



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.

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

SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY 2025

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Our Clergy

Fr Greg Barker

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

P: (02) 4979 1101

E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

W: www.sacredheartshamilton.org.au

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

Mercy Pastoral Team:

Sr Patricia Whitten rsm 0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding

Gail Lovell (02) 4979 1256

Anne Millard (02) 4979 1252



STAY IN TOUCH!

Fr Greg would like to communicate with all the parishioners. To that end, would you please let us know your email address? Simply tear off this strip and place it on the collection plate. Alternatively you can fill out the online form available at: <https://forms.office.com/r/v3ef5US5dW> or via the QR code. Many thanks!

Name: _____

Email address: _____



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.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parish Family,

I have spent a few days recently with the Clergy Life and Ministry NSW Directors (CLAM NSW). I find myself, without opposition or nomination it seems, the newly crowned chair of the group. It means a couple



of extra meetings as well as organising and then hosting in Sydney the National gathering of Directors in June 2026. It feels not a long way off. Any thoughts for a topic or speakers you think might be of interest to the directors please pop them in an email to me for consideration.

Over the last days I had the privilege of listening to a Psychologist, Angela McCabe from Canberra on a 'Trauma Informed Approach' to ministry as well as Clara Geoghegan from the Catholic Bishops Conference on 'Toward a Synodal Church.'

I always feel enriched coming away from not only the opportunity to network with the other directors but also the opportunity to receive some faith and ministry type formation. I feel the better for it, hopefully you will too. I have an opportunity to hear what others are doing in the Diocese and parishes and ~~steal~~ borrow some wonderful ideas.

I was wondering if over the next couple of weeks, you might do me a favour. Would you mind grabbing what ever name tag you have at home and wear it for me. It will help me in a big way learn your names, your Christian names anyway. It will also give me a sense of the various places that you yourselves minister. If they are from your workplace, social club or home made it will really open the community more broadly that I am called to support you in and to whom I am also called to be pastor. You will be amazed at the variety of places we Christian Catholics find ourselves living out our faith in word and in deed. If it could happen over the next few weeks, it means that I will have an opportunity to see you at Mass as I move across the roster.

Living a synodal church is an acknowledgement of our individual vocations born of our baptisms and the roles we are called to as Christians. I think about those various places you go after Mass each Sunday and the ways that you collaborate in the first instance with the mission of the church to evangelise. Remembering that in Matthew's Gospel (28:18-21) the call on all of us 'Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ***Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.***' You know as well as I the challenges sometimes to do what Jesus asks; however, I suspect you do this more than you think in the very act of living your Christian faith in the places you are called to be in each day.

Keep the faith.

Greg

Parish Priest.

GOSPEL FOCUS

My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Cor 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

PARISH BULLETIN

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

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.

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

1st week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Monday 13 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 14 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 15 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield

Thursday 16 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 17 January *St Anthony, abbot*

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 18 January

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Saturday 18 January

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 19 January

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (Italian)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (Polish)

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West
(Mass 19 Jan; No Mass 26 Jan)

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

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

A second batch of stock has been sourced; available from the parish office \$10 each.



PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Peter Graham, Bernard Shanahan

ANNIVERSARIES: Patrick MacInerney Cowan, Pat Mead, Sr Colleen Casey rsj, Colleen Winterford, Colin Iles, Bernard Hogan, Edward McCormack

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

Names may be placed in "Prayer Requests" by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website - visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

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!

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Colleen Bennett	Mgr Allan Hart
Maureen Burke	William Hart
Madeleine Cherry	Ken (Johnno) 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:

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

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

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care Team: Next meeting Thursday 16 January at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre.



WEDNESDAY ROSARY

Pray the Rosary each Wednesday after 8:15am Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL



A total of \$19,600 was received from the churches within the City Pastoral Region of St Benedict's, Mayfield and Stockton. Many thanks for the generosity of all those who donated.

2024 CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning Food Programs would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our 2024 Christmas Hamper Drive. We are so grateful for your donations and your willingness to support our mission of helping vulnerable people in our community who need it most.

Your generosity helped us make over 100 hampers, which we distributed through our Community Kitchens prior to Christmas to share some festive cheer with the people in our communities who are experiencing challenging circumstances.



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.

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 Boulevard, Toronto

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Men's Rosary is held the first Saturday of every month immediately following Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The next Men's Rosary is Saturday 1st February at 10.30am. For more information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets Sunday, 2nd February to discuss *At the Foot of the Cherry Tree* by Alli Parker. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Sunday of the Month @ 3:00pm

2nd February

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Christ the King, Mayfield West

LIVING WATERS MEDITATION CENTRE

Reopening on Friday 17 January. 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.



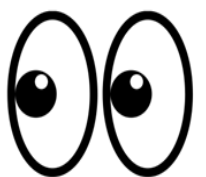
VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets February 5th for Lectio. To participate, please email the parish office.

WATCH THIS SPACE...

Keep an eye out for news of the return of EPIC (Everything Possible in Christ) Youth Group.

In EPIC 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.



REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practise of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'.

This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not simply baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his

duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

© 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.

STAY CONNECTED

In 2025, resolve to stay connected with free Catholic news:

International and national news via a weekday email

<https://tinyurl.com/CathNewsletter>



Diocesan news via a weekly email:

<https://tinyurl.com/DioUpdate>

Parish news via weekly bulletin: <https://www.newcastlecatholic.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.

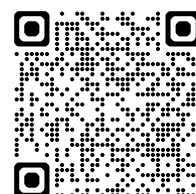


The library aims to provide quality resources relating to subjects including Religious Education, Scripture, Theology, Liturgy, Ecclesiology, Church History, Spirituality, Ministry and Ethics to support the teaching, learning and research activities of all in the diocese.

An important dimension of the library is to assist those undertaking academic study offered through the diocese with resources and research skills. Resources in the subject of Catholic faith and life are also available to support individuals, catechists, pastoral workers and the wider community.

All resources (print and electronic) 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.



TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 2nd February Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5.00pm – 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>



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.

THE JUBILEE LOGO

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

The logo shows how the way of the pilgrimage is not an individual effort, but rather collective, with the impression of a growing dynamism that tends more and more to the cross.

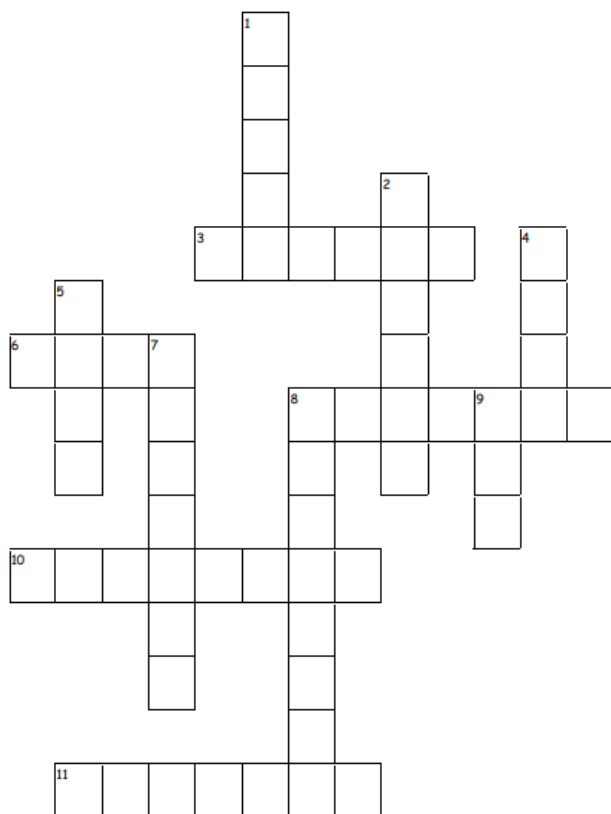


“Are you *QUITE* sure you want to call him Warren, Mr and Mrs Peace?”

CROSSWORD

You are my own dear son

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Across

- 3: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus while he did this
6: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in this form
8: to be happy with something
10: to become one of God's people
11: footwear commonly worn in biblical times

Down

- 1: John baptised people with this
2: a voice was heard coming from this place
4: John told people of a man who would baptise them with the Holy Spirit and with _____.
5: the cousin of Jesus who baptised people with water
7: extremely happy
8: strong and mighty
9: the vast space above the earth

The Baptism of the Lord, 1

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JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

God will bring justice to all the earth

Is 42:1-2, 4, 6-7
Ps 29:3abde-4, 3cde & 9ef-10, R, 11b Ps
Acts 10:34-38
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

Try to find these words:

baptised
dove
excited
foreign
healing
John
message
powerful
sandals
servant
strong
worships

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TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the
voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

 Is 40:1-5. 9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1

(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading

 Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed*

Gospel Acclamation

 See Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with
fire. Alleluia!

Gospel

 Lk 3:15-16. 21-22

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the
heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

Memorial Acclamation:

Save us, savior of the world, for by your cross and
resurrection, you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon

 Jn 1:32,34

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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& Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

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

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

Bernard Burgess (*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