

Collection Information

With the shift to the new bulletin format, one of the things that will be missing is information about the weekly collections. The inclusion of such information is generally not recommended (as it is considered a high risk action). Instead, quarterly financial statements will be produced and made available to parishioners.

Social Justice Statement

Australia's Catholic Bishops have used their annual Social Justice Statement to condemn the scourge of domestic and family violence, saying relationships must be "marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control." For more information or to read the full statement, visit socialjustice.catholic.org.au.

Make A Difference—CatholicCare

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens provide thousands of meals across the Hunter-Manning region each month and help people who have nowhere else to turn. However, these important services receive no government funding, so we rely on the generosity of the community. Please give a gift today to help us provide more meals to people in need.

Your tax deductible donation will go directly to our local food programs, ensuring no one is turned away and that everyone is welcomed with a hot meal and a smile.

For more information or to make a donation, visit bit.ly/3dgObox.

2023 Pastoral Placement Program

Applications are now open!

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The purpose of this program is to give participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese.

These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help people explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to bit.ly/3OloKPz.

Summary of Pope Francis' General Audience

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on old age in the light of God's word, we now turn to the mysterious figure of the "Ancient of Days", presented in a vision of the prophet Daniel (*Dn 7:9*) and echoed in the Book of Revelation (cf. *Rev 1:13-14*). This image of God the Father, venerable in age and authority, expresses God's transcendence, his eternity and his constant care for this world and its history. The figure of the "one like a son of man" is a prophecy of Jesus, the eternal Son of the Father, sent into our world for our salvation. At his Presentation in the Temple, the child Jesus was embraced by Simeon and Anna, two elderly people who recognized in him the long-awaited fulfilment of God's promises. The presence of the aged couple speaks to us of the special vocation of the elderly: to welcome the young into our world, to celebrate their lives as a blessing and to testify to the unity of the different generations in the unfolding of God's saving plan. The elderly play an indispensable role in helping the young to mature in wisdom, rooted in continuity with the past and looking ahead to the future of hope that God, the "Ancient of Days", opens up before us all.

Rome, General Audience, 17 August 2022

Download the MassApp & Stay Connected

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has a mobile app for smartphones and tablets to help in staying connected with people across the Diocese.

All your parish essentials are in the palm of your hand, so you can:

1. Check Mass times for any day of the week for your local church or any Parish within the Diocese.
2. Read the latest news from parishes and/or the Diocese
3. Find out more about upcoming parish and Diocese events.
4. View daily prayers and homilies prepared by your Priest.
5. Setup regular electronic parish giving.
6. Contribute to one-off, specific local parish fundraising events electronically.

You are also able to select your Church and receive customised alerts. To view your latest Parish updates, simply scroll down the home page and click on the notices that interest you for more details.

Search for 'Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle' in your phone's app store.

Opportunities Outside The Parish

Retreats at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

There are a number of retreats being hosted at St Mary's Towers in Douglas Park during August. They are as follows:

- 24 August – 1 September \$1240 or Private Weekend 26-28 August \$310: Retreat Team

For more information or a flyer, phone 02 4630 0233 or email contact@towersretreat.org.au. An application form can be found via bit.ly/3v6e3JA

Transformation Retreat Join Fr Chris Eaton from Missionaries of God's Love, Canberra on Saturday 27 August for a transformation retreat. It will run from 9am until 5pm at St Joseph's Parish Hall in Rockdale NSW. It includes Mass, and morning tea and lunch will be provided. Bookings are essential via trybooking.com/CASKV. Contact Helen on 0422 455 114 or Ida on 0424 267 500 for further information.

Assertiveness - Trusting Your Own Inner Voice

This reflection event will be held on Tuesday 30 August 2022 from 7pm to 9.30pm via Zoom, and will explore: assertiveness - what it is and what it is not; why being assertive is adult behaviour that builds up everyone's strength and capacity to love; finding within ourselves that voice of God that echoes who I am as good in the eyes of God; what is it that distorts this perspective and how that influences my judgement and behaviour; being assertive with God; being with an assertive God. Led by Chris Chaplin msc (MSCX, Dip Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy, BTheol, Cert Spir Dir (Siloam)). Cost \$35. Book and pay by 26/8/22 via www.heartoflife.melbourne Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Malvern VIC, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel (03) 9890 1101.

Go Make Disciples is a formation opportunity that invites participants to explore the entire Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) over six sessions, beginning on Sunday 18 September.

Because the RCIA is the template for all initiation, including children, this is an important formation opportunity for all Christian Initiation ministers. View the flyer (bit.ly/3PT9ZEO) for all details including dates, times, venue and registration.

Parishes who are looking to establish an RCIA team for the first time, or who would like to introduce new members to an existing team, might seize 'Go Make disciples' as an opportunity to ensure members of your teams are immersed in the vision, principles and processes of the RCIA.

The ministry of Christian Initiation, with adults and children and their families, belongs to all the baptised. So, everyone is invited to participate in these two opportunities to be refreshed: all parishioners including teachers, experienced and new ministers, those who have an interest in discovering more about this ministry and would love to come rest a while. Such diversity will provide a rich formation space.

Come Rest A While Join us for a Reflection Day on Saturday 10 September in appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers. There will be an opportunity to listen, reflect, and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. For more details and registration, visit bit.ly/3blDpww.

Young Christian Students

The Young Christian Students is an international movement, present in over 80 countries, that empowers secondary school students to take action on what they believe, in their student reality.

YCS gives students the chance to be agents of change themselves. When students take ownership and responsibility it allows them to develop the skills needed to lead.

The Diocese of holding a training day on Friday 26 August for anyone who would like to get involved in the YCS movement. To register your interest, please email formed@mn.catholic.org.au.

Waiting for Purpose

We invite you to a period of waiting this Advent through connecting with each other in prayer and reflection. Our Diocesan Advent Reflection will be available from October 2022.

Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

Fr Greg Barker, the community of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, together with the Federation of P&F Associations and the Special Needs Working Party warmly welcome all to join with clergy, students, principals, teachers, school staff, families, and parishioners for this special celebration.

Mass will be celebrated at Catherine McAuley Catholic College, 507 Medowie Road, Medowie on Sunday 18 September 2022 commencing at 2.30pm. An afternoon tea will be hosted after Mass concludes.

For more information, please contact Catherine McAuley Catholic College on 4068 1000.

The Parish Diary...(for the week ahead)

21st Week in Ordinary Time, Year C

Monday—22 August

Memorial of the Queenship of Mary

Tuesday—23 August

Wednesday—24 August

Feast of St Bartholomew

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday—25 August

No Mass today—Fr Andrew to Newcastle

Friday—26 August

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday—27 August

Memorial of St Monica

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday—28 August

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9:30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalm Ps 116: "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News."

2nd Reading Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 13:22-30

Memorial Acclamation We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August:

"We pray for small and medium size businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities."

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Speaking a hard message

Today's gospel reminds us that the message of Christianity is not always a popular one. Sometimes we are called upon to speak a hard message; a challenging message; a confronting message. The message of the gospel frequently confronts our popular culture and accepted social practice. It often contradicts the expedient decisions of our political leaders. There is a responsibility on us to speak the hard message of the gospel even at the risk of unpopularity and even in the face of threat. The Christian heroes of our time are those who call leaders to measure up to the demands of the gospel.

Australia's Plenary Council

Although the Plenary Council itself has now come to a close, the process that it started continues in the life of the Church in Australia.

The decrees adopted by the Plenary Council have now been finalised, and they will be sent to the Holy See after the next Bishops' Conference meeting in November 2022. If the decrees receive the support of the Holy See, they will become law for the whole Church of Australia, including our own diocese and parishes.

If you would like to read the texts of the formal decrees adopted by the Council, they are available on the front page of the Council's website (plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Jean Kenney, Shirley Wade, Alan Kearns

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In August: Luxton Walker, Connie Gibson, Gladys Garner, Selena Smith, Mary Sonter, Margaret Muddle, Fay Farrow, Barbara King, Reg West, Harrison Walters, Jack Jordan, Jean Taylor, Jim Riches, Ron Jones, Margaret Kelly, Joan McMullen, Lou Dillon, Terry Shiel, John Rose, Norma Preece, Laurie Williams, Denis Cavanough, Margaret French, Carmel Godwin.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, Tracy Copus, Daphne Bond, Norbet Egan, Maree McCulloch, Ella Rusak, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Lyn Barry, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Bert Preece, Warren Wade, Kerry Copus, Irene Robinson, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Luke Barry, Joanne Curry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Lyn Kerr, Dominic Duggan, Roma Mead, Ron Holt, Bella Duggan, Michaela Brown, Marilyn Amos.