



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC 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 14TH JANUARY 2024

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel
Fr Raphael Madukwe
Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
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E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)
Tuesday and Thursday

Thelma Dickson (*Administration*)
Monday-Friday

Elul Teclé (*Administration*)

Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments*)

Other Contacts

Bereavement Team: P: (02) 4979 1252

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Receiving a call from God didn't only happen in Biblical times or to certain individuals destined for prominence - people like: Samuel, John the Baptist, Paul, Andrew or the other Apostles. Every day and in many ways, the Lord is also knocking on the door of *our* hearts, asking *us* to do something important. Let's pray for the perception to hear these calls and to respond with generosity and love. Fr John

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

Promoters of Safeguarding

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

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

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

Second Week of Ordinary Time, Year B

Monday—15th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—16th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9.00am Mass @ Stockton

11:00am Funeral Liturgy for Robert 'Bob' Fraser @ Tighes Hill

Wednesday—17th January

Memorial of St Anthony

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—18th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

10:30am Funeral Liturgy for Michael "Mick" McBride @ St Joseph's

Friday—19th January

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—20th January

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—21st January

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6.00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

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

The Vietnamese Mass on Sunday evening in Mayfield-West Church will be held 14/1/24, and 28/1/24. The Vietnamese Mass will NOT be held on 21/1/24.



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bruno Bonfanti, Robert 'Bob' Frazer, Michael McBride

ANNIVERSARIES: Sr Coleen Casey rsj, Colleen Winterford, Bernard Hogan, Bernadette Flannery, Nino D'Andrea, Betty Stott, Edward McCormack, Bruce Kevin Clements, Paul Herbert, Margaret Scrogings, Wayne Todhunter, Kevin Corbett, Kerrie Frances Walters, Peter Jarvis Woodward

SICK: Julianne Galbraith, Patrick McNerney Cowan, Joshua Zalanardo, Rosa Silivinec, Gerard Pearce, Harry Melville, Doreen Mason, Elaine Johnson, Stewart McKinnon, Mark Caesar, Peter Kefecek, Carlo Rossi, Neil Thomas, Kathryn Gray, Emilie Tseronis



Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

We remember those in our Columbaria whose anniversaries occur in January

At Sacred Heart

Colleen Bennett	Mons. Allan Hart
Maureen Burke	William Hart
Madeleine Cherry	Ken (John) Johnson
Elaine Dodds	Margaret Jones
Lawrence (Jack) Drage	Maureen Narvo
Mary Drage	Frank (Fiore) Pati
Robert Driscoll	Thi Bich Van Pham
Bernard Duggan	Margery Presland
Nancy Gorman	John Scrogings
Harold (Harry) Hancock	Margaret Scrogings
Henry Charles Hardy	Henk Van Schyndel

At St Joseph's:

Annie Stamp	John O'Callaghan
Rita Schuck	Stephen Smith
Ray Callen	Peg Sugden
Brendan Blakemore	Kerrie Walters
Doug Carey	Thea Ethel Bennis
Raymond Dent	Christine Brain
Joyce Gleeson	Shirley Casey
William Hartsorn	Jack & Dinah Heaton
	Milce Lettoof

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

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

No season lasts forever, not even winter.

Our lives, like the seasons, are constantly changing. These changes often involve many losses and deep grief. Learning how to recognise and adapt to the stressful events and changed circumstances we experience, as well as the ongoing challenges these may bring helps to bring peace and hope into our lives.

The Seasons for Growth small group, peer-based educational program offers the opportunity for individual reflection and group discussion by gently and symbolically using the metaphor of the seasons to support adults to:

- **Learn** about how different people respond to change, loss and grief
- **Understand** that it is normal to experience a range of grief reactions
- **Explore** new approaches to dealing with change, loss and grief in their lives
- **Build** communication, decision making and problem solving skills
- **Participate** in a supportive network of peers and adults
- **Integrate** their new learning into their relationships with family, friends and others.

Please consider joining this supportive space in 2024 if you would like to share conversation and learn together with others who are also navigating the different seasons of life and loss.

Seasons for Growth is a four week program, which we will offer during Lent, 2024. The program will run for four Saturday afternoons from 1pm until 4pm on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd of March. Contact the office to sign up.



THANK YOU

Sincere thanks from the Newcastle Conference of St Vincent de Paul. This year's Christmas Appeal raised \$11,535.00. Your generosity ensured Christmas brought joy to those facing hard times.



2024 – LENTEN REFLECTION – TRANSFORMATION THROUGH REVELATION

During the season of Lent, we are called to look deeply at the human condition, just as Jesus, the Son of God, experienced. We are reminded during this time of hardship, suffering, and ultimately dying that we must stretch ourselves. We must pray and fast from whatever is taking hold of the fullness of life. This time calls for personal reflection and encourages us to look out with missionary eyes to intentionally give to those in need.

To access our Diocesan Resource, Transformation Through Revelation, please visit <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6680/0003733-dio-2024-lenten-program-06.pdf>

THE APP

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

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

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 4th February @ 6:15pm: Bookclub meets to discuss *That Bligh Girl* by Sue Williams (postponed from December). If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1:14-20.



“TILLING THE CHURCH: THEOLOGY FOR AN UNFINISHED PROJECT.” ZOOM DISCUSSION.

While Father Richard’s visit was short, he last left our Diocese with riches that we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

So, let’s continue the discussion!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard’s latest publication, “Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project” chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 21 February: Chapter 3. The Pilgrimage Community of Faith and Hope

Wednesday 20 March: Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

Wednesday 17 April: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion To register go to: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Vocation

These days, the word ‘vocation’ seems to be applied to whatever job someone happens to find themselves in. More traditionally, the word carries with it a sense of undertaking work that has a deliberate purpose about it and that is outwardly focused. Usually, there is a sense that there is ‘importance’ to the work and that it is linked to God’s dream for the world. The Church has tended to use vocation in reference to religious life. The word comes from the Latin, vocare, meaning call or name. Realizing to what it is we are called can be one of the great challenges of life.

THE CHUCKLE

What do you get when you cross angry sheep with a grumpy cow? A baaaaad mooooood



REFLECTION WHAT’S IN A NAME?

By Fr Michael Tate

What’s in a name?

A lot, if it is God who confers the name.

What is the name which God the Creator gives to human beings, to humanity, i.e. to you and me? It is ‘Adam’.

In the beautiful imagery of the Jewish scriptures, in the book of Genesis, God breathes into the nostrils of a figure made of clay, and names the first human being, ‘Adam’, a name which means ‘earth creature’.

So, there is something of the Divine breathed into each one of us, but the name ‘Adam’ is a reminder to stay grounded in our earthiness.

We are stardust, earth creatures, loved into existence as human beings filled with the Breath of God.

We are loved into existence, for what or for whom?

Each one of us has a unique and irreplaceable role in the unfolding history of the universe. And there is a name which sounds that role, which the Creator desires each one of us to fulfil.

Jesus of Nazareth knew the power of naming in relation to vocation and destiny.

So, when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, Jesus exercised the divine prerogative. We read: [Jesus] looked at him and said: “You are Simon, son of John. You are to be called Cephas.” ‘Cephas’ is the Hebrew word for rock which in Greek is ‘Petros’, which in English is ‘Peter’.

At one level, Jesus may be having fun at Simon’s expense. Here is a man of such violent mood changes, that he is like shifting sand. So, Jesus thinks of the polar opposite, rock solid, and nicknames him, ‘Rocky’!

Jesus would play on that nickname: ‘You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.’ (Matt 16:18)

This disciple is to be the solid, secure, rock-like foundation on which the Christian community will be constructed by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew the deep-down name of this man, ‘Peter’, and pronounced that name which in fact identified his future role. This tradition continues with the successor of Peter. So, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio took the name ‘Francis’ which indicates that he believes that God chose him to be Pope to follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

I love my name, ‘Michael’, no doubt because it was the name first heard from my parents. It comes with all those wonderful associations of parental love.

But, apparently I do have another name. We read in the Book of Revelations: The Spirit is saying to the

churches: “to those who prove victorious [after persecution] I will give the hidden manna and a white stone – a stone with a new name written on it known only to the man who receives it.” (Rev 2:17)

This is the secret name by which God has known and loved me since the moment of my conception. It is the name which will reveal my true identity as desired by God just as Simon’s true identity was revealed by Jesus calling him ‘Peter’.

All will then be revealed at the moment of death, but perhaps it is permitted to anticipate.

I hope to make a request of God when, with God's grace, I get to Heaven.

I want the name to be hyphenated: ‘Michael-[Heavenly Name]’, or if God prefers, I would naturally accept, ‘[Heavenly Name]-Michael’. But I hope to have the courage to ask God:

‘Please God, allow me to keep the name my parents gave me. It is through them that I am related to you. It is through them that I learnt to love you. It is Michael-[Heavenly Name] who will relate to them and to you in Heaven, who will love them and you in Heaven – forever.’

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ENROLMENTS FOR 2024 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 Parish run between February and June of every year and is designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2024. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2024 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://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/>

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

VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

To access the latest Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter, visit:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/6739/novvos2023e.pdf

Two upcoming events:

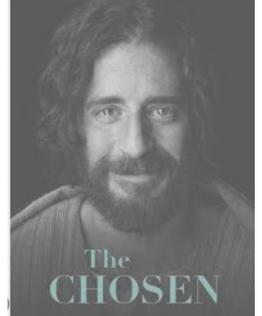
CCR Leadership Day – Saturday 3 February 2024 CCR NSW Conference – 7 to 8 September 2024.

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat is in hiatus for the month of January. We begin the series *The Chosen* in February. To participate, please email the parish office.

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a series that brings to life an interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus starting his ministry. The series has been creatively produced and includes the backstories for each of the disciples that were individually chosen by Jesus. We are first invited into each of their lives, into their struggles and baggage. But once introduced to Jesus and the invitation to spend time with him, we are invited to witness the transformation of each of his first followers.



USED STAMPS FOR MARY MACKILLOP TODAY (MMT)

“*Mary MacKillop Today*” is helping the poorest of the poor with used stamps. Please leave any used stamps in the box provided at the entrance to St Joseph’s Church The Junction, or drop them off at the office. Money raised through their sales provides access to learning opportunities for the poorest communities in Australia and internationally.

from the perspective

The Disciples

We’d been following John the Baptizer for nearly a year. He was a great man doing great work. He had called us to repent and baptized us in the river. We were so impressed with him that we began to follow him. There’d been plenty of other healers and preachers to follow but John seemed to be something special – some had talked about him being the messiah! Then all of a sudden John pointed out Jesus and called him the lamb of God. There was something different about this man and it just seemed right to leave John behind and go with Jesus.

REFLECTION

In recent years we have all had to learn to live with 'voice mail' as a necessary part of modern life. Sometimes it can be hard to get a human being on the other end of the telephone. The endless repetition of options and reassurances can be frustrating. But let's think about what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail in Heaven. Imagine praying and hearing this: 'Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options: 1 for Requests; 2 for Thanksgiving; 3 for Complaints; 4 for All Other Inquiries.'

And, what if God used the familiar excuse, 'I'm sorry, we're busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us, so please stay on the line and we will attend to you as soon as possible.'

Worse still, imagine if we heard, 'Our computers show that you have already prayed three times today; Please hang up and try again tomorrow,' or, 'This office is closed for the Sabbath, please pray again on Monday at 12.01am. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local Priest, Rabbi or Imam.'

The readings from the First Book of Samuel and the Gospel of John all involve call and response. The first reading plays out what many people think the call of God is like – a booming voice telling us what to do. John's Gospel is more subtle. The earliest apostles are called in two ways and neither of them involves loud voices with grand requests. Andrew follows Jesus because of what John the Baptist says. Simon Peter comes to Jesus through word-of-mouth, his brother Andrew's recommendation.

What these readings collectively indicate is the various ways in which people are drawn into the life and service of God. Sometimes, because we want certainty, we hope and long for a more dramatic indication of God's will. Some people get it. Mostly, however, the experience of Andrew and Simon Peter is the more common one. We follow our desires, play our hunches and pursue what intrigues us. As time goes on, our experience indicates the path that will lead to the most hopeful, faithful and loving choice. What is especially encouraging about the Gospel is that Andrew goes after whatever it is that Jesus has. He lives with, or experiences, Jesus' company for a day and then becomes his recruiting officer.

In so many ways, of course, things are different for us now. Rather than us seeking out where Jesus lives, we are given opportunities to experience his life, and invite him to come and make a home with us. But whatever the differences in the process, the end result

is the same. Just as Samuel, Andrew and Peter could have no idea where their response to God's call would lead them, so we cannot either. All we know is that it will cost us something, maybe everything.

Responding to God's call in Christ is not for the faint hearted and we shouldn't pretend it is. It involves loving our enemies, working for peace, forgiving those who have wronged us, and making the world a just place for all God's children. If these charges make no claim on us in our daily lives, then, chances are, we are listening to voices that endlessly give us the runaround, rather than being hooked up to the source of life which makes sense and gives meaning to all our connections in this world and the next.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary will be held on the first Saturday of each month @ 1pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.



For more Information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

BEQUESTS

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region of Parishes continue its important mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, you might consider including us in your Will. You would just need to specify which parish or parishes you would like to help with your bequest.

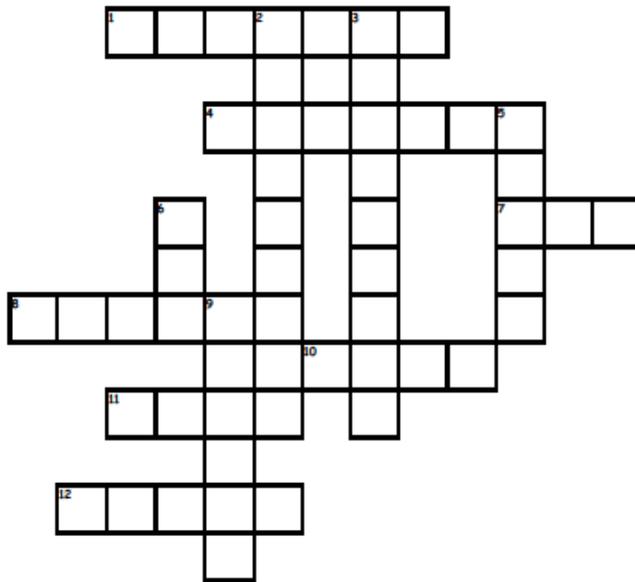
SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: P 4979 1390, E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

CROSSWORD

Here I am Lord

1 Sm 3-4-10. 19
Ps 40-1 & Job. 8 & 11. R. 8a & 9a
Jn 1:35-42



Across

- 1: the Saviour, God's chosen one
- 4: Andrew was Simon Peter's _____
- 7: where you sleep
- 8: this word means 'Messiah'
- 10: Samuel did not realise that the _____ was speaking to him
- 11: what we are called or known by
- 12: Jesus told Simon he would be known by this name

Down

- 2: one who serves
- 3: the time of day between noon and evening
- 5: this Hebrew word means 'teacher'
- 6: Samuel thought that this person was calling him
- 9: the Lord spoke to this person

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Here I am Lord

1 Sm 3-4-10. 19
Ps 40-1 & Job. 8 & 11. R. 8a & 9a
Jn 1:35-42

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

Try to find these words:

- afternoon
- bed
- brother
- Christ
- Eli
- Lord
- Messiah
- name
- Peter
- Rabbi
- Samuel
- servant

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9

(R.) Here am I, Lord;

I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: John 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:35-42

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed
with him.*

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 22:5

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my
thirst.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Primary School

Karen McGinlay (*Principal*)

Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291

P:(02) 4961 2827

W:www.merewether.catholic.edu.au

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

Danielle Reed (*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) 4920 1736

W:www.stockton.catholic.edu.au

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDIATION CENTRE, 34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, offers meditation sessions on Wednesdays at 7.30am and Fridays at 11.00am – and has done so for the last 25 years, in which time many hundreds of people have taken up this prayer form. After meditation on Fridays Lectio Divina, a personal interaction with Sacred Scripture, is offered. Through both practices we open ourselves to the fullness of life; we come to know ourselves by knowing that we are known and loved by God. For more information: Carmel Moore rsj -0412122297 - or just come.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational and everyone is very welcome. Please come.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start

WHERE: Mercy Offices, 20 Union Street

(Next door to Mercy Services)

Off street parking available

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