



# 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 24TH MARCH 2024

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B

#### Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell  
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel  
Fr Anthony Coloma  
Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi  
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  
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

#### Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
*Monday, Tuesday, Friday*  
Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)  
*Tuesday and Thursday*  
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)  
Thelma Dickson (*Administration*)  
Elul Tecele (*Administration*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments*)

#### Promoters of Safeguarding

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

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

As we begin Holy Week each year with our celebration of Palm Sunday, we may be stunned by what appears to be an incredible display of human duplicity, with crowds crying "Hosanna in the highest!" one day followed by "Crucify him!" just a few days later. Some years ago, the great scripture scholar, Pope Benedict XVI helped put things into perspective for us, by pointing out that these cries came from two very different crowds of people. Yet, the question remains: Where were all the good people on Good Friday? Fr John



#### Other Contacts

**Bereavement Team:** Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard P: (02) 4979 1252

**Mercy Pastoral Team:** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm  
0448463679

**St Joseph's Pastoral Team:** Contact the Parish Office

*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)

*Holy Week, Year B*

Monday 25th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 26th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

7:00pm Chrism Mass @ The Cathedral

Wednesday 27th March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral **\*\*This Mass is moved to Tighes Hill**

9:00am Mass @ Christ the King, Mayfield West

6:00pm Reconciliation @ Tighes Hill

Thursday 28th March

*Thursday of the Lord's Supper*

4:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

7:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

7:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

7:00pm Mass @ Stockton

Friday 29th March

*Friday of the Passion of the Lord*

9:00am Morning Prayer @ The Cathedral

10:00am Stations of the Cross @ St Joseph's

10:00am Stations of the Cross @ Stockton

10:30am Stations of the Cross @ The Cathedral

3:00pm Passion of the Lord @ The Cathedral

3:00pm Passion of the Lord @ Mayfield West

3:00pm Passion of the Lord @ Stockton

6:00pm Passion of the Lord @ The Cathedral (in Polish)

Saturday 30th March

*Holy Saturday*

9:00am Morning Prayer @ The Cathedral

7:45pm Easter Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

7:45pm Easter Vigil Mass @ Stockton

7:45pm Easter Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 31st March

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year B*

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

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

\* *Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—  
[www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton](http://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton)  
and on the Diocesan website*

\*\* The Vietnamese Mass is now celebrated fortnightly

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** John O'Brien, Marie Smith

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Sidney Russell, Fay Morante, Norma Woodland, Harry Walker, Thomas Crittenden, Doris Zimmerman, Michael Tobin Snr. Ronnie Jennings, Alan Jennings, Tess O'Neill, Phoebe Bourke, Pat Fogarty, Louise Balzar, Paul Bourke, Laurel Murray

**SICK:** Lisa Woodland, Maria Therese Perera, Dionisio Di Santo, Tui Innes, Marko Kefecek, Ronoel Diwa, Jolina Joyce Saranillo, Maureen Dwyer, Angela Cottier, Joshua Zalanardo, Rosa Silivinec, 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](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*

## OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart

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

At St Joseph's:

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

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

## CATHEDRAL CLOSURE

The Cathedral will be closed Wednesday March 27 and Thursday March 28 (until around noon) in order to replace the broken lighting in the ceiling. Mass on Wednesday morning will be at Tighes Hill. The Cathedral will re-open in time for Mass on Holy Thursday evening. Thanks for your understanding.

## DIOCESAN LIBRARY

Save the Date! Friday 31 May

Join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Library which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Christian Library opened in 1957.

This celebration will be followed by a reimagined TWEC dinner which will acknowledge the legacy of Sisters of St Joseph and explore our future journey. More details will be shared soon.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Library is open for patrons at 12 Tudor Street, Newcastle West.

Opening hours:

Mondays – 10am to 6pm

Fridays – 10am to 6pm

Saturdays 10am to 2pm

Events:

5 April – Storytime from 10.15am to 11am

5 April – Formation Friday – Easter from 1pm to 2.30pm

## CHILDREN'S MISSION PARTNERS:

The collective efforts and generosity of the Tighes Hill Catholic community will be celebrated at the monthly morning tea in April, after a significant fundraising milestone was achieved recently. Following the 8am Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Catholic Mission is inviting locals to celebrate the achievement of \$50,000 worth of donations, from parishioners over the past three decades. There also will be an acknowledgement of the individual efforts of long-term Tighes Hill resident and parishioner, Margaret Crockett. She has been collecting the funds from different parishioners, recording them in her exercise books and passing the funds on to Catholic Mission, for its work with children in need around the world. All are invited to join the community for morning tea, after Mass on Sunday, April 21.

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

#### Sunday of the Resurrection Year B

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Col 3: 1-4

John 20:1-9



## CHRISM MASS

Each year during Holy Week all the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are invited to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy for the Chrism Mass. Here we bless and consecrate the Sacred Oils that will be used for ministry during the year.

Join us on Tuesday 26 March from 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

All are welcome, read more about it: <https://mnnews.today/liturgy-matters/2024/57932-liturgy-matters-come-on-down-to-the-chrism-mass/>

## HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

The Hunter Community Alliance brings together diverse communities, environmental groups, unions, and religious organisations to advance the common good and achieve a fair, just and sustainable future for the region.

The Founding Assembly is the next milestone of the HCA's four-year journey of listening, training, preparing, and organising. We are encouraging representatives from every Parish to come along so the broader community can witness our commitment to the common good, the dignity of the human person, solidarity, the preferential option for the poor, stewardship of creation and subsidiarity.

The Founding Assembly will take place April 10th, 6:30pm-8:30pm at the University of Newcastle Great Hall, Callaghan. Register here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/hca-founding-assembly>

## PALM SUNDAY PEACE RALLY

24 March 2024, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Hunter Peace Park, opposite Tighes Hill TAFE.

Speakers from various faith, peace and justice perspectives, as well as music, children's art, banner display, circle dance.

BYO chair and sun protection

## 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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or

[www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

## REFLECTION

### INTERPRETING THE PASSION

by Mary M. McGlone, CSJ

As we enter the sacred time we call Holy Week, the church overwhelms us with liturgy, Scripture and symbols. Each day has its own particular theme until we reach the climax of the liturgical year in the three-day-long liturgy we call the Triduum. Today's celebration, commonly called Palm Sunday, invites us to contemplate Jesus' last week on Earth, anticipating all that we will relive symbolically Thursday and Friday. Our readings from the Gospel of Mark begin with the crowds' exuberant but shallow adulation and end with Jesus' death on the cross.

Unlike many other Christians, Catholics have cherished the crucifix, the image of Christ on the cross, as a "sacramental," a rich and challenging symbol of our faith. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, sacramentals are an extension of our liturgical life. For many of the faithful, the sacramentals and especially depictions of Jesus' passion, are emotion-laden, tangible reminders of their relationship with Christ.

Some crucifixes seem almost bland, portraying a nearly emotionless Jesus. Others show him with an expression of immense sadness or in terrible suffering. The Eastern church which favors stylized icons over lifelike representations, maintains a practice of iconography carried out according to a carefully disciplined and well-developed theology. Every crucifix or depiction of the Passion is an interpretation of this mystery and communicates a theology, often all the more powerful for being visual rather than verbal.

Latin American churches are famous for depictions that emphasize Jesus' awful and bloody suffering. These images, like some famous Peruvian ones which portray Jesus with hands and feet distorted by unrelenting toil, emphasize Christ's union with those who suffer. People can gaze on him and know that God sympathizes with every human pain. Another related image, often called the Just Judge, depicts Jesus after he was flogged, crowned with thorns and seated with a wooden staff for a scepter. He looks at the observer as a judge who has experienced the height of injustice. The Just Judge reveals that God knows the same feelings as those who have been treated wrongly and that God will not forget them. All of these images make the truth of the Incarnation palpable by showing the depth of God's identification with those who suffer. Often people's response

to those images is to touch or even kiss them in gratitude and solidarity.

Then, we have crucifixes which present Christ in some variety of priestly garments and/or wearing a crown. The icon called "The Great High Priest" depicts the victorious Christ garbed in a chasuble. This proclaims that Christ is, indeed, the high priest chosen by God to speak to humanity on God's behalf. He reigns over all things, including death. The message here is just what the Letter to the Hebrews says of Christ: He shared in humanity so "that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death ... and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life" (Hebrews 2:14-15). In much less formal language, James Alison, in his book *Jesus the Forgiving Victim*, describes this image as akin to Evel Knievel's extraordinary motorcycle stunts. Only after Knievel rode his bike over an abyss and through fire could other bikers think it was possible and eventually try it themselves. Similarly, Christ's victory on the cross, his ability to accept the cruelest sort of death with all its shame and abandonment, allows his followers to believe that, like Jesus, they can trust completely in the love of God. Christ crucified reveals that nothing, no loneliness or rejection, no humiliation, no pain, not even death, is more powerful, more valuable or more vital than the love of God. In Alison's words, "Jesus' death and resurrection is God's way of proving that he is able and willing to hold humans in being through death ... So that we can, already, start to live as if death were not."

One typical icon of the crucifixion depicts Jesus at the moment of death. His blood, flowing from his hands, feet and side into the opened earth, symbolizes that the redemption reaches all who have died. Four women are grouped at his right, holding and comforting one another; all they can do is be present to him and to one another. On the other side, John hides his face while the centurion looks up, declaring what no one else could say in the face of this scene: "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

Holy Week is overwhelming. It bursts with liturgy and symbols to lead us ever deeper into the mystery of our faith. One way to take that in is to contemplate different depictions of Christ's passion. We can allow the art to interpret what we have heard. As we gaze upon these scenes, they will lead us to reinterpret our own lives as well.

## SING TO THE LORD

Sing to the Lord is a cantor training and formation opportunity for all members of the faithful. We are looking for everyone who loves to sing and would like to have a go. To find out more and express interest use the following link or QR Code: <https://forms.office.com/r/7CGYdeXGZw>



## CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY CANCER CARERS FASHION PARADE

Join the Cancer Carers for their next Fashion Parade on Friday 5 April from 11am. It will be hosted at St Columban's Church Hall on Church Street in Mayfield. Admission is \$15 and includes a light lunch. RSVP by Tuesday 2 April to Evelyn 4950 9440 or Suzanne 4950 8235.

## WOMEN OF THE WELL: WEEKEND RETREAT

Rest, reflect, release and reconnect at the next Women of the Well Weekend Retreat. It starts on Friday 19 April (ending Sunday 21 April) and will be hosted at St Joseph's, Kincumber. Cost is \$125. For more information or to register, visit [www.womenofthewell.com.au/events/gatherings-at-the-well](http://www.womenofthewell.com.au/events/gatherings-at-the-well)

## IRELAND PILGRIMAGE THE WAY OF MERCY

In 2024, Maitland-Newcastle Diocese will be journeying to Ireland to explore "The Way of Mercy". Embark on a soulful 15-day Irish spiritual journey, drawing inspiration from Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Traverse Dublin's sacred sites and the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry, immersing yourself in Ireland's rich religious legacy. Marvel at the majestic Cliffs of Moher, pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Knock. This pilgrimage covers seven captivating cities of Ireland, instrumental in building the foundations of our Christian faith. As we journey together we will take time, to pray, reflect and care for one another. The spirit of Mercy, compassion, respect, justice, reconciliation, hospitality service and courage will be reflected upon each day in our journeying together.

Date: Thursday 26 September – Saturday 12 October 2024

Contact: Erin McCort (Pilgrimage Coordinator)  
[erin.mccort@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:erin.mccort@mn.catholic.edu.au)

# GOSPEL FOCUS

## This man was a son of God

*By the time we have stood and listened to this lengthy Passion narrative, the listener may have started to wilt by the time we get to the death of Jesus. Yet, the gospel writer keeps one of the most important messages for this moment. As Jesus dies, a centurion standing by utters the inspired words, "In truth, this man was a son of God." Famously played by John Wayne in the movie, The Greatest Story Ever Told, the centurion is the voice of the gentile – the non-Jew – representing all those throughout the world who will recognise the truth of Jesus' life and purpose.*

## VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat returns April 3 for episode 2 of The Chosen. To participate, please email the parish office.

## BOOK CLUB

**Sunday, 7th April @ 6:15pm:** Bookclub meets to discuss *Willow Man* by Inga Simpson. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



## MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MEDITATION 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.

## BEREAVEMENT

Margaret Beard, a parishioner of Stockton, is a member of the recently formed Bereavement Team for the City Region. Should you know of anyone in need of care or counselling, please make contact with Margaret.

## FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food e.g. (Vegemite, cornflakes or breakfast foods, sugar, packet or tin soup, sardines, tea, coffee, tin fruit etc ), can be placed in the basket at the back of **St Joseph's Church**, The Junction and in the foyer of **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**, Tighes Hill. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. Thank you. Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523 or 4967 2998. The St Joseph's community kindly requests that you do not donate peanut butter.

## SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL & ST MARY'S, NEWCASTLE:

If you would like to donate, any of the following types of non-perishable items would be most gratefully received: UHT milk, cereal, jam, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned veggies, fruit, soup, fish, meat, dried pasta, rice, pasta sauces, teabags, coffee, biscuits, crackers, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner (even the travel sized ones from hotels), deodorant.

## EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Are you aged between 20 and 40? Are you interested to share your faith with like-minded young adults? Then our new faith sharing group might be for you! We meet Thursdays @ 7pm in the Cathedral precinct. Email [Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au) to find out more.

## 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.

## TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 7th April  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5.00pm – 6pm  
*followed by a shared supper.*



## THE CHUCKLE

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.



## 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 are 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](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

## "TILLING THE CHURCH: THEOLOGY FOR AN UNFINISHED PROJECT". ZOOM DISCUSSION

While Father Richard's visit in 2023 was short, he last left our Diocese with riches which we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

We will continue the discussion in 2024!

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 17 April: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

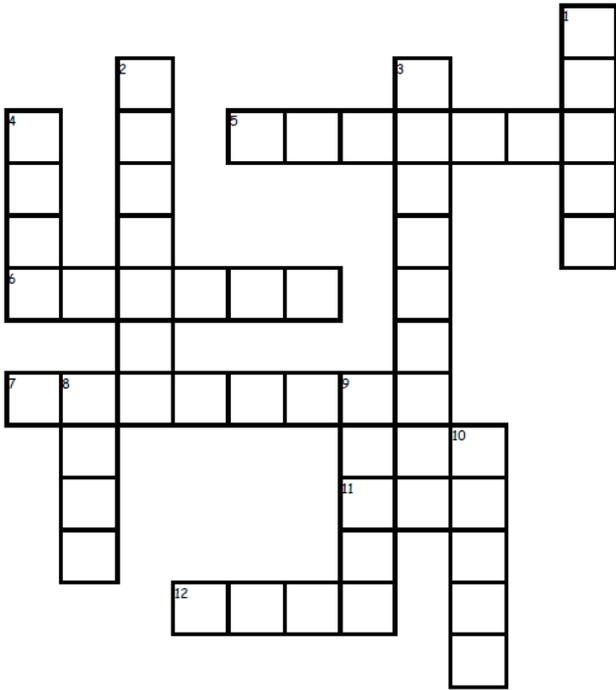
To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087>

## 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.



# Hosanna to God in heaven!



Across

- 5: the disciples found a young donkey in a \_\_\_\_\_
- 6: Jesus asked his disciples to bring him a \_\_\_\_\_
- 7: the parts of a tree where leaves grow
- 11: the number after one
- 12: this opens and shuts and lets people go in and out of rooms

Down

- 1: the people shouted, 'God \_\_\_\_\_ the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'
- 2: the people followed Jesus and shouted '\_\_\_\_\_!'
- 3: people spread these on the road in front of Jesus
- 4: the disciples told villagers that the \_\_\_\_\_ needed the donkey
- 8: Jesus rode a donkey along this
- 9: go in
- 10: the opposite of old

## SENIOR WORDSEARCH

# Hosanna to God in heaven!

Try to find these words:



- bless
- branches
- clothes
- donkey
- door
- enter
- Hosanna
- Lord
- road
- two
- village
- young

## REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant

In this final Lenten Sunday, we see that we have been saved through the kenotic (partial renunciation of divine nature) humility of Jesus, not through military power. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted criminal, and there endured the sense of abandonment. However, this saviour was later lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine prerogatives.

Jesus became one of us in order to show us how we are to live. He was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. The passion recounts the extent to which he willingly offered himself. We have a saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself *to* us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with him is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair seems to hold sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for us.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Before the cock crows

*Peter is an interesting character in the gospels. He is one of the first of the disciples to be called; Jesus changes his name and places great trust in him; he is witness to the most significant moments of Jesus' life; he is able to profess his faith in Jesus as the Christ and yet it is he who denies even knowing Jesus. We might have thought that Peter was Jesus' most loyal and faithful follower, yet it is he who can't stand up and claim that he was a follower of Jesus. Is it any wonder that it is difficult for us today sometimes?*

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

The Passion narrative is very aptly named. The emotion and power of this story is nothing short of passionate. The gospel writer's style of fast paced, unadorned factual narrative is a very effective way of helping the reader/listener to engage in the story. It is, after all, the first half of the most important Christian story – finished off by the resurrection that is celebrated on Easter Sunday. It is easy to see why this stark, narrative style was embellished and expanded upon by the later gospel writers and yet it is perhaps the more passionate for the lack of explanation and theologising.

### 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

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.stockton.catholic.edu.au)