



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 22ND DECEMBER 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Anthony Coloma
Fr Anil Kumar Kuchipudi
Fr Solomon Okovido
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: newcp parish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.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

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

2000 years ago God came among us as tiny baby born to a poor Middle-Eastern couple who washed Him and wrapped Him in a cloth. We have since wrapped this miraculous gift of God's self-giving in many layers of our own cultural traditions - trees, lights, tinsel, lavish gifts, sumptuous food and drink. Without these, I wonder how well we would value the gift Himself, for many in our world will not be able to celebrate this great event with any of these. Let's pray a spirit of peace and joy will enter every heart and soul, and we'll be inspired to reach out to everyone in need.

Fr John



OFFICE

The office will be closed from 4pm on Tuesday 24th December till 9.30am on Thursday 2nd January.

Phone messages and emails received during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2025.

CLOSURE



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)

Monday 23 December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday 24 December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Tuesday 24 December *Christmas Eve*

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

7:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral



Wednesday 25 December

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

12:00am Midnight Mass @ The Cathedral *

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday 26 December

Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

Friday 27 December

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral (No Exposition prior)

Saturday 28 December

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral
(No Novena today)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

5:30pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday 29 December

Feast of the Holy Family

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 5 Jan; next Mass 12 Jan)

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dianne May Beckett

ANNIVERSARIES: Kelvin O'Neill, James (Jim) Bridges, Mary & George Bridges, Marion Bridges, Catherine Horner, Deceased members of the Bridges family, Carlo Cristobal, Mary Murray, Sr Clare Tobin rsj, Maud Sullivan, Mary Mills, James Maher msc, Matt Forman



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.

PARISH BULLETIN

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

OUR BELOVED DEAD

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

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Mario Cannavale	Kevin Fuge
Aileen Joyce Carey	Louis William Harris
Kathleen Mary Cashman	Margaret Ireland
Joan Cunningham	Anthony (Tony) Losurdo
Bertha Docherty	Helen O'Sullivan
Paul Ferry	James Savage
Maria Franceschi	Patrick Scott
	Margaret Tuxworth

At St Joseph's:

Frank Hawkins Jnr	Joan Payne
Ernst Koch	Byeena Winifred Saxby
Cecily Clare Leslie	Pat Skehan
Margaret McGlynn	Patricia Margaret Smith
Athol Moore	Joseph Timbs
Kevin Smith	Grace Hickey
Robert Wakely	Harold Casey
Stan Walters	Kelvin Davis
Dorothy Wilson	Mary Doyle
Franz Schmuck	Bill Edser
Noreen Heaney	Alan Fogarty
Rodger Ryan	Maree Green
Mick McBride	Dorothy Wilson

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



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear friends in Christ,

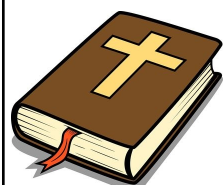
As we approach the end of another year, we look back with gratitude for the many blessings we have received (e.g. babies born, couples marrying, new people preparing & being received into the Church, successes in exams, sports and so on). We were also blessed to witness the recent ordination of Deacon Solomon Okovido to the priesthood of our Diocese. During this time, we may also be reflecting on the various things that have not gone so well: for instance, some of us will have suffered the loss of a loved one, experienced a serious illness or accident, been adversely affected by rising interest rates or the chronic shortage of housing across our nation, or are struggling to make sense of the terrible conflicts still occurring in the Ukraine and the Holy Land.

Through all this we are kept strong by our faith as we celebrate the wonderful miracle of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. In a world of constant change and uncertainty, He is the one constant who keeps us united in hope and love. So, let's celebrate this great feast of Christmas with joy and thanksgiving, while also sparing a thought and a prayer for those less fortunate than ourselves, who for whatever reason are not able to share in our spirit of joy at this time.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our Parish Office staff, and so many teams and volunteers in our pastoral region who have contributed their time and talents to support our parish administration, liturgies and outreach programs in various ways over the past year. In particular, I am thinking of our MCs, sacristans, musicians and singers, lectors, servers, Bereavement and RCIA teams, hospital and home visitation teams, those who take up and count our Mass collections, members of our Finance & Pastoral Councils, our Catholic Schools' staff, our supply priests and countless others.

Finally, on behalf of Fr Anil, Fr Anthony, Fr Bob, Fr Solomon, Dcn Kevin, and myself, may I wish you and all your loved ones a very blessed and happy Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Love, Fr John



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52

STOCKTON ADVENT DONATIONS

Christmas is a time of giving, receiving and thinking of others. As in past years, please dig deep and give generously to those less fortunate. Baskets in the foyer each Sunday of Advent need to be filled with non-perishable goods, gifts and toiletries. These will be distributed between Catholic Care, Refugee Hub and Seafarers' Mission. Thank you, in anticipation.

FAREWELL TO FR JOHN

Fr John's last weekend Mass will be at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9.30am on Sunday 29 December 2024, followed by refreshments. To express our appreciation to Fr John for his ministry within the Inner City pastoral region, please consider offering a thankyou via a retiring collection at our churches this weekend 21/22 December. We wish Fr John every happiness in this next stage of his faith journey

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

A further delivery of Columban calendars has been received & they are available for \$10 from the parish office.



BEE HAPPY

The community garden behind our Tighes Hill church recently took delivery of a hive of native stingless bees. These will help with pollination now that the varroa mite has reduced the number of local European honey bee. Due to the risk of vandalism, the hive is located in a neighbour's yard. The garden thanks all those who contributed to the fundraising appeal.



SIMBANG GABI AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL



In preparation for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth, Novena Masses are being celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7.30pm in the evenings of **15th December to 23rd December 2024.**

The celebration of the Christmas Novena Masses, also known as Simbang Gabi to Filipinos, is a long tradition brought by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in 1669. The Novena Masses are in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God, and serve as a preparation for the commemoration of the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour. *All are welcome!*

RCIA TEAM—CITY PASTORAL REGION

Dear friends,

As many of you may already be aware, we are currently forming an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Team for the parishes of our City Pastoral Region. I'm very grateful to those generous parishioners who have volunteered to be part of this team, and also Sr Louise Gannon rsj and the Worship & Prayer Team, in assisting us with formation of this wonderful ministry.

Saying this, it's important to recognize that all of us, as an intrinsic part of our Christian calling, have a role in the work of evangelisation (including welcoming & accompanying) of anyone interested in joining our Catholic faith. It can be very inspiring to hear the stories of those who are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord and His people through this process.

So, I invite you to let me know if you'd like to volunteer to be a companion (ie. welcome and sit with one of these people at Sunday Mass) to accompany them on their journey. Instruction will be provided for you if you are able to help in this way. In doing this, you will be making a very valuable and practical contribution to building-up the Kingdom of God in our region. To register your interest, please forward your name and a contact number/email to our Parish Office at: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or telephone on (02) 49791101.

Love, Fr John



JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT THE DIOCESE

Are you enthusiastic, passionate and looking for a career change? You should join our new Mission & Evangelisation team. Formally known as Pastoral Ministries, the team's new permanent, full-time roles offer the chance to shape and have a meaningful impact across our parishes and faith communities.



Mission and Evangelisation Partner - Youth Ministry: Bring a creative and strategic focus to a new and bespoke strategy for the engagement of young people in the life and mission of the local Church. This is a chance for a passionate leader to animate an inspired vision in fertile ground with significant support from a broader team.

Mission and Evangelisation Partner - Worship: Be part of an outward-looking, inter-connected and collaborative group who will provide significant leadership to all who seek advice and formation in this space.

To apply, find these vacancies advertised on the Diocese website under Careers, Diocese positions vacant:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions

We encourage anyone across the Diocese who is interested and meets the criteria to apply.

For further information, please contact Director of Mission & Evangelisation James Camden:

james.camden@mn.catholic.org.au

EPIC (EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN CHRIST) YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Come and join us! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month @ 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.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational and everyone is very welcome.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start.

WHERE: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16 Tighes Tce, Tighes Hill.

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 or just come.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM PALMS!



Are you looking to give something really special this year?

Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you!

Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here!

Just scan the QR or go to palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop

Your purchase assists the amazing communities overseas.



VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat meets Wednesday 18th December @ 7pm. We are using the Diocesan resource *Awaiting Hope*. To participate, please email the parish office: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

WEDNESDAY ROSARY

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





Please be aware the Regional Office will be closed over Christmas and New Year from 4pm on Tuesday 24th December till 9.30am on Thursday 2nd January.

Phone messages and emails received during this time will be answered ASAP upon our return in 2025. Please also note that prayer requests for the Sunday Parish Bulletin for Sunday 29 December need to be received by Friday 20 December.

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.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

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

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!

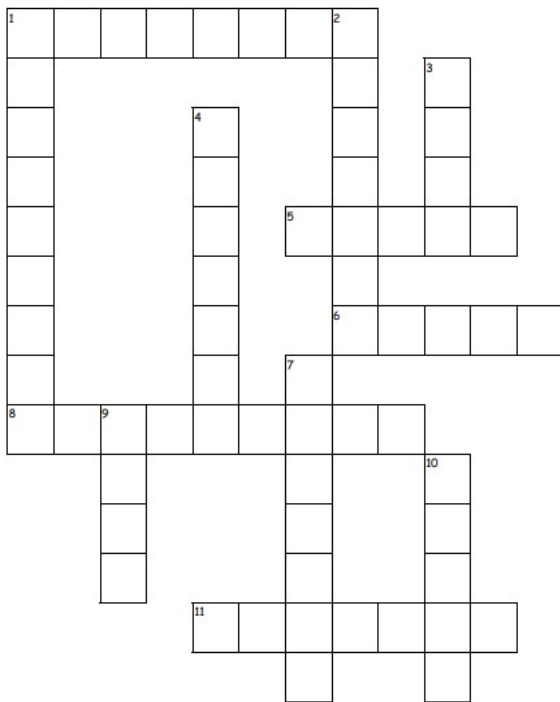
BEQUESTS

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.

CROSSWORD

What must we do?

Lk 3:10-16.18



Across

- 1: people who fight battles
- 5: used in Baptism
- 6: to let others use our things
- 8: something that is not the same
- 11: someone who educates us

Down

- 1: to be happy and content
- 2: something worn on feet in warm weather
- 3: the element that burns
- 4: he will _____ you in the Holy Spirit
- 7: the chosen one
- 9: what we eat
- 10: what we use to buy things

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord is at your side

Zep 3:14-15
Isa 12:2,4bcd.6 R.v.6
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-16.18

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

Try to find these words:

different
enemies
fire
gentle
heart
Messiah
retreat
share
sisters
soldiers
teacher
thankful

TODAY'S LITURGY

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

*Out of you will be born the one who is
to rule over Israel.*



Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a
visit from the mother of my Lord?*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation:

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



Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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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

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