



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 19TH JANUARY 2025

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

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,

One of my very favourite pieces of scripture is Luke 5:4. You will know it as the moment Jesus asks the disciples once he had finished preaching to recast their nets and put out into the deep for a catch. In Latin the piece is 'duc in altum' – put out into the deep – there is a tattoo in that, I am sure. I've used it as my motto for decades. It is emblazoned on the windows of the Cathedral Presbytery in the Archdiocese of Hobart and feels like it has been part of my journey from the moment I began the process to the seminary.



When I look back it took me some seven years to work up the courage to take the first step and apply to the archbishop for entry into the seminary. I went backward and forward weighing up the benefits and negatives during those years. That lack of 'putting out into the deep' delayed what has been a wonderful journey with many opportunities albeit with some challenges and a few difficulties. Sometimes we just have to step off in faith don't we, relying heavily on our relationship with Christ that it will be ok in the end. Very little in life is truly set in concrete and if we happen to get it wrong there is nothing stopping us changing our mind or direction.

It took me over 8 years to get Ordained, taking an 18-month sabbatical in the middle for a little bit of teaching overseas and backpacking around Europe. I do sometimes step back into the boat next to the shore rather than being out 'fishing'. I equate that

though to the time I spend in church and in prayer – time out to hear what God is asking before setting off again. Mass gives the 'resource' or 'food' for the work ahead. I read an application for a job interview a few years back which had a great line in it, worth the interview she received: **'my faith informs my decision making'**. I'll share one day the sign I received which gave me the courage to 'put out into the deep', it happened in prayer and whilst in church.

On the news today I noticed again attacks on our Jewish relatives in Sydney. For us we would say 'how un-Australian' but as Catholics we would also say how 'un-Christian'. We must stand against such bad behaviour, and we shouldn't join in the rhetoric that targets with unjust words and actions our neighbours. Good news though that there is a ceasefire in Gaza. How much destruction and loss of life in that district. I pray each day for peace, knowing you do the same. At my conference recently the facilitator talked about the lifelong trauma that will indelibly printed on the hearts and minds of the very young and impressionable children who have lived through what has unfolded since 6 October 2023. I pray for them too and for an opportunity that they get to experience peace for the rest of their lives.

Greg

Parish Priest.

FAREWELL FR ANIL

Fr Anil is taking up a new appointment in the Chisholm pastoral region on 1st February 2025.

We wish Fr Anil all the best, and thank him for his wonderful ministry among us.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS



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

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!

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.

GOSPEL FOCUS

The best wine

The steward comments that the best wine had been kept until the end of the wedding celebration – a clever use of an image for Jesus. Remembering the use of wedding imagery to describe the relationship between the people of Israel and God, the wedding feast is celebration of that relationship, and at the very heart of the celebration and the relationship is Jesus. He is the best wine that is kept until the end – the 'finishing touch' to a magnificent celebration, just as he is the 'finishing touch' to the relationship between God and God's people to that point.

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

2nd week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Monday 20 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 21 January

St Agnes, virgin, martyr

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 22 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield

Thursday 23 January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

11:00am Funeral Mass for Daniel Skelly @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 24 January

St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 25 January

The Conversion of St Paul, apostle

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

Australia Day

Saturday 25 January

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 26 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
(No Mass 26 Jan; next Mass 2 Feb)

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

PRAYER REQUESTS



RECENTLY DECEASED:

Beryl Thornton, Teresa Tarantini,
Daniel Skelly, Margaret Jenkins, Vic Turrin,
Margaret Jordan

ANNIVERSARIES: Irena Ivanovic, Pat Mead, Betty Stott,
Caitlin Potts, Bernadette Flannery, Kenneth Crittenden,
Bertha Roche, Terry Anthony Griffiths, Connor Lane

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

*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.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:



(Australia Day)
Isaiah 32:15-18
1 Cor 12:4-11
Matthew 5:1-12

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 (Johne) 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

PARISH BULLETIN

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

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

FLOURISH WITH MARY'S HEART



To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Saint Mary MacKillop's beatification, we invite you to order your FREE copy of *Flourish with Mary's Heart*.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph created a commemorative prayer book that inspires us all to 'do the extraordinary' as Mary so often did. The prayers offer an opportunity to understand the values that are key to the heart of Mary – a woman of compassion & courage.

Join us in celebrating the inspiring legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop by ordering your exclusive copy via the QR code or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2763.



THANKS AGAIN!

As detailed in last week's bulletin, Christmas appeal donations totalling \$19,600 were received by the **St Vincent de Paul Society** from the churches within the City Pastoral Region of St Benedict's, Mayfield and Stockton.

CatholicCare reported that your generosity helped them make over 100 hampers to share some festive cheer with the people in our communities who are experiencing challenging circumstances.

Many thanks for the generosity of all those who donated.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHERS 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.

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



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. 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

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.



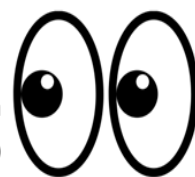
VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

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 FR MICHAEL TATE

Have you ever visited a great cathedral? Usually, the tabernacle of the Glory of the Real Presence of Our Lord is so far distant from the people that it is practically inaccessible, barely able to be seen.

Had the theologians and builders who devised these great edifices read today's gospel? It ends: 'He let his glory *be seen*.' Where? In a nondescript Galilean village at a wedding feast about to become a disaster for the couple.

This is the message of today's gospel. The Divine Presence is no longer remote and distant from you and me and our everyday concerns. The Divine Presence is as close as if we were all at a wedding feast together.

So, what is the story? Something is in danger of going horribly wrong. A young couple are about to be the talk of the village for generations to come. The wine is running out. A fiasco is impending. So, we need a hero to step in and save the situation.

Who is the hero, or perhaps the heroes, who will save the day?

Jesus is a very good candidate. He ended up coming to the rescue. And Catholics would emphasise the 'Mother of Jesus'. She persisted in the face of this retort from her son: 'Woman, what is this to me?' Yes, she was the heroine of the story.

But, the unsung heroes are ... the servants. They took a huge risk. They are going to look utterly stupid if they do what this wedding guest tells them and end up drawing mere water out of the jars to give to the steward.

They took this risk by doing what this stranger told them to do, *exactly*. In fact they were like children. If one asks a ten year old boy to fill a glass, he will fill it to the brim just to test you. The gospel tells us that Jesus said: 'Fill the jars with water' and the response is said to be 'they filled them to the brim'.

And then they started to ladle it out and found they were ladling out 'far better wine than anything served before' and the situation was saved.

How is the Divine Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ going to come into the everyday occurrences of daily life? Not with great pyrotechnics of thunder and lightning, but with you and with me doing our best to follow what Jesus asks us to do, and sometimes that requires us to become childlike again and to do what he asks *exactly*.

You and I are servants. We are the servants. This requires a certain naivety, and a certain refusal to be embarrassed in front of the crowd for whom what you are doing may seem ridiculous.

A few of you may get the call to do something extreme – filling to the brim – in your imitation of Jesus. Perhaps like St Francis of Assisi, discarding his fine clothes and following Jesus in utter poverty. But for most of us, it will all happen in the usual round of life.

It might be forgiving someone in the family where others in the family think you are fully justified in keeping a cold distance.

It might be caring for the life of a newly conceived or very sick child or elderly parent where the world might suggest more self-serving alternatives.

It might be by being generous, overly generous, with your time or money; time or money which could be spent on yourself, which is what the world expects.

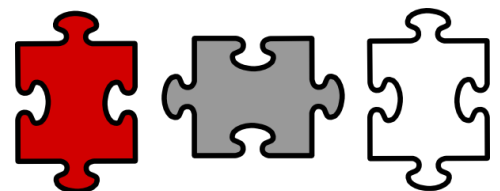
There is a myriad of ways, foolish in the eyes of the crowd, but when you do it like the servants ladling the liquid from those huge pots, you allow the Divine Presence of Our Lord to save the situation.

Then, Cana is there. The creative power of Jesus Christ is there. The Divine Glory *is seen*. The Divine Glory is at work among us.

© Fr Michael Tate

After a career in law and in politics, Michael Tate was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then.

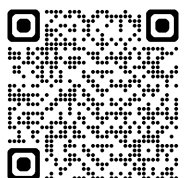
**STAY
CONNECTED**



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.



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 left.

“Between Two Worlds” - Formation Film on 1 February 2025 at 11am: Marianne (Juliette Binoche) finds work as a cleaner, enduring tough conditions and long hours. However, she's actually a journalist undercover, wanting to write about the hidden crisis of unemployment experienced by those in precarious jobs.

The film explores themes of inequality and the discomfort of Marianne's quest to understand those she portrays, highlighting her separation from their reality despite good intentions.

Lunch, coffee & tea provided.

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/FormationFilm> or call Mary O'Connor on 0409033449

Formation Fridays – First Friday of the month, 1pm – 2pm: A chance to reflect and discuss seasons, moments and mysteries of the church and our faith.

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/FormationFriday> or contact Rose McAllister at rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au.

THE CHUCKLE



A husband and wife had been married for 60 years and had no secrets except for one: The woman kept in her closet a shoe box that she forbade her husband from ever opening. But when she was on her deathbed—and with her blessing—he opened the box and found a crocheted doll and \$95,000 in cash.

“My mother told me that the secret to a happy marriage was to never argue,” she explained. “Instead, I should keep quiet and crochet a doll.”

Her husband was touched. Only one doll was in the box—that meant she'd been angry with him only once in 60 years. “But what about all this money?” he asked.

“Oh,” she said, “that’s the money I made from selling the dolls.”

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to **preparing each child for starting or resuming school**. This week and next week, the Safeguarding articles will focus on **10 tips for families** in supporting younger children as they start or resume school.

1. **Visit the school before the first day.** Even if the school is not open, just go to view the buildings and drop off/pick up points.
2. **Go school shopping.** Purchasing of items as “back to school,” like uniform or backpack, makes preparing for the school exciting.
3. **Talk to your child about their feelings** about school, friends, teachers, and new activities. When discussing back-to-school, you might gauge your child's thoughts about the classroom. Ask them what they are looking forward to and what they are interested in learning, along with any concerns they might have.
4. **Set intentions with your child** for the school year ahead. Just like adults make intentions for the new year, students can do the same for the new school year. You could choose a new “focus word” (e.g. friendships) with your child every month.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 2nd February Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5pm – 6pm *followed by a shared supper.*

You can read about it in the Aurora article “A spirit of joy, simplicity and reconciliation” available in the Diocesan website: <http://mnnews.today>



FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

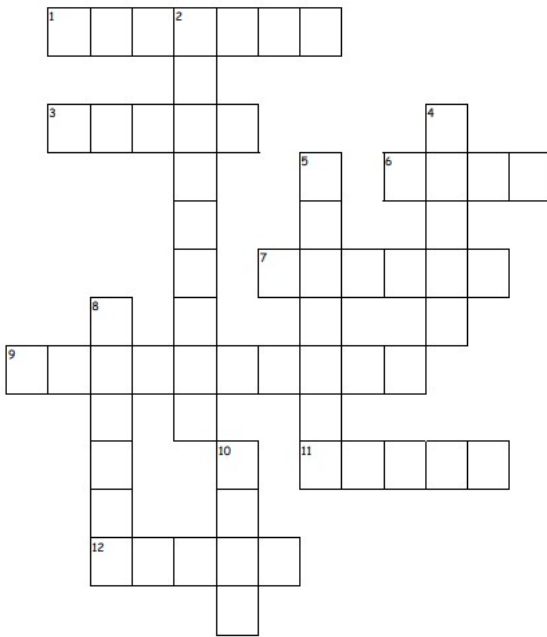


Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. Any of the 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.

CROSSWORD

We put our faith in Jesus

Mt 2:1-12



Across

- 1: marriage celebration
- 3: a celebration with food and drink
- 6: containers for storing liquids
- 7: ample supply
- 9: the bride's partner
- 11: a small rock
- 12: to have consumed liquids

Down

- 2: followers of Jesus
- 4: belief
- 5: a measurement of liquids
- 8: they _ _ _ _ _ the jars with water
- 10: Jesus turned water into this type of drink

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

God's Spirit has given us many gifts

Is 62:1-3
Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a R.v.3
1Cor 12:4-11
Mt 2:1-12

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

Try to find these words:

feast
gallons
gifts
jars
miracles
silent
sparkling
Spirit
stone
victory
wedding
wine

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon

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 Is 62:1-5

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his
bride, so will your God rejoice in you.*



Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:4-11

*One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as
he chooses.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 2:1-11

*The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in
Galilee.*

Memorial Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink
this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O
Lord, until you come again.



Communion Antiphon

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

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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