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 1ST DECEMBER 2024 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell Fr Anthony Coloma Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi Fr Solomon Okovido Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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

P: (02) 4979 1101

E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (Reception & Administration) Anne Warren (Business Manager) Daloras Howes (Administration) Elul Tecle (Administration) Peter Davies (Administration) Dr Anne Millard (Music, Liturgy, Sacraments)

Bereavement Team: Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard

(02) 4979 1252

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm 0448463679 St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Promotors of Safeguarding

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You probably know the sayings: 'One door closes, another door opens' and 'Nothing stays the same forever'. Change in our own lives, and the world generally, often comes about through periods of crisis and calamity. It's in this context that we might see the great signs spoken of in today's Gospel. So, let's pray for the faith, courage and love to embrace every hardship and uncertainty we encounter, knowing that in God's plan there is light and new life at the end of every dark tunnel.

Fr John



Sacred Heart Cathedral sits on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and their continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past, present and future, and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

1st Week of Advent, Year C

Monday 2nd December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 3rd December

Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton (Anointing Mass)

11:00am Funeral Mass @ Stockton for Kathleen

Joy Hatherall

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral: Annual Mass

Celebrating Diverse Learning

Wednesday 4th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West (Anointing Mass)

Thursday 5th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Diocesan Staff Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 6th December

10:15am Mass @ The Junction (Anointing Mass)

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @

The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 7th December

Memorial of St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

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 8th December

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

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 Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

(No Mass 8th December; next Mass 15th

December)



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Baruch 5:1-9 Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11 Luke 3:1-6

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Marie Farrell rsm (formerly Sr Mary Eucharia), Neil Gibson, Sr Evelyn Woodward rsj, Kathleen Joy Hatherall

ANNIVERSARIES: John McGuire Turner, Carol Power, Alfredo Peverini, Pat Croke, Molly McKay, Kathleen Bryant, Lance Nichols, Joan Sullivan, Ron Crittenden, Hilda Crump

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Carlo Rossi, John Woodward, Neil Thomas, Louise Hall, Tui Innes

Names may be placed in **"Prayer Requests"** by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website

-visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING



Our newly ordained priest, Fr Solomon, is celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving in Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9.30am this weekend. Mass will be followed by light refreshments. All very welcome.

Margaret Tuxworth

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

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

At St Joseph's:

•	
Frank Hawkins Jnr	Joan Payne
Ernst Koch	Byeena Winifred Saxby
Cecily Clare Leslie	Pat Skehan
Margaret McGlynn	Patricia Margaret Smith
Athol Moore	Joseph Timbs
Kevin Smith	Grace Hickey
Robert Wakely	Harold Casey
Stan Walters	Kelvin Davis
Dorothy Wilson	Mary Doyle
Franz Schmuck	Bill Edser
Noreen Heaney	Alan Fogarty
Rodger Ryan	Maree Green
Mick McBride	Dorothy Wilson

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

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Christmas Appeal is coming to a church near you on the weekend of 7th/8th December. Please continue your great tradition of generosity.



STOCKTON ADVENT DONATIONS

Christmas is a time of giving, receiving and thinking of others. As in past years, please dig deep and give generously to those less fortunate. Baskets in the foyer each Sunday of Advent need to be filled with non perishable goods, gifts and toiletries. These will be distributed between Catholic Care, Refugee Hub and Seafarers' Mission. Thank you, in anticipation.

CHRISTMAS CLEANING AT STOCKTON

A working bee in Stockton church will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 9am. All welcome to assist with ensuring St Peter's is in tip top shape for the Feast of the Nativity.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

We are looking for volunteers to join our choir at the Cathedral for the celebration of Christmas. If you would like to help, please contact the office on 4979 1101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for all our Christmas Masses at Sacred Heart. If you can help, we'd be very grateful! Please complete the form available in the foyer, or scan the QR code, or use this link..

https://tinyurl.com/SHCathedral

NEWCASTLE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC THANKSGIVING MASS 2024

Everyone is invited to give thanksgiving to the Lord for all that 2024 has brought us, during a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 13 December at 7pm at the Sacred



Heart Cathedral. Bishop Michael has kindly accepted our invitation and will be joining our other priests while presiding at the Mass. We will also be gathering for Praise and Worship at 6:30pm before the Mass and all are welcome to join this part of the celebration.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please contact Mary-Anne on 0402 918 375 or Wayne on 0466 631 394 for more information.

MULTICULTURAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Venue: Sacred Heart Cathedral

Date: Sunday 1st December 2024, 7pm—10pm

Admission: Free. A collection will be taken during the

hristmas

service to help cover the cost of the concert.

Participants:

- Community Singing
- Combined Choir
- Callaghan Singers
- ▼ Filipino Choir of Newcastle
- Novatones Harmony Chorus
- Sing Australia Belmont Choir
- ▼ Tongan Community Choir

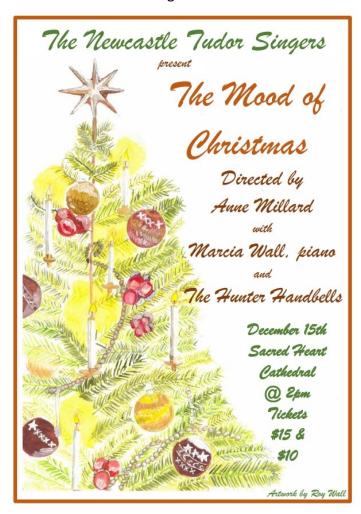
For further information, contact the Public Relations Officer and Compere, Joop de Wit:

jdw43n@gmail.com 02 4954 5227 or 0412 671 848

MORNING TEA AT THE CATHEDRAL

Our last Cathedral morning tea for 2024 will be December 8. We'd like to make it a special event for Christmas and we need your help!

The proposal is we include as many different cultural Christmas traditions as we can. So if you have a special Christmas food and you're willing to share it with your church family, please bring it on December 8 for our Christmas Morning Tea!



RCIA TEAM—CITY PASTORAL REGION

Dear friends.

As many of you may already be aware, we are currently forming an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Team for the parishes of our City Pastoral Region. I'm very grateful to those generous parishioners who have



volunteered to be part of this team, and also Sr Louise Gannon rsj and the Worship & Prayer Team, in assisting us with formation of this wonderful ministry.

Saying this, it's important to recognize that all of us, as an intrinsic part of our Christian calling, have a role in the work of evangelisation (including welcoming & accompanying) of anyone interested in joining our Catholic faith. It can be very inspiring to hear the stories of those who are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord and His people through this process.

So, I invite you to let me know if you'd like to volunteer to be a companion (ie. welcome and sit with one of these people at Sunday Mass) to accompany them on their journey. Instruction will be provided for you if you are able to help in this way. In doing this, you will be making a very valuable and practical contribution to building-up the Kingdom of God in our region. To register your interest, please forward your name and a contact number/email to our Parish Office at: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or telephone on (02) 49791101.

Love, Fr John

CATHOLIC CARE



CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning have started collecting donations for their 2024 Christmas Hamper Drive. The team is hoping to spread Christmas cheer by gifting hampers to people who access their Community Kitchens and often go without over the

festive period. If you would like to contribute, please drop off Christmas treats to the CatholicCare office – 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield:

Financial donations are also welcome! Every dollar counts and helps us keep our kitchens going. Please visit catholiccare.org.au/donate.

PARISH BULLETIN

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

REFLECTION BY BRENDAN BYRNE SI

Advent transports us back to the longing of the prophets of Israel for the coming of a Saviour. The Saviour has come. But salvation is not complete. We proclaim, 'Christ has died, Christ is risen', and then add, 'Christ will come again.'

Why? Because there is so much 'unfinished business' in the work of redemption. Our world and even the lives of believers still appear very 'unredeemed'. Our salvation is still being worked out.

The first generation of Christians believed that the Lord would return very soon to complete his messianic work. They were dismayed when some believers began to die and still he had not come (1 Thess 4:13-18). The later writings of the New Testament, the four Gospels included, all address this problem. It may be that the Lord will not come tomorrow, next year, or even before this generation dies out. But come he will in a time known only to God (Mark 13:32).

Meanwhile, this time of waiting is not devoid of meaning – like time spent waiting on a bus stop. This 'in-between' time is a sacred time, a time for the Church to proclaim the Gospel to every nation (Mark 13:10; Acts 1:6-8), to make sense of the present, while never giving up the hope that God's Messiah, Jesus, will have the last word.

Advent is the season that honours and celebrates this waiting aspect of Christian life. Because we live in the time following the first coming of the Saviour, the prime focus of our waiting and our expectation is upon the second coming of the Lord. Because salvation is not complete, because we are so conscious of a world still ravaged by suffering and violence, we can identify with the prophets and holy men and women who hung upon the promise of salvation before the first coming of the Lord.

© Brendan Byrne SJ

THE CHUCKLE

A man stopped by the local church to talk to the priest. He told the priest, "I stole a turkey this morning on my way home from



work". The priest told him, "That was a terrible thing to do". The man replied, "Yes, I know that now. Do you want it?" The priest replied, "No, take it back and give it to the person that you stole it from." The man replied, "I tried to give it back but he refused it". The priest told him, "In that case, you keep the turkey". The man thanked the priest and went on his way.

When the priest arrived home later that day he discovered that his turkey had been stolen.

ADVENT 2024: AWAITING HOPE

We are called during this holy time to wait with hope, knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. Awaiting Hope is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of



people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect on the Advent Gospels.

It's 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://tinyurl.com/AwaitingHope

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

Advent is a time when we as Catholics are encouraged to focus more on our spiritual life to prepare for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

We are inviting people to join us for a weekend Advent Mission Event online Retreat on 7-9th December and accessible online for all of Advent. To find out more, go to: https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent

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: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill.

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

MEDITATION GROUPS



LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDITATION CENTRE, 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, offers meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am. 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 0412 122 297, or just come.

PRAYER / DISCUSSION GROUP

The Junction Prayer/ Discussion Group have commenced their Advent Program, meeting each



Thursday until 19th December, at 9.30am in the meeting room at the parish office, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction.

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets Wednesday 4th December @ 7pm. We are using the Diocesan resource *Awaiting Hope*. To participate, please email the parish office: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is in recess until 7 February. We will be discussing *At the Foot of the Cherry Tree* by Alli Parker. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

WEDNESDAY ROSARY

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

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary will he held next at Sacred Heart Cathedral Saturday 7th December at 10.30am. For more information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month @ 3:00pm 1st December Chaplet of Divine Mercy Christ the King, Mayfield West

EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Come and join us! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month @ 6pm in the Cathedral precinct. Anyone aged between 20 and 40 is cordially invited to join the group.

Email Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au to find out more.



We are going caroling on Sunday 8th December. To find out more, please call Jenifer on 0431 455 122.



LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

Lebanon is facing a dire crisis, and the need for your support

has never been greater. Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability, leaving countless families without access to basic needs like food, water, and medical care. Our Caritas Australia partners on the ground are doing everything they can, but they desperately need your help.

Please show your *love for Lebanon* and donate today to help supply essential items such as food, shelter, and medical aid, as well as long-term support to rebuild communities.

Donate today: www.caritas.org.au/lebanon

GLOBAL GIFTS

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose! Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for people experiencing hardship and poverty. By shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card.

View the range of Global Gifts: www,globalgifts.org.au

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. We request that you do not donate peanut butter.

Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary's Newcastle:

Any of the following non-perishable items are welcome: UHT milk, cereal, spreads, tinned goods (veggies, fruit, soup, fish, meat), pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, coffee, biscuits, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant.

BEQUESTS

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region continue its mission of proclaiming the Good News, you might consider including us in your Will. You just need to specify which parish(es) you would like to help.

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Opening Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 5pm. Open 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm. cnr Tudor and Parry Sts, Newcastle West.



Formation Film - December



You are invited to the Diocesan Resource Centre for the December Formation Film event – *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.

In 1843 London, author Charles Dickens finds himself in financial trouble and desperate for a hit. Dickens relies on real-life inspiration and vivid imagination to bring Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and others to life in A Christmas Carol. Featuring acclaimed actors: Christopher Plummer, Miriam Margolyes, and Simon Callow.

When: Saturday 7 December 2024

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre - 12 Tudor Street,

Newcastle West Time: 11am

Christmas Inspired Lunch Provided

Bookings via: https://tinyurl.com/DioceseFilm or call

02 4923 0682

25th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

Tuesday 3 December, 5pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Please join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Federation of P&F Associations. The Mass



will be a celebration of inclusion and diversity, where everyone's unique and God-given gifts will be acknowledged. After Mass, you are invited to stay for supper, where you will have the opportunity to connect with friends, old and new. Mass will be celebrated to ensure everyone feels welcome, including if that means there is wriggling and noise amongst the pews!

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH VIA THE APP

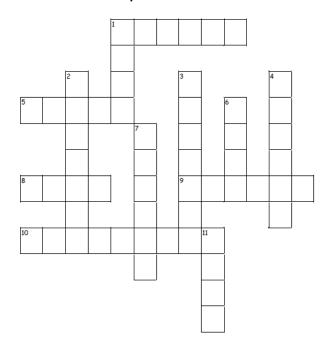
Are you using the App? Not only can you get the daily readings on your phone, you can also support the parish with an easy way to donate.

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!

CROSSWORD

The Lord is our protector

Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5. 8-9 R.1.b Lk 21:25-28. 34-36



Across

- 1: the group of people we are related to
- 5: the opposite of war
- 8: the brightest light in the night sky
- 9: the Jewish homeland
- 10: Jesus' followers

Down

- 2: large groups of people that belong to different countries
- 3: to give your word to someone
- 4: to be moved quickly back and forth
- 6: to be reasonable
- 7: to flee from imprisonment
- 11: a place where valuables are kept

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The Lord is our protector

Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5. 8-9 R.1.b Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

Р	W	X	0	R	Ν	Н	J	F	Α	J	Т	Ν	D	Н	V	У
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Т	R	Z	G	Н	Q	L	Α	D	R	I	Z	Q	Α	5	F	В
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Try to find these words:

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escape

free

REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

The Coming of our Saviour

Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now.

In some instances we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory.

This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert.

In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ *has* come, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again.

© Fr Michael Tate

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.



Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when is comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

OUR CATHOLIC 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

Penny Banister (Principal) Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304 P:(02) 4968 3315 W: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

St Francis Xavier's College

Greg Ptolemy (*Principal*)
Parkway Avenue, Hamilton NSW 2303
P:(02) 4961 2863
W:www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

San Clemente High School

Bernard Burgess (*Principal*)
78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304
P:(02) 4014 7300

W:www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic's Catholic College

Rachel Jones (*Principal*) 76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

P:(02) 4968 1295 W:www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au

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, or email childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au