



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.

Mayfield Parish: Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2025

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Greg Barker

Fr Anthony Coloma

Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)

Daloras Howes (*Administration*)

Elul Teclé (*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

St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding

Gail Lovell (02) 4979 1256

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DIOCESAN LAUNCH OF THE JUBILEE YEAR



POPE FRANCIS ON THE JUBILEE YEAR

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity...."

The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee, which calls for conversion, should also embrace these fundamental aspects of our life in society as part of a coherent whole. In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Gen 2:15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too. Growing numbers of men and women, including many young people and children, have come to realize that care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will."

PARISH BULLETIN

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

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)

8th week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Monday 3 March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 4 March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Mass at Badcoe House

Wednesday 5 March *Ash Wednesday*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

10:00am Mass @ The Junction

Noon Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

6:00pm Mass @ Tighes Hill

7:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral



Thursday 6 March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

2:00pm Mass at Irwin Hall, Mayfield

5:00pm Vespers @ The Cathedral

Friday 7 March

10:00am World Day of Prayer @ Stockton

10:15am Mass @ The Junction (anointing)

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 8 March

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

1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday 8 March

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 9 March

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

2:30pm Rite of Election @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West
(Mass 9 Mar; no Mass 16 Mar)

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

PRAYER REQUESTS



RECENTLY DECEASED: Neil Thomas, Carmel
(nee Kelly) Bartlett, Desmond Daley

ANNIVERSARIES: Laurel Russell, Joan Levy,
Isabella Haggarty, Helen McCullen, Norman
Woodland, Ronnie Jennings, Laureen Connors

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Patricia Gillett, Carlo Rossi,
Tui Innes, Felicity Dawson, Sr Ann Daley rsj,
Patrick Theodore, Jean Luc, Angela Cottier,
Raymond Morley, Louise Hall,

*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.*

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Louise Anne Balzer	Nigel Mulligan
Francesco Bufi	Terence O'Beirne
Veronica (Verona) Cable	John O'Brien
Edward Caelli	Peter Francis O'Sullivan
Warren Cunningham	Wesbrook (Wes) Smythe
Michael Edward Delaney	Coz Sphiris
Veronica Ellicott	Anna Maria Stefanson
Betsy Gadd-Ardesch	Bill Van Schyndel
Frank Gibson	Thomas (Jack) Wakely
Keith Martin	

At St Joseph's:

Eleanora C Bertoss	Barbara Georgas
Carmel Blair	John Gordon
Muriel Boekenstein	Joyce Johns
Kathleen Booker	Barry Lewis
Della Brain	Jack Muldoon
Ellis Brown	Yvonne Pryde
Thelma Doohan	John Sowerby
Gloria Doyle	Paul Wallace
Megan Evans	Win Young
Margaret Fleming	Kenneth McDonnell
	James Struck

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



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Sunday of Lent, Year C

Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parish Family,

A warm and heartfelt welcome to all those visiting the Cathedral and this parish this weekend.

As you know the Diocese is taking a very active role in our participation in the Jubilee Year 2025. The invitation to be a 'Pilgrim of Hope' has gone out to



the entire world and we here in the City Pastoral Region have amazing opportunities to take that invitation seriously. We have two of the eight pilgrim sites, Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary on the Hill. There will be opportunities on the day of the walk and throughout the Jubilee Year to collect a very nicely prepared Pilgrim Passport. Looks and feels like the-real-deal. You will have read the bishop's letter and heard the invitation to visit each of the pilgrim sites across the Diocese and receive an Indulgence. If you haven't seen the other parts of the Diocese now is the year to do it!

I am hoping that you might feel able to take a turn at one or both of our sites as a welcomer and help stamp the pilgrim passports as the pilgrims visit. In the not-too-distant future a roster will go out for you to sign up and be part of this exciting time. You will find that you will meet amazing people and form lasting friendships along the way. And an opportunity to share insights into our parish communities with those from other parishes as you stamp their passport. There will be opportunities too for prayer, adoration and coming together in our Churches throughout the Jubilee Year.

This is the first year in my 31 years of priesthood that I haven't invited you to return the palms you had blessed last year on Palm Sunday and return them in readiness for use in the Ash Wednesday liturgies. I feel a bit sad about that to be honest. My palm sits behind the arms of Christ on the Cross in my room. At Boolaroo, the palm was on the Crucifix in the front foyer of the Presbytery. Hopefully, your blessed branches were in similar and sacred places in your home. Throughout the year 'they' will have seen your graces, some of your challenges, some of your issues and some of your sins! I've loved the act of creating the ashes from those palms and then using them as together we *'repent in sack cloth and ashes.'*

Please don't throw those palms out. Take a minute or two to respectfully place them in your garden on Ash Wednesday. You'll be ready then for the new blessed palms you will get this Palm Sunday. There are lots of

opportunities for Masses on Ash Wednesday. See the bulletin for details.

Thinking of all the connections of our symbols. We use green branches in Advent and theoretically the Advent wreath should be made from fresh greenery. We take away all our colour and greenery throughout Lent up until Palm Sunday when we again bring in green branches and wave our branches and sing to the King. Then on Good Friday we take those green branches as they then become the wood upon which Christ died. From birth to death. Remember we don't eat meat on Ash Wednesday and for those that can it is also a wonderful day for fasting: food, social media, apps and devices, or unkind words and actions!

Greg,

Parish Priest.

PARISH CENSUS & PLANNED GIVING FORMS

These forms can be returned via email to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au, or by post to PO Box 6, The Junction 2291, or in person to the parish office at 25 Farquhar St, The Junction.

Alternatively, you can use the link or QR code to complete and submit the form online.

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Fr Greg would like to communicate news, views and events with parishioners. Simply send an email to newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au, including the church you usually attend, indicating your permission for us to record your email address. Thank you.



POSITION VACANT - HOUSEKEEPING

We are seeking a housekeeper for Hamilton presbytery to work for five hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays – a total of 15 hours per week – with regular tasks to include cooking, washing and ironing. If you are interested, please phone Anne Warren at the parish office on 4979 1254 for more information.

BISHOPS' CRYPT

An information/consultation program is currently underway regarding the Bishops' Crypt. The existing one at Maitland has reached full capacity and is not in good condition, so an alternative is needed. Briefing and feedback sessions will be held on **11 March** at 10am or 6pm in the Victor Peters Suite, adjacent to the diocesan buildings at 841 Hunter Street.

The link to the information is: <https://tinyurl.com/bishopscrypt>



WHAT IS A JUBILEE?

A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope.

The most recent (ordinary) Jubilee celebrated was the Great Jubilee of 2000. The most recent Extraordinary Jubilee Year was 2015, the Holy Year of Mercy.

Jubilee celebration has biblical roots. A Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an "extra" year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). It was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a "Holy Year," since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been "extraordinary" Holy Years: for example, in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.

During the 2025 Jubilee Year Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to be pilgrims of hope. "Pilgrimage is a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life." (*Spes Non Confundit*, 2024, 5).

This year presents an opportunity for pilgrims who are unable to visit international destinations of pilgrimage to visit the nominate sites within the Diocese.

The nominated sites are:

- ✘ Sacred heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- ✘ St Mary's Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- ✘ St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- ✘ St Joseph's, East Maitland
- ✘ St Joseph's Murrurundi
- ✘ Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone
- ✘ Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong
- ✘ Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Taree

St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish has two sites in the suggested local pilgrimage sites: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West, and St Mary's, Newcastle.

Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Cathedral



While the Cathedral is open to all every day of the year, we have added a special opportunity for prayer during the Jubilee Year. Join us for Vespers at 5pm on the first Thursday of each month commencing in March and concluding in November: March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6

Vespers (also called Evening Prayer) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office.

The Liturgy of the Hours includes several specified times of prayer. The most important times, called the "hinge hours," are Morning Prayer (which takes place upon rising) and Evening Prayer (which takes place as dusk begins to fall).

Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organized around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer.

Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. The structure of Evening Prayer is as follows:

Introductory Verse, Hymn, Psalmody - singing or reciting two and a canticle (or hymn)

Scripture Reading, Responsory, Gospel Canticle, Intercessions, Lord's Prayer, Concluding Prayer, Dismissal

We invite you to come along and experience Vespers at the Cathedral, commencing this Thursday @ 5pm.

Pilgrimage to St Mary's, Newcastle



Join us at St Mary's, Newcastle each Saturday in May (the month of Mary) between 11am and noon to spend a gentle hour in prayer and reflection on Our Lady.

May is considered the "Month of Mary." This time offers a lovely opportunity to explore her role and significance in our Catholic tradition and how her life and virtues continue to inspire followers of her son, Jesus.

Each Saturday morning in May, we will reflect on Mary. Her example of humility, obedience, and unwavering faith makes her a central figure in worship and a guiding light in the lives of many around the world. Join us as part of your personal pilgrimage to spend time with each other and with St Mary at St Mary's in May.

The Jubilee Prayer

**Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.**

Amen

Franciscans



THE JUBILEE LOGO

The logo shows four figures stylised to indicate humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. They are embracing each other to indicate the solidarity and brotherhood which joins the peoples. The figure at the head is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which embraces, but also of the hope which can never be abandoned because we are always in need of hope, especially in moments of great need. It is helpful to observe the rough waves underneath; this indicates that life's pilgrimage does not always move in calm waters. Life's circumstances and the events of the world often demand a greater call to hope and because of this we see that the lower part of the cross has been turned into an anchor which stands out in the wave. As is well known, the anchor has often been used as a metaphor of hope and as a matter of fact, the anchor of hope is the name used in maritime jargon as the name given to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the boat during storms. Do not ignore the fact that the image demonstrates that the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but communal and marked by a growing vitality leading one always closer to the cross, which is itself by no means static, but also dynamic. It turns towards humanity, not leaving it alone but going out and meeting it to offer it the certainty of its presence and the sureness of hope. Finally, the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Pelegrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), is very visible in green.

Source: www.iubilaeum2025.va

KEY DATES



2 MARCH

Diocesan Launch
Pilgrimage - Mass - Festival

Foreshore Park to
Sacred Heart Cathedral

6 APRIL

The Way of the Cross

8 AUGUST

aMeN Camino Experience

**25 SEPTEMBER –
11 OCTOBER**

International Pilgrimage

Journey of St Paul & Rome

**29 SEPTEMBER –
3 OCTOBER**

NATSICC Assembly

Hunter Valley

**30 NOVEMBER –
2 DECEMBER**

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Melbourne

Keep watch for these events and more over the Jubilee Year 2025.

THE HOPE THAT DOES NOT FADE

"In our journey towards the Jubilee, let us return to Scripture and realize that it speaks to us in these words: "May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (Heb 6:18-20)..."



The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope, which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called.

The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.

Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever".

Conclusion of *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis, 9 May 2024

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September -12 October.

Scan the QR code or visit www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the 2025 Jubilee Year Information tile for more information, the application form, and costings.



LENT IN THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

View, Chew, and Chat meets 7pm on March 5th to begin the Lenten programme "Metanoia" from the Diocese of Wollongong.

This Lent, embark on a journey of *metanoia*—a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. To participate, please email the parish office.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – LENT AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Join us for Children's Liturgy this Lent at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tighes Hill! A special time for kids to explore the Gospel in a fun and engaging way during Sunday Mass. All children welcome! Beginning Sunday, March 9th, 8am.



ST JOSEPH'S LENTEN GROUP

The Lenten Group, which will use the Wollongong Diocese Metanoia Lenten Program, will start on Thursday 6 March at 9.30am in the Junction meeting room. It will continue each Thursday in Lent. Anyone interested in being part of the group can ring Janet on 0435 518 671.



GENESIS TO JESUS: BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT



What is the Bible? Where does it come from? What is its purpose? These and more questions will be answered as we journey through the scriptures in

this Lenten study. We will also learn why Catholics should read Scripture and most importantly, how to read it. Genesis to Jesus surveys the principal covenants that God made with his people through figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. This study also shows how each of these covenants points forward to—and is fulfilled by—Jesus Christ and his Church through salvation history. In this series, we will see a panoramic vision of salvation history and our place in this story.

Join Sr Jeannine French rsj and Anne Millard each Wednesday of Lent @ 10am in CRCC, beginning March 5.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday 5 March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

10:00am Mass @ The Junction

Noon Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

6:00pm Mass @ Tighes Hill

7:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral



LENTEN REFLECTION – JOURNEY OF HOPE

Lent is often portrayed as a journey from one point in time to another, this time allows us to deeply reflect internally so our external actions imitate the resurrection and living God. Lent is a penitential period when we attempt to develop an awareness of sin and our need for penance and forgiveness. This journey assists us in our transformation as we move from one state to another, a state that is renewed by hope in the Paschal Mystery, so we truly understand why the risen Jesus matters.

As we enter Lent during the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, let us use this time as an opportunity to reflect and seek forgiveness so we can experience the unlimited nature of God's Mercy.

You are invited to use this resource to reveal the mystery of God each week through the scriptures, faith sharing, and consider how we are called to be constant companions in the journey of hope.

To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/7345/0007121-dio-2024-lenten-program-web-v2.pdf>

RCIA NEWS

This year for the first time, we are offering a retreat for those joining our church this year at Easter and you are invited!! The RCIA retreat is Saturday April 12 from 9am until 3pm. All are welcome to come along and be part of the retreat. We need volunteers to help run the day. If it is in your heart to help or take part, please contact newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

THE RITE OF ELECTION—SUNDAY 9 MARCH

An opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 2.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fiona P 0408 895 951.

PRAYER GATHERINGS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025



In Stockton, World Day of Prayer 2025 "The Cook Islands" is being hosted by Uniting Church on Friday 7th March @ 10.00 am. All are welcome.

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.

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

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 is held the first Saturday of every month following Mass and Novena at Sacred Heart Cathedral. For more information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.



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.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 2nd March Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5pm – 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>

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month @ 3:00pm

2nd March

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Christ the King, Mayfield West

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.



All resources are available to borrow; and are searchable on the library catalogue, which can be accessed through this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOMNLibrary>

OR use the QR code to the right.



Formation Fridays – Friday 7 March 1pm–2pm:

Indulgences. A chance to reflect and discuss seasons, moments and mysteries of the church and our faith.

Registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/FormationFriday>

or contact domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au.



Human Library - Friday 28 March 10am: Our “Human Books” will discuss Pilgrimage, the good and bad, what they learned and how it made them feel. Showing images and answering questions, you will be immersed in Pilgrimage.

Register using QR code or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au



HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2025

‘Where the Hunter community gathers to show strength & be heard’

Next Assembly on 6th March 2025 at the Great Hall at The University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus. We will present a number of Asks to politicians and other decision makers. The Assembly will include a roll call of organisations, testimonies from our communities and negotiations with politicians attending. We will ask decision makers to commit to our asks for specific, concrete post-election action on housing and renting, affordable and renewable energy, climate and transition.

For more details, contact: skillion@thehca.org.au or go on-line to register your attendance www.thehca.org.au

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!

FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

This week, your attention is drawn to kids’ back to school welfare.



One month into the school year, so it's a great time to have a meaningful conversation with your kids and grandkids about their experiences and feelings. Start by asking them how they're adjusting to their new routine and if they're comfortable with their teachers and classmates. This helps to open a dialogue about their social dynamics. Are they making friends? Do they feel included?

Inquire about their schoolwork: Is it challenging or manageable? This can lead to a discussion about subjects they enjoy or struggle with. Offer support if they mention any difficulties, and let them know it's okay to ask for help.

Discussing their interests outside of academics is also essential. Are they excited about any extracurricular activities? Encourage them to pursue their passions, whether it's sports, arts, or any other hobbies.

Lastly, talk about their overall well-being. Are they getting enough rest, eating well, and finding time to relax? Emphasize the importance of balance and self-care. Let them know you're there to support them every step of the way.

2025 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLIC TRI-ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Every three years, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) hosts a National Tri-Annual Assembly. In 2025, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is honoured to host this gathering on the lands of the Wonnarua people at Rydges Hunter Valley from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October 2025.

With the theme “Pilgrims of Hope,” this Assembly promises to be a meaningful event. The success of the assembly relies heavily on the Host Diocese and our generosity and/or attendance.

Complete this form to register your interest in attending or volunteering: <https://forms.office.com/r/5XDUHy3Vrc>

Enquiries can be sent to mission@mn.catholic.org.au



ENROLMENTS FOR 2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

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

The preparations for these sacraments in the Inner Newcastle Parishes run between February and June of every year and are designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2025. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

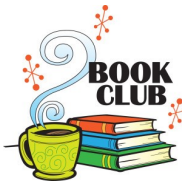
Enrolments are now open for the 2025 program. If you are interested in being apart of the program this year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/pmdIKBYi6a>

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

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets Sunday, 2nd March to discuss *The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



ART AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS

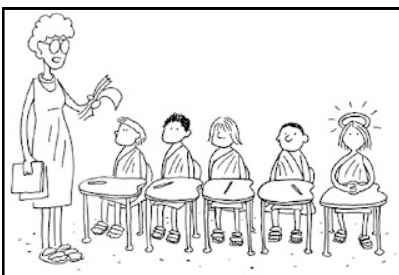
We will be hosting two Art and Spirituality Days in 2025 on Friday 4 April and Friday 12 September at the Kilaben Bay Community Centre (140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay). Participants will engage in art-making experiences that will nourish their faith.

Cost: \$25. BYO lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1235249708129>

For further information contact Rose McAllister on rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

THE CHUCKLE



Matthew, Mark and Luke, see me after class; your book reports are oddly similar.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit: And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord: And there are varieties of activities, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone. (1 Cor 12:4)

We have two exciting new opportunities for volunteers in the region.

1. Baptism Team
2. Sacramental Team

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The role of this team is to assist parents of infants to be baptised to understand their parental responsibilities and the liturgy of baptism. Team members will instruct parents on the meaning and significance of the Sacrament of Baptism and how important it is for parents to pass on the gift of faith to their children.



We anticipate meetings will take place monthly, likely on a Tuesday evening. The meeting will cover the format of the ceremony. The team members will then be encouraged to attend the baptismal ceremony.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: The role of this team is working with children and their parents to prepare for first reconciliation, confirmation and first communion. Over the past years (beginning during COVID), the sacramental program has been fully online. This year we are returning to small group meetings to prepare the children for the sacraments. The program is fully documented and easy to follow.



To express interest in either or both of these teams, please use the following link or QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/k08AfwMC3E>



EPIC

In EPIC (Everything Possible in Christ) Youth Group we connect with our spirituality in a fun social context. We establish a strong foundation for our lifelong faith journey. We foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each person.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 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.



REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

At Rome, during the 16th Century, the most famous confessor in town was St Philip Neri. Popes and paupers sought his counsel and spiritual direction.

One day a famous Duchess came to him and confessed the sin of gossip. Philip Neri told her to go home and get a feather pillow and return to the steps of the Church. Some time later he met her there and produced a small knife. He told the noblewoman to rip open the pillow. As she did, the swirling wind in the square picked up the loose feathers and they danced around the square and down the lanes.

St Philip and the Duchess watched in silence as the feathers went everywhere. He then turned to her and said, "Now, go and collect all the feathers." To which she protested, "They have gone everywhere, I couldn't possibly find and regather them." "So too with your tongue, Madam," St Philip scolded her, "You have no idea where your gossip goes and you can never unsay it."

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that our words reflect the state of our hearts.

Psychologists tell us that there are three main reasons why people habitually gossip, or 'share the news' as Australian men prefer to call it: power, envy and boredom.

To know something about someone else can put us in a more powerful position with friends or colleagues. By being able to share what we have 'just heard', we are seen to be current and interesting. But this type of power is destructive because our friends normally assume that when they are absent they are maltreated in the same way. Gossipers have more alliances than friendships.

The most malicious gossip often comes out of envy. Envious gossip often sees people make things up about others and pass it off as though it were true. The worst of tabloid newspapers, television and radio trades on this destructive vice. There is no place for the 'rumour file' in the Christian life. Sometimes, when a company or person have to deny the false accusations made about them, we get what we want – their reputations are tarnished and even their business can be in danger. No wonder medieval theologians called envy a 'deadly sin'.

Boredom, however, is a modern cause for gossip. Our relationships and the way in which we hold each other's trust and good name to be paramount, are undermined by images from the media about how exciting life should be for everyone. Scene after scene in novels, television programs and films where

confidences are betrayed and lives are raked over for comment and intrigue fill in the boredom in our lives with a distorted portrayal of human behaviour. The more we take it in, the more we mirror it in our own conduct.

Jesus does not tell us today that there is no place for criticism, challenge, confrontation and correction in the Christian life. Just that we have the responsibility to very careful about what we say about others and how we criticise and condemn them. Jesus reminds us that most of our condemnation of others, is what we now call, "projection", where we ignore similar failings in ourselves, but roundly condemn them in others.

May this Eucharist, then, help all of us let go of the need to be powerful, the deadly sin of envy and more creative with what we do when we are bored. May it help us make better choices about how we speak, to whom we speak and what we say.

St Philip Neri knew it all too well: most times we cannot know the consequences of what we say and we can never unsay it.

© Richard Leonard SJ

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY



Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. 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. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. 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. Thank you. Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523 or 4967 2998.

COMMUNITY KITCHENS

The Community Kitchens run by CatholicCare 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

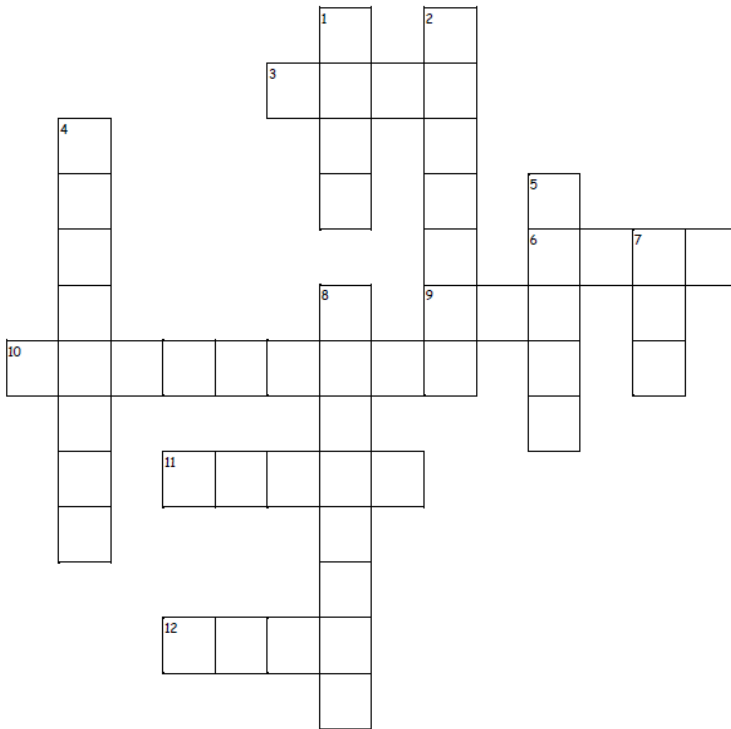
Toronto: Every Thursday, 5pm to 6.30pm at 97 The Boulevarde, Toronto



CROSSWORD

Do not praise people before they have spoken

Sir 27:6-7
Ps 92:1-2, 12-13
Lk 6:39-45



Across

- 3: the opposite of false
- 6: a type of tree often found in hot climates
- 9: we have two of these
- 10: a person's moral quality
- 11: we use these to communicate
- 12: examination

Down

- 1: a large plant
- 2: someone who teaches
- 4: to be filled with faith
- 5: a small particle
- 7: a cut down tree trunk
- 8: people who attend school to learn

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Each tree is known by its fruit

Lk 6:39-45

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

Try to find these words:

blind
 eye
 friend
 fruit
 hearts
 log
 produce
 speck
 students
 teacher
 thorn
 tree

PEACE IN OUR WORLD

"In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us. As the Second Vatican Council observed: "In every age, the Church has the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. In this way, in language adapted to every generation, she can respond to people's persistent questions about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come, and how one is related to the other". We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.

The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war. Heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called "children of God" (Mt 5:9). The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity, every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace".

Pope Francis, Spes Non Confundit, 7-8

TODAY'S GOSPEL

...is made up of three separate teachings of Jesus that have been put together by the gospel writer to convey a particular message. When taken together, the three teachings all shed light on the way believers influence one another in community. It is a call to witness to one another through actions as well as words. Before we seek to teach another we must ensure we have adequately learned the lesson ourselves. We must be self-appraising before we critique another. Finally, our actions towards one another are a reflection of our intentions; good actions come from goodness of the heart.

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.

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

Emma South (*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