



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 29TH DECEMBER 2024 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 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

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

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)
Elul Tecele (*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

Promoters of Safeguarding

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope. There is no better model for this than the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose feast we celebrate today. Let's pray that inspired by their example and presence in our lives, every family will become a sign of God's gifts of peace, unity and hope for our troubled world.

Fr John



2 March	Diocesan Launch Pilgrimage-Mass-Festival	<i>Foreshore Park to The Cathedral</i>
6 April	The Way of the Cross	
8 August	aMeN Camino Experience	
25 September - 11 October	International Pilgrimage	<i>Journey of St Paul & Rome</i>
29 September - 3 October	NATSICC Assembly	<i>Hunter Valley</i>
30 November - 2 December	Australian Catholic Youth Festival	<i>Melbourne</i>

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)

Octave of Christmas, Year C

Monday 30 December

6th day in the Octave of Christmas

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 31 December

7th day in the Octave of Christmas

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 1 January

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

Thursday 2 January

Memorial of Sts Basil the Great and Gregory

Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 3 January

Friday before the Epiphany

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 4 January

Saturday before the Epiphany

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
followed by Reconciliation

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 4 January

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 5 January

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
(Mass 5 Jan; no Mass 12 Jan)

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

PRAYER REQUESTS



RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael Cook, Dianne May Beckett, Kevin Andrews, Saveria D'Amico, Peter Burns

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Lou Alexander, Jack Bleakley, Mary Ethel Sattler, Ron Hazelman, Sylvia Fitzpatrick, Joan Hurtz, Ken Hurtz, Des Howard, Bruce Cathcart, Ronnie Griffiths, Len Griffiths, John Hilton, Philippa Whalley (Martin), Stephen Howard, Trevor Casey, Clem Ross

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Carlo Rossi, John Woodward, Neil Thomas, Louise Hall, Tui Innes, Felicity Dawson, Sr Ann Daley rsj

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.

PARISH BULLETIN

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

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

Margaret Tuxworth

At St Joseph's:

Frank Hawkins Jnr

Ernst Koch

Cecily Clare Leslie

Margaret McGlynn

Athol Moore

Kevin Smith

Robert Wakely

Stan Walters

Dorothy Wilson

Franz Schmuck

Noreen Heaney

Rodger Ryan

Mick McBride

Joan Payne

Byeena Winifred Saxby

Pat Skehan

Patricia Margaret Smith

Joseph Timbs

Grace Hickey

Harold Casey

Kelvin Davis

Mary Doyle

Bill Edser

Alan Fogarty

Maree Green

Dorothy Wilson

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

FAREWELL TO FR JOHN



Fr John's last weekend Mass is at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9.30am this Sunday 29 December, followed by refreshments. We wish Fr John every happiness in this next stage of his faith journey.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

A second batch of stock has been sourced; available from the parish office \$10 each. Hurry, before stock runs out for the final time.



OFFICE CLOSURE

The office is closed from 4pm on Tuesday 24 December till 9.30am on Thursday 2 January.

Phone messages and emails received during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2025.



MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary will be held next at Sacred Heart Cathedral Saturday 4th January at 10.30am. For more information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month @ 3:00pm
5th January
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Christ the King, Mayfield West

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

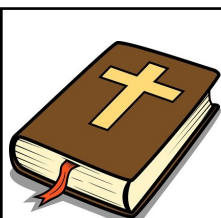
This is non-denominational - everyone welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

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

LIVING WATERS MEDITATION CENTRE

A Christian Meditation Centre at 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, which 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. For more information: Carmel Moore rsj 0412122297.

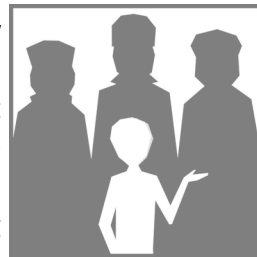


NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

REFLECTION BY FR MICHAEL TATE

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'



Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys.

But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say 'My Father'. We say 'Our Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church.

We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.

© 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, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. 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.

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


REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

We live in an era when we are constantly hearing about the demise of the family and the demise of family values. It seems that the family is under constant attack. Divorce rates are at an all-time high and a huge number of young people are raised in single-parent families, divided families or blended families. To talk about a 'typical' family is increasingly irrelevant. What we are learning to appreciate more and more is the diversity of family experience. Despite all this, there is no disputing the value of the family unit. Family is at the heart of our society; at the heart of our development; and at the heart of our Church. When we stop and think about it, the Holy Family that we honour today wasn't exactly what we might describe as a 'typical' family and yet they provide a model for all families.

In today's gospel, we get a snapshot of family life for Jesus, Mary and Joseph at a time when Jesus was 12 years old. We're reminded that the family was a faithful Jewish family, attending the Passover celebrations in Jerusalem every year. We're also reminded that it is at the Passover celebrations some 20 or so years later that Jesus will be tried and crucified. When Mary chastises the boy Jesus, he reminds her that he needs to be busy with his Father's affairs. Mary and Joseph are confused by this, perhaps forgetting momentarily that Jesus is referring to his heavenly Father. This incident, so often dismissed as background 'colour' to the gospel narrative, conveys the significant truth that Jesus shared a family relationship with Mary and Joseph, but also shared a family relationship with God, his Father. It reminds us that Jesus called all of us to enter into the relationship he shared with his Father.

© Greg Sunter

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team.



**Have you thought?
Mary**

We're told in today's gospel that Mary 'stored up all these things in her heart'. Mary is a model of the reflective life. When extraordinary, life-altering events occur to her, she is portrayed as pondering these events in her heart. She responds to these events by allowing them to speak to her and speak to her heart rather than simply 'reacting' as so many of us do. The ability to reflect on events, rather than react to them, can lead to a much better considered response and less chance of making the same mistakes over and over again.

SUPPORT SERVICES

While the Christmas and New Year periods are typically a time of joy, for some, the festive season can also bring feelings of sadness, stress, and loneliness. Alternatively, you may want to start the New Year by planning self-care, speaking to someone about something on your mind, or getting advice about a loved one.

If you need support during this period, please reach out to one of the support services listed below.



The Rosewood Centre – A Diocesan Support Service:
1800 613 155

Website: www.rosewoodcentre.com.au

Face-to-face and telehealth fee-for-service counselling and support for the whole family.

The Rosewood Centre will be closed from 24 Dec to 1 Jan. If you need urgent support during this time, please contact one of the support services listed below.

GambleAware Hunter New England: 1800 497 065

Website: www.catholiccare.org.au/gambleaware

This service will be closed from 24 Dec to 1 Jan. For any urgent matters over this period, please contact the Gambling Helpline on 1800 858 858 (available 24/7).

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Website: www.lifeline.org.au

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

Website: www.1800respect.org.au

1800RESPECT is the national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service. Support is available in 28 languages.

Suicide Callback Service: 1300 659 467

Website: www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services via telephone and online chat.

13Yarn: 13 92 76

Website: www.13yarn.org.au

24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Parent Line NSW: 1300 1300 52

Website: www.parentline.org.au

Parent Line NSW is available to talk to about almost anything related to parenting or raising a child. They can provide advice on behaviour management, family relationships, children's development and much more. Counsellors will assist families to access any services or information that may be of use to their circumstances.