



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 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr Greg Barker

Fr Anthony Coloma

Deacon Kevin Gadd

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

W: www.sacredheartmilton.org.au

After hours emergency phone: 0494 390 653

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)

Daloras Howes (*Administration*)

Elul Tecele (*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

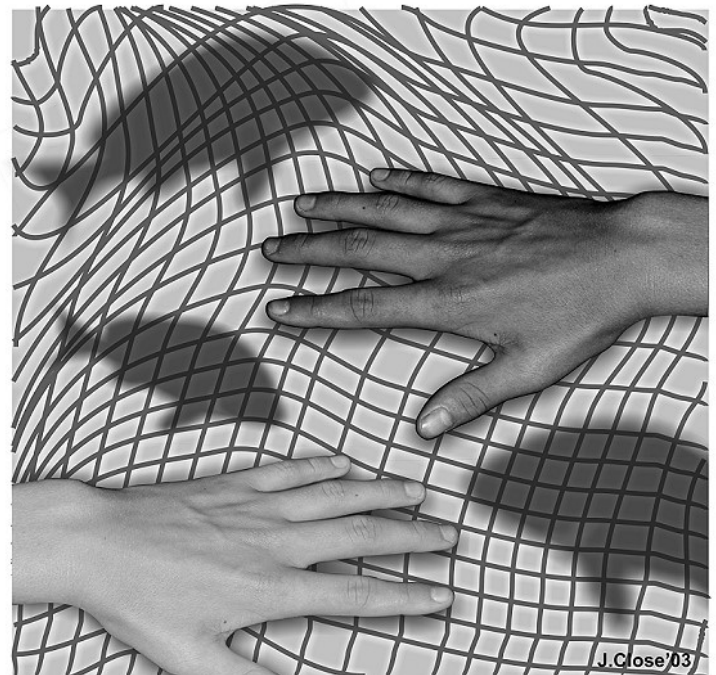
St Joseph's Pastoral Team:

Contact the Parish Office

Promoters of Safeguarding

Gail Lovell (02) 4979 1256

Anne Millard (02) 4979 1252



Jesus has a delightful way of relating everyday life to theology through symbols. Here Jesus uses fishing to represent evangelism and his metaphor has power – it is transformative. The lives of Simon and his fishing partners are changed forever after this encounter.

© Jenny Close

Dr Jennifer Close has qualifications in Fine Arts and education. She gained her PhD in Theology from Griffith University. She has extensive experience creating liturgical art, and teaching theology. Her particular interests are in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology.

PARISH BULLETIN

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

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 was really pleased this week to celebrate the beginning of a new school year with Saint Francis Xavier College, Hamilton as the new year 7s and 11s began the journey with them, and of course



us. It was a wonderful celebration of the Mass, and the young people were flawless in their engagement. I am not sure they were as amused by my reference to my military career and the ability I joyfully announced to dig trenches, run barbed wire, and accurately shoot, or where those skills might be employed. I was excited that the school believed it was important to begin the year with the Eucharist. The music and the liturgy were simply put, lovely.

In my homily I reflected on the necessity for all of us to play our part no matter how small for the kingdom of God and the transformation of the world around us. I often say we should leave where we are the better for our having been there. That is not always simply being nice. Proper stewardship does sometimes mean that we engage the world by being in opposition to its values. I love it when Pope Francis says we '*sometimes*' do that by using '*words*.' Remember that Christians do good *things* only when there are opportunities for it: I must sometimes be the doer but sometimes too, to be the person who receives the good. When I am sick, hungry, or lonely I am invited in my Christian life to allow the visit, the food, and the company. We all have a part to play.

Thanks to all those who do for us and thanks too for all those times when you let someone do for you. Know it is noticed, appreciated, and very much needed.

There are **never enough** volunteers in my life or parish. I am so grateful for all those who put their hand up to help. Sometimes we are not called to what we think we are, that is why a conversation about the ministry is important. It is no good volunteering to read if you get so nervous you cannot speak; sometimes you must give it a go. You might however be called to a different ministry not the one you initially step forward for: think about it and then let us talk!!

You will notice that the Diocese is launching Jubilee 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope' on the 2 March. You might also notice that all the Sunday morning Masses that day (2 March) are cancelled. You are invited to be a pilgrim with a walk (if you are up to it) from Nobby's

(8.00am) to the Cathedral for Mass (10.00am) followed by a festival of fun activities and food. This Jubilee Year is the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an 'event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church'. Save the date and come along.

The Parish Bulletin will have other events for you to attend during the year. Look out for the calendar of events. The bishop is going to communicate with the Diocese to announce the Churches that will be designated pilgrimage sites. Stay tuned. During the Jubilee Year there will be opportunities to participate, volunteer, be active, for God's grace and his bountiful love. Seize the moments as they come.

Best wishes,

Greg

Parish Priest.



DIOCESAN LAUNCH OF THE JUBILEE YEAR SUNDAY 2 MARCH

Bishop Michael invites all to celebrate the Jubilee Year with a Diocesan pilgrimage from Nobby's Beach (8am) to Sacred Heart Cathedral, culminating in Mass (10am) and a Festival (11am) in the Cathedral precinct grounds. Make your community known during the pilgrimage with flags and banners.

The festival will feature an official Launch of *Project Compassion 2025* and distribution of resources. All corners of the Diocese are encouraged to have representation and involvement as we mark Pope Francis' theme - *Pilgrims of Hope*. We are also excited to announce that we have secured an international exhibition celebrating Blessed Carlo Acutis. This will be accessible in the Toohey Room. Explore our stalls of Hope, food vendors and entertainment. Everything is free of charge.

For more information, visit

www.mn.catholic.org.au/JubileeYear2025



Our regular morning Masses on that day at The Hill, Tighes Hill and Stockton will be cancelled so you can take part in the festivities at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Everyone is welcome.

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

5th week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Monday 10 February

St Scholastica, virgin

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

10:30am Funeral Mass for Sr Carmel Hanson rsj at
The Cathedral

Tuesday 11 February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Wednesday 12 February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield

6:30pm Catholic Schools' Called to Serve Mass @
The Cathedral

Thursday 13 February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

1:30pm Mass at Charles O'Neill, Mayfield West

Friday 14 February

Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

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

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday 15 February

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 15 February

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 16 February

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 16 Feb; no Mass 23 Feb)

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Murray,
Stjepan Hac, John Chrisman Perera, Sr
Carmel Hanson rsj, Sr Ruth Long rsj,
Nicola Pantalone, Frank Straiton



ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Watt,
Margaret Dixon, Joan Cubis, Maureen Kauter

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Patricia Gillett, 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:

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20
Luke 6:17,20-26

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Robert Bartholomew	Xuyen An Le
Jean Rosario Belcher	Patricia (Trish) Leishman
Gwenneth Bennett	Alan James Long
Anthony Bookallil	Fiore (Frank) Monaco
Beryl Jean Clarke	Stan O'Brien
Marie Forrest	Kathleen O'Neill
Joanne Franks	Roger Saunders
Giuseppe Grach	Robert Smith
Edna Jean Hancock	Gregory Smith
Peter William Heggart	Toni Van Schyndel
Michael Henessy	William (Bill) Warren
Ronald Joseph Jarrett	Clare Alice Withers
Czeslaw (Cec) Kizeweter	Joan Woodcock

At St Joseph's:

Nicholas Evans	Gerald Meighan
Robyn Field	Bob Smyth
Marie James	Kath Walsh
Marie Maddrell	Alan Watt
William McNeil	Johanna Schmuck
Margaret McVie	Rodney Wright

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

IMPORTANT - REGISTER UPDATE – PARISH KEYS & ALARM CODES

We are currently updating our parish key and alarm code registers, in line with our obligations in relation to safeguarding and security measures. Maintaining accurate records is important – not just for legal reasons, but also in the event of any changes to locks or alarm keypads.



If you have a key and/or an alarm code for a parish building, please contact Anne Warren at the parish office. Either:
via email, anne.warren@mn.catholic.org.au,
or by phone on 4979 1254. For keys, Anne will need to record the code written on the key.

PRAYER / DISCUSSION GROUP

The Junction Prayer/Discussion Group will begin 2025 on Thursday 6 February at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction.



The Lenten Group, which will use the Wollongong Diocese Metanoia Lenten Program, will start on 6 March in the Junction meeting room. It will continue each Thursday in Lent. Anyone interested in being part of the group can ring Janet on 0435 518 671.

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

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets Sunday, 2nd March to discuss *The Mystery guest* by Nita Prose. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets February 12th for Lectio. To participate, please email the parish office.



WEDNESDAY ROSARY

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



ENROLMENTS FOR 2025 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 Parishes run between February and June of every year and are designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2025. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2025 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

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit:
And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord:
And there are varieties of activities, but the same God
who activates all of them in everyone. (1 Cor 12:4)*

We have two exciting new opportunities for volunteers in the region.

1. Baptism Team
2. Sacramental Team

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The role of this team is to assist parents of infants to be baptised to understand their parental responsibilities and the liturgy of baptism. Team members will instruct parents on the meaning and significance of the Sacrament of Baptism and how important it is for parents to pass on the gift of faith to their children.

We anticipate meetings will take place monthly, likely on a Tuesday evening. The meeting will cover the format of the ceremony. The team members will then be encouraged to attend the baptismal ceremony.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: The role of this team is working with children and their parents to prepare for first reconciliation, confirmation and first communion. Over the past years (beginning during COVID), the sacramental program has been fully online. This year we are returning to small group meetings to prepare the children for the sacraments. The program is fully documented and easy to follow.

To express interest in either or both of these teams, please use the following link or QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/k08AfwMC3E>



“LIGHT SOURCE”

Multi-disciplinary artists Ken O'Regan, Chris Brown and Kris Smith, present “Light Source”, a meditation on the passage of deep time and the intersection of natural and built environments. Using light as their primary medium, these artists speak to the possibility of our speculative futures through experimental interpretations.

The exhibition is on at Watt Space Gallery, cnr King and Auckland Sts, from 15th Jan - 8th March. It will include some photography taken from inside St Mary's through stained glass windows.

Opening hours: Wed to Fri: 11am - 5pm, Sat: 12 - 4pm or by appointment.

EPIC ANNIVERSARY!

EPIC (Everything Possible in Christ) Youth Group celebrates its FIRST anniversary on Wednesday 19 February, from 6pm to 8pm in the Cathedral precinct. Why not join us? Please RSVP to Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au.



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.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6pm in the Cathedral precinct. Anyone aged between 20 and 40 is cordially invited to join the group.

Email Elul.tecle@mn.catholic.org.au to find out more.

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 2025 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 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of March. Contact the office to sign up.

RCIA 2025

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that involves the whole parish community in welcoming new members. The RCIA is a community-based process that prepares people for full communion or baptism in the Catholic Church. This year we have over ten people planning to join the church at Easter.

We need your help!! The RCIA meetings are Sunday afternoons at 3pm in the Diocesan Resource Centre. All are welcome to come along and share the journey. It's also a great way to renew your own faith journey. Let us know if you're coming: newcp parish@mn.catholic.org.au

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Opening Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 5pm. Open 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm. cnr Tudor and Parry Sts, Newcastle West.



All resources are available to borrow; and are searchable on the library catalogue, which can be accessed through this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOMNLibrary>

OR use the QR code to the right.



Formation Fridays – 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.

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.

THE CHUCKLE

Never leave alphabet soup on the stove and then go out - It could spell disaster.



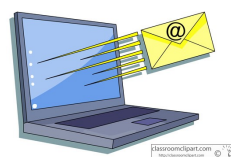
LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. To this end, your attention is drawn to the **threat of online grooming**.

Many children received phones as a Christmas present, often with the intention of providing families with convenient contact while children are out of house: for children 6-13 years in Australia, nearly half either have their own phone or have access to one. A recent report, however, reveals that one in four girls in Australia has been subjected to online grooming, sparking renewed concern about internet safety: boys are about one in eight. Online grooming involves predators using social media, gaming platforms, or other digital channels to build trust with minors for exploitative purposes.

This alarming statistic highlights the urgent need for stronger online protections for children. Advocates are calling for stricter regulations, improved reporting mechanisms, and greater accountability from tech companies to address this growing threat. Parents and caregivers are also encouraged to engage in open conversations with their children about online safety, to monitor their digital activities, and to educate them on recognising and reporting inappropriate behaviour. Advice is available for families and schools at <https://esafety.gov.au>

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?



Fr Greg would like to communicate news, views and events with parishioners. Simply send an email to newcp parish@mn.catholic.org.au, indicating your permission for us to record your email address. Thank you.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

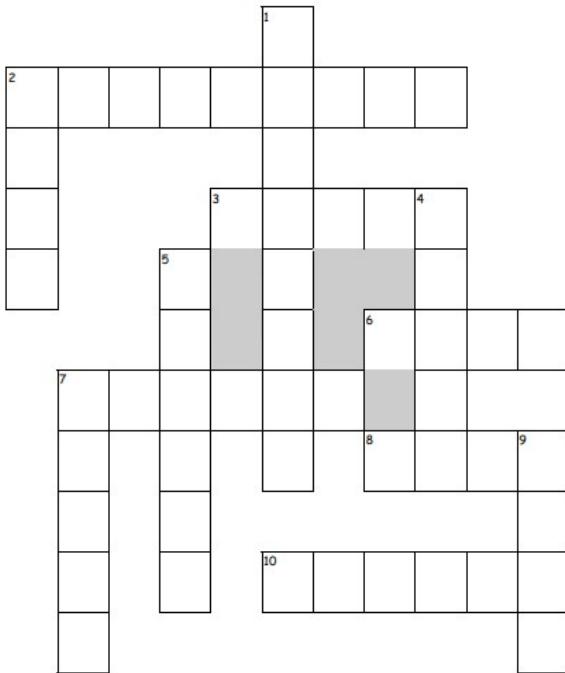


Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. Any of the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

The Lord has forgiven my sins

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8
Ps 138:1abcd-2a, 4-5 R.v.1c
1 Cor 15:3-8, 11
Lk 5:1-11



Across

- 2: people who go fishing
- 3: the apostle whose brother was John
- 6: a dark earthy rock used as a fuel
- 7: placed in the ground
- 8: used to catch fish
- 10: something that is seen

Down

- 1: gave a sermon
- 2: not able to hold more
- 4: land along the edge of water
- 5: the seat where a king sits
- 7: vessels for transport on water
- 9: to become submerged

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Follow Jesus and be not afraid

Lk 5:1-11

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

Try to find these words:

boats
catch
fishermen
full
master
nets
ripping
shore
sink
sinner
speaking
Zebedee

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading: Is 6:1-8

Here am I! Send me.



Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1

(R.) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises,
Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways;
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' (R.)
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-11

*I preach what they preach, and this is what you
believe.*

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 5:1-11

They left everything and followed him.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his
mercy, his wonders for the children
of men, for he satisfies the thirsty
soul, and the hungry he fills with
good things.



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

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