**Bulletin Notices:**

**New updates**

1. **Laudato Si’ Week 2024: Sunday 19 May to Sunday 26 May**

This year’s theme “Seeds of Hope” is inspired by the 2024 Seasons of Creation symbol.

Resources, prayer cards, reflections, and other material that parishes may wish to consider utilising can be found at these two sites: Laudato Si’ Week: <https://laudatosiweek.org>) and Caritas Laudato Si’ Week: [www.caritas.org.au/resources/library/laudato-si-week-parish/](http://www.caritas.org.au/resources/library/laudato-si-week-parish/)

**Opportunities included in previous notices**

1. **Sacred@Seven with Gen Bryant**

From leading music ministry in her local parish, to performing for Pope Francis at World Youth Day, Genevieve Bryant is a much sought-after music minister and guest speaker who travels around Australia and the world, spreading the love of God through her gift of music.

Gen is joining us to share her amazing story and to encourage us all to step out in faith and to use the gifts that we have been given to impact this world.

Gen and her band members will also be leading the music ministry at Sacred@Seven.

**Date:** Wednesday 15th May 2024.

**Event Address:** 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West 2303

**Location:** Toohey Room next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Time:** 6.30pm: Gen Bryant Talk (Stepping out in Faith - Using your gifts)

7.30pm- 8.30pm: Sacred@Seven - Fr Anthony Coloma (Praise and Worship, Testimony, Scripture, Preaching and Adoration)

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/bs1TRP7CCN>

1. **Reflection Day with SRE Teachers**

Special Religious Education (SRE) offers a safe place for students in state schools to learn about Jesus’ love and to discuss matters of faith, spirituality, and beliefs. For teachers, it is a response to a calling of journeying with young people as they come to know Jesus Christ, who loves and teaches love.

You are invited to join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Special Religious Education teachers for a day of prayerful contemplation. Starting with Mass, this is an occasion to listen to and engage in stories and experiences involving this ministry. An opportunity exists in the afternoon for us to visit the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to learn about this sacred space where children use sensory-rich materials and Montessori principles to explore their relationship with God.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/iaKTYrJHt7>

This is event is also great for anyone who is interested in becoming an SRE teacher or has been one in the past.

1. **Christian Formation Course**

**Expressions of Interest for 2024/2025 Christian Formation Course are now open.**

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

* The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units
* All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

* become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
* grow in their capacity to reflect on their life’s journey
* realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
* be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
* grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 23 July, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more, go to [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/)

**Opportunities included in previous notices**

1. **New Life in God’s Spirit Seminar**

Are you open to allowing God to activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you received in Baptism? The Immaculate Conception of Mary, Charismatic Prayer Group have been gathering for more than 40 years. They eagerly invite you to experience a six-week, ‘New life in the Spirit Seminar’. This is an opportunity for you to journey with others to encounter Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. There will be music for Praise and Worship, guest speakers and discussion groups.

**Location:** Diocesan Resource Centre 12 Tudor Street (corner of Tudor and Parry Street), Newcastle West-adjacent to the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

**Time:** 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Start date:** Monday 20 May

**Cost:** Free. Simply register your name and contact details by calling or texting Bernadette Barlow on 0425 270 613. You can also register on the night. All are welcome!

1. **“Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project.” Zoom Discussion.**

The last 2 sessions for Tilling the church will be:

* Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past
* Wednesday 19 June: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and Conclusion

To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087>

1. **Alpha at The Mackillop Parish**

The Mackillop Parish invites you to join them for Alpha. Alpha is a friendly, informal environment for people with various beliefs to explore the meaning of life, faith and God. The program is simple: we start with dinner, watch a thought-provoking video exploring life from a Christian perspective, and then have time for sharing our perspectives in small groups. No cost, no pressure, no judgment. All are most welcome.

Event Start Date: Thursday 2 May  
Time: Thursdays 6.30pm to 8.30pm  
Location: Mackillop Function Room: - 7 Milson St, Charlestown NSW 2290.  
RSVP: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdn9PD6B1firXrYgIgGVtBQ6S_DJ64l4OTX9lCyqYC4QqIN7g/viewform>

Dinner is provided and the cost is free. If you need any help registering, please contact Yvonne Rego: Mobile: 0450 323 206 Email: [yvonne\_rego@hotmail.com](mailto:yvonne_rego@hotmail.com)

1. **Standing on the Shoulders: The Official Opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library and the 2024 TWEC Dinner – Friday 31 May**

It is with much excitement that you are invited to join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library. The Library, which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Catholic Library, offers our community access to resources relating to Religious Education, Scripture, Theology, Liturgy and more.

Following on from the official opening, the celebration continues with the reimagining of the TWEC dinner with guest speaker Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Director of Mission at the Diocese of Broken Bay. Kelly was amongst five Australians chosen personally by the Holy Father to participate in the General Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Library Opening – 4.30 PM

Free entry. All welcome

Dinner & Speaker – 5.30 PM

$40 pp includes buffet meal and guest speaker presentation.

Dinner Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597>

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1. **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Open Days**

Have you heard of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Operating out of the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield in the Chisholm Parish region, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers a child-focused program that meets in the specially prepared environment called “The Atrium”. Following the Montessori philosophy, The Atrium is currently open on Wednesdays during the school term, with sessions for 3–6-year-olds in the morning and 6–12-year-olds in the afternoon after school. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are holding open days during Term 2. If you would like the opportunity to visit and learn more, please register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/9KMf55C5nz>

1. **BBI Short Course: Ethical Foundations: Human Dignity Mondays 20 & 27 May, 4pm -5:30pm**

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at <https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>

1. **Christina Meditation – Saturday 25 May, 9.30am - 2.30pm**

John and Anne Gray will lead this event, opening a space for inner silence, gratitude, love and divine beauty. The duo will lead us in Imaginative Contemplation and share the aims of the Worldwide Prayer Network.

Where: St James School Hall (Vista Parade, Kotara) – parking available on Church grounds or Street.

Morning tea provided. Bring your lunch.

RSVP: [annecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:annecuskelly@hotmail.com) or 0407 436 808

$10 donations would be appreciated

1. **Magdalene Award: Nominations are open**

Nominations are open for the 2024 Mary Magdalene Award! For more information or to make a nomination, visit [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024)

**Ongoing opportunities**

1. Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)

**Useful Links**

Here are some useful links and resources that may be new to you. Feel free to share with parish contacts or publish in parish bulletins (as appropriate):

* [Liturgy page](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/catholic-faith/liturgy) – regularly updated
* [Faith formation page](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/) – regularly updated
* [MNnews.today](http://mnnews.today) – Diocesan News Service
* [DoMN Library](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library/)
* [Subscribe to DioUpdate eNewsletter](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/diocesan-e-news)
* [*Aurora* Magazine articles online](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora)