

**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 30TH MARCH 2025 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

# **Our Clergy**

Fr Greg Barker Fr Anthony Coloma Deacon Kevin Gadd

# Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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

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### **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

#### St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

#### **Promotors of Safeguarding**

Gail Lovell (02) 4979 1256 Anne Millard (02) 4979 1252



#### REFLECTION—MICHAEL TATE

God always keeps an eye out for the return of a dearly loved daughter/son who has got lost in the maze of life. Sometimes that son or daughter, you or me, deliberately strays from the path. More often, perhaps, we stray to a far off place out of sheer carelessness, not paying attention to all the signs which tell us how to be fully human and whole-hearted children of God.

Jesus says to you and to me: 'My heavenly Father is of such a character that he will run to meet you as soon as you set foot on the path home. All he wants to do is to embrace you, welcome you and celebrate the fact that you are found.'

#### **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)

4th week of Lent Year 1

Monday 31 March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 1 April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral 9:00am Mass @ Stockton

1:00pm Funeral Mass for Bernard Rabbitt @ The

Wednesday 2 April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral 9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday 3 April

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral 9:00am Mass @ Stockton

2:00pm Mass @ Irwin Hall, Mayfield 5:00pm Vespers (Evening Prayer) @ The Cathedral

Friday 4 April

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

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @

The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm (Note: No Stations of the Cross this week)

7:00pm Ordination to the Diaconate of Anton

Perera @ The Cathedral

Saturday 5 April

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

followed by Reconciliation

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5 April

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral 5:30pm Mass @ The Junction 5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 6 April (Daylight Savings ends 3:00am)

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's 8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill 9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral \* 11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction 11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

(Mass 6 Apr, no Mass 13 Apr)

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Carmel Hallinan, William (Tony) James Anthony Tamplin, Bernard Rabbitt, Bronislav Szerenga



ANNIVERSARIES: Sidney Russell, Charles Hart, Pat Fitzgerald, Patricia Rich, Lila Morrison, Charlie Morrison, Tess O'Neill, Phoebe Bourke, Laurel Murray, Pat Fogarty, Louise Balzar, Margaret Campbell, Pam Hill, Betty Haggarty, Catherine Walsh, Charlie Walsh, Eileen Bleakley, Barry Lewis John Gordon

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



# **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:8-14 John 8:1-11

#### OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

#### At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Louise Anne Balzer Nigel Mulligan Terence O'Beirne Francesco Bufi Veronica (Verona) Cable John O'Brien Edward Caelli Peter Francis O'Sullivan Warren Cunningham Bill Van Schyndel Michael Edward Delaney Wesbrook (Wes) Smythe Veronica Ellicott Coz Sphiris Betsy Gadd-Ardesch Anna Maria Stefanson 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	Kenneth Mcdonnell
Ellis Brown	Jack Muldoon
Thelma Doohan	Yvonne Pryde
Gloria Doyle	John Sowerby
Megan Evans	James Struck
Margaret Fleming	Paul Wallace
	Win Young

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

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

#### FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parish Family,

You will hear the parable of the prodigal Son this weekend as our gospel. As a church we heard it earlier in the week as part of our weekday cycle. It is a wonderfully powerful gospel. Used often when we are



celebrating with our kids around anything to do with reconciliation and forgiveness. However, we often finish it with the prodigal son's return rather than as we hear this weekend with the 'good' son's interaction with the father and the challenge for his return.

The last part is often the hardest for us to hear and to engage with. I suspect innately we understand it is more about us and our own story. Few of us have ever been like the prodigal son – how many of you have squandered your father's wealth emotionally or spiritually? Our sins mostly are more in keeping with the resentment and hurt of the 'good' son who stayed on the farm, remained faithful and often went unthanked, unnoticed or unrewarded, at least in ways that he noticed. How many of us have done something nice for someone, reached out to someone in need and not been thanked or appreciated or had our generosity taken for granted? How many of us have donated money for food, wondering where it was really going?

The gospel is challenging. How we sometimes unravel our own wounds and hurts as the faithful, to make room at the table for those hearing God's word and either coming home (prodigal son potentially), or looking to join, is vital. Amongst our own blood relatives even. And when we are not thanked, appreciated or noticed by our brothers and sisters, or neighbours, to maintain perspective around God's work.

I was visiting with a group recently and asked what makes this group great? We are welcoming and supportive they said. How do others know you are welcoming I asked? We say it often don't we as a parish and it is worth a few moments to reflect on how I or you do that. Sometimes our words say one thing, our belief, but our actions say another. What's the message when there is nowhere for the visitor, the stranger, the new member to sit and no one to sit with?

Our brothers and sisters, neighbours need to be seen, names learnt, connections made, and stories heard. I've learnt the hardest and easiest thing to do is to approach a stranger and say, 'Hi my name is, what's

yours'. The hardest part is working up the courage to do it and the easiest is having made the step. The relief you feel when they reach back with their name. Mostly we are all relieved when someone takes the first step. The risks are small, the benefits great.

Can you imagine what our church would be like if everyone knew they had a place and a space at the table, we all knew each other, had friends to sit with, and thousands of new people to meet!

Best wishes,

Greg,

Parish Priest.

#### 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.

# SAFEGUARDING—EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Promoting Safeguarding: Due to the 'retirement' of both Anne Millard and Gail Lovell as Promotors of Safeguarding in our Parish Community—after guiding us through



our Safeguarding audit magnificently—an opportunity has arisen for a new team to form. Whilst the 'shoes' of the previous promotors are huge, this is a great opportunity for those with a passion for keeping our community safe, informed and heading in the right direction to be formally involved in this wonderful ministry. There is formation and training available, support from both the Office of Safeguarding and our Parish Office, and the knowledge that we are making a difference.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and business! Knowing what to do sometimes is challenging. Our Promotors of Safeguarding help each one of us know what to do when we see, feel, believe something is not right with our children and more vulnerable community members, our brothers and sisters and our neighbours. You'll be part of a wonderful and friendly team of people working together for the betterment of our Parish and community. For more information about this great ministry contact Fr Greg on 0417321209. Remember Safeguarding is everybody's business!



#### **JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE**

St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish has two churches among the 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, concluding in November: 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.

# 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.

Join us as part of your personal pilgrimage to spend time with each other and with St Mary at St Mary's in May.

#### WAY OF THE CROSS



This year's Way of the Cross will continue our pilgrimage experience that began with the Jubilee Launch. Come and walk with fellow pilgrims and build relationships as we share our responses to Pope Francis' invitation to become agents of hope within our own communities.

Join us at 3pm on Sunday 6 April (you can gather from 2pm)

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TORONTO - 140 Wangi Road, Toronto NSW 2283



**ENQUIRIES:** mission@mn.catholic.org.au

**REGISTER:** www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059



# LENT IN THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

### RCIA LENTEN GROUP—ALL WELCOME

All parishioners are welcome to join the RCIA group on Sunday afternoons, 3.30pm—4.30pm in the Dwyer Room next to the Cathedral, for the Lenten Program.

Please feel welcome to contact Teresa on 0417 885 760.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our EPIC youth group are leading us in the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6.00pm—except this coming Friday 4 April due to the Ordination of Anton



Perera. People of all ages are very welcome.

# VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT

View, Chew, and Chat meets 7pm on April 2nd to continue the Lenten programme "Metanoia" from the Diocese of Wollongong. *Metanoia*—a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. To participate, please email the parish office.

#### CHILDREN'S LITURGY - TIGHES HILL



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 8am Sunday Mass. All children welcome!

# ST JOSEPH'S LENTEN GROUP

The Lenten Group, which is using the Wollongong Diocese Metanoia Lenten Program, continues each Thursday at 9.30am in The Junction meeting room. Anyone interested in being part of the group can ring Janet on 0435 518 671.

# GENESIS TO JESUS: BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT



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 the CRCC Meeting Room, at the Junction.

#### **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

#### **DIACONAL ORDINATION**



Bishop Michael has invited us all to the Diaconal Ordination of Anton Perera—on Friday 4 April at 7pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West.

Refreshments will be served in the Victor Peters Suite following the Liturgy.

#### PARISH CENSUS & PLANNED GIVING FORMS

You can use the link or QR code to complete and submit the form online.





# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT THE CATHEDRAL—VOLUNTEERS



We are seeking volunteers for the many roles required for the celebration of Easter: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Forms are available in the foyers of all

**churches.** Please fill one in to indicate when you are available and what role(s) you could fulfil. **To protect your personal information**, please hand the form to one of the priests or a sacristan, who will store it in a safe place.

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The staff team and students at **St Columban's Primary School Mayfield** would like to formally invite the Parishioners of St. Benedict's to attend our Andy Warhol Art Exhibition in the school hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 beginning at 4.30pm. We would be honoured for you to attend.

The school community looks forward to sharing our creative and talented students' artwork with our Parish Community.



#### **PRAYER GATHERINGS**

#### 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.

#### **DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION**

First Sunday of the Month @ 3:00pm—6th April Chaplet of Divine Mercy Christ the King, Mayfield West

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



#### **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.

#### **EPIC**



EPIC (Everything Possible in Christ) Youth Group 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.

#### **BOOK CLUB**

Book Club meets Sunday, 6th April to discuss Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email:



newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

#### 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 - Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2025 - 4 April 2025 - 1pm - In Person or via Zoom. Meet with other community members via Zoom or in the Diocesan Resource Centre Library for a chance to reflect and discuss Pope Francis' 2025 Lenten Message.



Bookings: https://forms.office.com/r/9SpfLjWRBw or call 0409 033 449.

Formation Films - Ordinary Angels - 5 April 2025 -

11am. Join us as we watch the 2024 of the 2024 release film "Ordinary Angels", share lunch and discuss the messages of hope in this

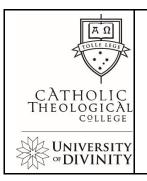


Bookings: https://forms.office.com/r/6PpRW0QfUy Or call 0409 033 449.

# CHRISM MASS



Please join us on Tuesday 15 April for our Chrism Mass with Bishop Michael Kennedy. The Mass will start at 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Everyone is welcome.



**Catholic Theological College** Invites you to our **Engaging Your Faith online** presentations

From \$25 per session.

For more information and to register: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

#### 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 at rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au



# University of Newcastle **CATHOLIC SOCIETY**

NEWCASTLE The UON Catholic Society is a place of support and encouragement for Catholic staff and students on campus. We celebrate Mass each Wednesday during semester times and share lunch together afterwards. There are also other events and gatherings that will take place throughout the vear.



Pop into the Chaplaincy Office (VG03) at Callaghan campus and see Rob, our Catholic Chaplain who is also available for support or a

Join the Facebook group (QR link) to stay up to date with our events!

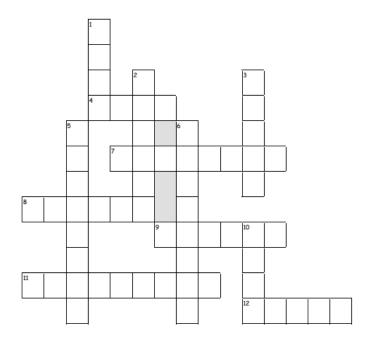
friendly chat.

## **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.

#### 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!



#### Across

- 4: happy
- 7: very hungry
- 8: to have done what you were told to do
- 9: asked for charity with humility
- 11: to have a party for a special occasion
- 12: a person who has to work for no wages

#### Dowr

- 1: jewellery worn on the finger
- 2: squandered, used poorly
- 3: discovered
- 5: likeable, easy to get along with
- 6: land that belongs to someone
- 10: consumes food

4th Sunday of Lent, Year C [N04LESUC\_2004\_CWG.rtf]

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#### JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

# Through Christ we are reconciled with God

2 Cor 5:17-19 Ps 85:8,9,10 R,v,9b Lk 15:1-3, 11b-32

Е	W	Ε	A	T	5	C	Н	R	Ι	5	Т	L	L	G
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Z	0	R	W	F	0	R	G	0	Т	Т	Ε	Ν	Ε	X
Ν	В	0	W	٧	Р	Ν	Z	J	В	0	A	Q	W	Ι
Т	Ε	W	Z	D	K	J	C	F	Т	Q	0	I	M	U
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Н	Ε	Т	J	5	Т	A	R	V	Ι	Ν	G	D	A	F
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# Try to find these words:

Christ

eats

forgotten

found

friendly

message

obeyed

peace

people

property

starving

world

#### REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

What is so shocking about Jesus' parable of the prodigal son is, that as the story goes, everything about the Jewish culture of 1st century Palestine set the boy up for a fall: he was greedy for his father's inheritance; he left the chosen land for the far country where he squandered his inheritance recklessly; he ended up eating with the unclean pigs; and then he had the temerity to return and ask for forgiveness.

This was the least likeable kid in town. He did not deserve to be treated better than a slave. That's what makes the boy's father so magnificent in love. He was derided by his faithful older son for this folly of the heart and he would have been considered a fool by his neighbours. And this is the model of compassion Jesus gives us to emulate.

The context for this story, however, matters. In Luke 15 Jesus is responding to charges about the company he was keeping and especially those with whom he dined. In Jesus' day, one only ate with intimates and Jesus shared his table with losers. Three parables are given as an explanation for this practice: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. In each case the shepherd, the woman and the father go to ridiculous lengths to save that which is lost.

Who was admitted to the table of Luke's community was a big issue. Some things never change. The action and words of Jesus, however, lead us to conclude the table is here for those of us who know the frailty of our lives enough to recognise our hunger and thirst for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Today's Gospel is not just about each of us being welcomed into the arms of our compassionate God, it is also a challenge for us to defend the right of the outcasts, the public sinners and the losers who seek to turn their life around to be welcomed here as well.

This is not just about the table of the Eucharist, either. To the degree that we help our country be more hospitable to the most defenceless, the poor and the displaced then we live out the power of this parable.

May this Eucharist help us live beyond our history, which so often colours those toward whom we can give the benefit of the doubt and show compassion and may it give us the courage and faith to be ridiculously generous, and magnificently loving.

© Richard Leonard SJ

#### THE CHUCKLE

I gave up online shopping for Lent. I got an e-mail letting me know a bag I had been looking at is on sale. I replied, asking them to hold it until Easter Monday...

#### **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