of person who, at death, will not recognise the saving presence of the Risen Lord for who he is – the source of forgiveness necessary to be swept up into the loving eternal life of God.

The fact that you are here listening to this homily leads me, with pastoral confidence not presumption, to say that you need not be worried that you have committed *this* blasphemy.

You and I may be more justly worried about the first mode of rejection of the real Jesus.

Fortunately, we can with the grace of God recognise this and determine to read and hear the Gospels, discern the will of God for our lives and come back within the ultimate family allegiance of those who dare to call God 'our Father'.

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## STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE EVENTS

The Diocesan Resource Centre and Library were officially opened and blessed by Bishop Michael Kennedy at the end of May. The library is open three days a week and offers several events each month. Find out what is on offer by regularly checking the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library)

The opening hours are as follows:

Mondays and Tuesdays – 10am to 6pm  
Saturday – 10am to 2pm

## NOTICE TO PLANNED GIVERS - THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR IS COMING!

**Planned Giving Tax Receipts:** Parishioners who require a tax receipt for planned giving for the 2023/2024 financial year must notify the Parish Office **by Friday, 28 June 2024.**

Please submit requests in writing by one of the following methods:

**Email to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au):** Use the wording, "Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt" and include your name and envelope number.

**Planned Giving Envelope:** Write on your weekly envelope, "Tax receipt required".

Tax receipt data will be processed immediately following 30 June 2024. If you make a request after that date you will not be eligible for a receipt, nor for a tax deduction in relation to your planned giving contributions. This is because there is a designated sum that can be attributed to planned giving receipts and, once this distribution has occurred, no further allocations are possible.

The 'designated sum' provision also means that the claimable amount for each giver decreases when more people request a receipt. We therefore request that if you do not intend to claim a tax deduction, please do not request a receipt.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



## WEDNESDAY ROSARY

Pray the Rosary each Wednesday immediately after 8:15am Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.

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

Meet Thursdays @ 7pm in the Cathedral precinct. Join us June 13, to view episode 2 of the series *The Chosen*. Anyone aged between 20 and 40 is cordially invited to join the group.  
Email [Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au) to find out more.

## PARISH VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Tuesday 18 June 2024

9.30am to 12.30pm (Lunch Provided)

**Murray Room, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle 2302**

All parish workers are required to attend **Safeguarding Training in Parishes** within 6 months of commencing in their role and every 6 years thereafter.

This training forms part of the **Diocese's mandatory training regime** and is specifically designed to support paid and unpaid helpers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

Please rsvp to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) by June 4

## 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

## GOSPEL FOCUS

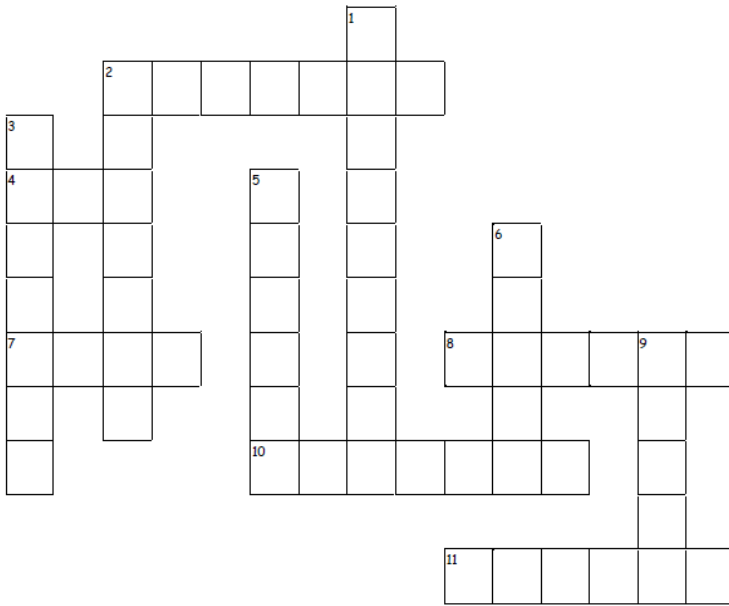
### Binding the strong man

*The incarnation of Jesus in the world – God becoming fully human and physically present in the world – was an act of supreme love for the world. The image of binding the strong man echoes this act of love. The image is reminiscent of a bully or tyrant who is wreaking havoc and terrorizing a community. Before justice can be restored and the victims/survivors lifted up, the 'strong man' must be restrained and subdued. To bring about the loving act of God in the world, the power of evil must be resisted and bound up.*

# CROSSWORD

If Satan fights against himself it will be the end of him

Gen 3:9-15  
Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6d-7a  
Cor 4:16-5:1  
Mk 3:20-26, 31-35



### Across

- 2: those who are against you
- 4: God created Adam and \_\_\_
- 5: Mary was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus
- 7: the first man
- 8: the group of people we are related to
- 10: questions that are puzzles to be solved
- 11: the opposite of brother

### Down

- 1: completely ruined
- 2: forever
- 3: information that is passed on to someone else
- 5: belief
- 6: another word for serpent
- 9: big

# SENIOR WORDSEARCH

If Satan fights against himself it will be the end of him

Gen 3:9-15  
Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6d-7a  
Cor 4:16-5:1  
Mk 3:20-26, 31-35

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

Try to find these words:

- brothers
- family
- fight
- home
- Jerusalem
- large
- message
- Moses
- mother
- riddles
- Satan
- sister

## FRANCIS'S FOCUS

Reflecting on today's Gospel, Pope Francis says that 'Jesus' response was not a lack of respect for his mother and his brethren.' He was not turning away from family, but rather widening the very concept.

'Jesus formed a new family,' the Pope explains, 'no longer based on natural ties, but on faith in him, on his love which welcomes us and unites us to each other, in the Holy Spirit.'

This is especially poignant when we remember that Jesus was just accused of being devilish. While Jesus' clever riposte turns the logic of the scribes upside down and puts them on the backfoot, the Pope suggests that 'this episode contains an admonishment which is useful to all of us.'

He points out that 'it can happen that deep envy of a person's goodness and good works can drive one to falsely accuse him or her.' This, after all, was the root of the accusation against Jesus. We must be alert to this temptation ourselves, especially in the Church.

We should also be alert to a little detail in this Gospel which is easily overlooked. Pope Francis draws our attention to it, because it highlights why Jesus attracted both accusations and concerns in the first place.

Jesus, the Pope points out, 'did not even have time to eat.' He was too busy encountering people and encouraging them. 'Jesus,' the Pope says, 'was like that: people first; serving people; helping people; teaching people; healing people. He was for the people. He did not even have time to eat.'

© Nick Brodie

**Nick Brodie** is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania, he is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the Journal of Religious History. He is currently studying Theology.

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

At the end of the today's gospel passage, Jesus states, 'Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' Family bonds were critically important in First Century Palestine. Jesus does not deny his family kinship, but expands it to include anyone who does the will of God. All those who work to bring about the Kingdom or Reign of God share a bond with Jesus, they share a familial link with him. Whenever we act to bring about God's dream for this world, we join our efforts with those of our brother, Jesus.

## TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 7th July 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>



## BOOK CLUB

**Sunday, 7th July @ 6:15pm:** Bookclub meets to discuss *What Happened to Nina* by Dervla McTiernan. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



## THE APP

Are you using the App? It's a great way to get the daily readings on your phone!

You can download the app for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Just search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' and click install on your mobile or tablet!

## 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

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