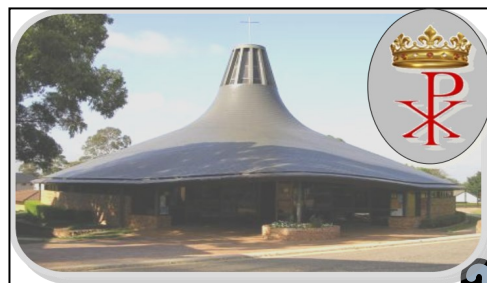


CATHOLIC PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING NORTH ROCKS



Sunday 01 JANUARY 2017, YEAR A
MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD



Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS: Mary the Holy Mother of God

Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Dec 31— Jan 1st—Mary the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister	Musician
Saturday 6.00 pm	Ken Boys Paul Rankin	Aubon Fernando	John Khoudair Kerry Saad		Sue DeCourcy John Lacey	Julia Hoban
Sunday 8.00 am	John Colman Christine Kinsella	Ken Coorey	Julie Elliott Margaret Noonan	Trish Yates	Cate Joseph James Kinsella Jenny Roddy	Mike Yates
Sunday 10.00 am	Paul Malouf Mark Rea	Jose Jilesh	Sarah Cook Sam Safy	Kathryn Gaudron	Cheryl Collins Jui-May Lee Leila Safy	Isabelle Chacty

COUNTER Group 2– Keith Henson, John Colman, John Lenehan, George Isaacs**ALTAR SOCIETY Group 5**– Margaret Isaac**PIETY Group 4**– Lena Henson, Dawn Muriti, Helen Templeman, Marea Mooney**CHURCH CLEANING Group 1**– Connie Este**Jan 7/8—THE EPIPHANY of the LORD**

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister	Musician
Saturday 6.00 pm	Sam Bietola George Germanos	Aubon Fernando	Gerard Sadaya Sue Veling	Divine Breen Jeremy Thaman	Peter Blyth Lisa Hoban	Dorothea Price
Sunday 8.00 am	Sam Burgin Christine Kinsella	David Collins	Tony Hughes Dexter Tabeta	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Margaret Coakley Ken Coorey Lorraine Murphy	Pauline Zhao
Sunday 10.00 am	Anthony Davies Michael Nasr	Peter Hrast	Stephen Doyle Ian McMaster	David Cook	Gerianne Sadaya Natasha Todorov Dianne Vogt	Dominic Wong

COUNTER Group 3– Sam Bietola, Ken Abood, Roger Brewer, Cass Joyce**ALTAR SOCIETY Group 6**– Carol Coorey, Barbara Haddad**PIETY Group 1**– Maria Bietola, Tony and Catherine Hughes, Mary Magill**CHURCH CLEANING Group 2**– Frances Gallagher, Rosemaree Maroon, Paul Cook, Marlene Galea**LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSES IN 2017**

The Office for Worship is offering Liturgical Ministry Courses in 2017, open to all parishes and individuals seeking formation and training for serving at the altar. Held at the Diocesan Assembly Centre in Blacktown on Mondays and at St Nicholas of Myra in Penrith on Thursdays, the formation courses are for anyone who is interested in becoming a Minister of the Word, Holy Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying, Adult Altar Server or Acolyte. For more information and an enrolment form tel the Office for Worship 8838 3456 or send an email to

MLWalsh@parra.catholic.org.au

Bookings close 16 February 2017.

RUNNING ALPHA IN 2017?

Alpha is a very effective means of bringing people to the starting point of faith, an encounter with Jesus Christ. If your parish is running Alpha in 2017 or considering this option, please contact the Pastoral Planning Office. We have a range of handy hints and parishes interested in networking with those already experienced in Alpha. Please contact Richard McMahon tel (02) 8838 3459,

RMcmahon@parra.catholic.org.au**POSITION VACANT**

The Institute for Mission requires a full time Team Assistant – Communications & Admin for their office in Blacktown. More details can be found at:

<http://parracatholic.org/employment>

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Ian McGinnity
Deacon : Rev. Tony Hoban
Parish Secretary: Nadine Lucas
 Ph: 9871 8710
Youth Coordinator: Bradley Vergano
 Mob: 0434 938 312
School Principal: Tony Hughes
 Ph: 9871 7438
Baptisms Monthly 2nd & 4th Sun
Weddings: By Appointment
Reconciliation: Sat 9.30 am & 4.30pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sat 9.30am
Rosary: Sat 8.30am, Tue 7pm
Children's Liturgy: 10am Mass-During Term
Parish Services
Sunday Masses: **Weekday Masses:**
 6.00pm Saturday Tuesday 7.30 pm
 8.00 am Sunday Wednesday 9.00 am
 10.00 am Sunday Thursday 9.00 am
 Friday 9.15 am
 Saturday 9.00 am

Parish Address:
 10 Statham Ave, North Rocks NSW 2151
Email: northrocks@parracatholic.org
Web Site: www.northrockscatholic.org.au



ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

The next conferral of the anointing of the sick will be on **Sat 18th February 2017** at 9am Mass.

IN YOUR MERCY, PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED:

THE SICK : Mary Magill, Sam Labnan.

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mary Titmuss (wife of Allan), Maurice Coorey, Autel Basha (husband of Violet and father of Kamlee)

PLEASE REMEMBER ALL THE DEPARTED IN YOUR PRAYER PRAYERS .

Giovanna Bonnano, John Kenny

GIRLS' CAMP AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT: 11-14 JANUARY 2017

Girls aged 10-12 are invited to a three-day camp at Mt Schoenstatt. We will explore how our faith connects with our everyday lives. Program also includes prayer, craft and fun activities. From 4pm on Wednesday 11 January to 4pm on Saturday 14 January. Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: \$110 (includes food and accomm). RSVP: Monday 12 December (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr M Luka 0439 537 843, sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

CREDIT CARD AND DIRECT DEBIT

Please inform the Parish Office on 9871 8710 or send an email of any changes to your credit card number/expiry date or direct debit account.

Thank you for your ongoing support

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you have changed your email address or now have a email address, could you please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible. **Thank you**

ONLINE GIVING

Online donations may be made at any time from the comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Please call the Parish Office for the BSB and Account number for the Parish or DWF Account.

BEQUESTS

Many of us have a special connection to our parish, nurtured by years of faith-sharing, schooling, friendships and support.

A bequest to your parish, no matter how small, will help the faith community which has meant so much to you to continue its good works and its loving outreach. It is also a means by which you can plan a lasting gift for your parish which might not be possible in your lifetime.

In receiving a bequest, a parish may be able to use the gift to attend to much needed maintenance and improvements to the church and other Parish property or put the gift towards building a new church or refurbishing their existing one. These kinds of gifts help the Parish free up other



PILGRIMAGE –

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI: 2-8 JANUARY 2017

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a seven-day, 100km pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains bushland. Pilgrims stay overnight at parishes along the route, experiencing the welcoming hospitality of parishioners and spending time in prayer, adoration and fellowship.

Pilgrims include Fr Piotr Kruk OP, Assistant Priest at Kingswood Parish, and Sr Rosie Drum MGL, Assistant Director of CYP. The pilgrimage finishes on the Feast of the Epiphany at the Chapel of the Magi at Bell. There are many ways that you can participate, either as a walking pilgrim or in the evenings of prayer, adoration and fellowship. To find out more visit:

www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

FREE CATHOLIC SUPER PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

The Government has recently shifted the incentive for saving via superannuation. Catholic Super can help you to learn more about your superannuation, take control of your finances and plan for a rewarding future. Catholic Super's FREE seminars during January cover wealth-related issues as well as broader health and lifestyle issues to consider now and for retirement. Non-members, friends and family are welcome. Thursday 19 January from 10am-2pm at Burwood RSL Club, 96 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood, and on Tuesday 24 January from 10am-2pm at Fairfield RSL Club, 14 Anzac Ave, Fairfield. For other dates and venues call 1300 658 776 or visit www.catholicssuper.com.au/seminars

PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL INFORMATION NIGHT: 6 FEBRUARY

Fr Paul Marshall, Parish Priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes, is accompanying a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 7-21 October 2017. An information night will be held on Monday 6 February at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. RSVP for catering purposes (Middle Eastern treats) by Friday 27 January tel 1300 550 830 or katrina@olivetreetravel.com.au Bookings are being taken up to early February. For more details or booking forms, please contact the parish office tel (02) 9631 8135.

MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: 9 FEBRUARY

Everyone is welcome to this annual Mass in acknowledgment of carers and those for whom they care. Includes the Sacramental Rite of Anointing of the Sick and Prayers for Healing. Bishop Vincent Long will be the principal celebrant for Mass at 10.30am in St Patrick's Church, 51 Allawah St, Blacktown. Plenty of parking – refreshments to follow.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY: 17-19 FEBRUARY

Everyone is invited to join CCR's Holy Spirit Mission for a weekend of Renewal, Restoration and Revival. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will preside at the opening Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday at 7.30pm. On Saturday & Sunday, the program at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills, includes children's ministry, Reconciliation from 1.00pm-2.00pm, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, closing Mass at 4pm on Sunday. Presenters include: Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Fr Ken Barker MGL. Entry is free. For more information, visit www.ccrparramatta.org

WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2017

Perhaps the best known Catholic contribution to responding to violent conflict is the just war tradition, which was developed in order to reduce recourse to war and to limit its humanitarian consequences. But there is a second tradition as well. Lesser known is our Catholic commitment to active non-violence and building a just peace. Gospel non-violence is not passive. Rather, it entails active strategies such as peacebuilding, conflict transformation, restorative justice, and unarmed civilian protection. Seeking a just peace means preventing conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration. In his Message for the 50th World Day of Peace, celebrated on Jan. 1, 2017, Pope Francis urges families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community to practice non-violence and work to build a just peace. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20161208_messaggio-l-giornata-mondiale-pace-2017.html

Working together, we can be vehicles of Gospel non-violence and a just peace.

PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church, and which also makes the Church by giving rise to a new family community. The love between spouses is an image of the love between Christ and His Church.

To speak to a course coordinator, contact 8838 3460 or lmf@parra.catholic.org.au The cost of either the weekend course or the marriage inventory is \$295 per couple. Please make your payment online as part of your booking.

The courses are held on Fridays 7pm –10pm & Sundays 9am-4:30pm-

The course dates for 2017 are:

17th & 19th February,
3rd & 5th March, 17th & 19th March, 31st March & 2nd April, 21st & 23rd April,
19th & 21st May
2nd & 4th June, 16th & 18th June, 30th June & 2nd July, 21st & 23rd July,
4th & 6th August, 18th & 20th August
8th & 10th September, 15th & 17th September,
6th & 8th October, 20th & 22nd October,
3rd & 5th November 17th & 19th November and 1st & 3rd December

Location: IFM, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, NSW, 2148 (enter from car park)