



Sunday 1st December, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Year A



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Ian McGinnity
Trainee Deacon: John Collins
Parish Secretary: Claudine Nallétamby
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
Youth Coordinator: Adam Chioatto
Mob: 0423 077 677
Email: ctk.nr.ym@gmail.com

School Principal: Tony Hughes

School Phone: 8846 2700

School Web Site:

www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au

Baptisms: Each 2nd & 4th Sundays - 11:15am

Weddings: By Appointment

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9:30am & 4:30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturdays - 9:30am

Rosary: Saturdays - 8:30am

Children's Liturgy: 10am Mass - *during School Terms only*

Good Neighbour Group: Mary MacKillop Hall every 2nd Thursday at 10am - *Next meeting this Thursday 5th December: FINAL MEETING FOR 2019*

PARISH SERVICES

Sunday Masses:

6pm Saturday

8am Sunday

10am Sunday

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 7:30pm

Wednesday 9am

Thursday 9am

Friday 9:15am

Saturday 9am

Parish Address:

10 Statham Ave, North Rocks NSW 2151

Phone: 9871 8710

Email: northrocks@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: <https://northrockscatholic.org.au/>

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

The next conferral of the anointing of the sick will be on Sat 15 February 2020 at 9am Mass.

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

THE SICK: Mary Magill, Joe Frare, Afifi Elchaar, Daniele Donu, Patrick Wheeler, Sylvette Marsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Barry Knobbs, Paul Safy (Son of Sam & Leila Safy), Pera Sciberras.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people. Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Let us pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart. © Dianne Bergant



First Sunday of Advent

Loving God we ask you to be with us as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Give us your peace, your patience and your strength so that we will be ready and waiting when Jesus comes. We ask you this through Christ our Lord Amen.

MISSION STATEMENT

Centred on the Gospel of Jesus, Christ the King Church is a warm, welcoming community of faith. We continue to strive to be open and to embrace diversity, as we love and grow in relationship to God and in service to one another.

30th November / 1st December - First Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday 6pm	Sam Bietola Roger Hook	Peter Hrast	Rob Haddad John Khoudair	Volunteer Required Please	Maria Bietola Sue DeCourcy Frank Lah Nesli Nuguid	Jason Scanlon Alex Bozanic
Sunday 8am	John Colman John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Margaret Noonan	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Ken Coorey Carmelita Khoo Christine Kinsella Jui-May Lee	Pauline Chen
Sunday 10am	Michael Nasr Michael Ng	Aubon Fernando	John DeCourcy Sam Safy	Alik Orgun	Marea Mooney Jenny Roddy Gerianne Sadaya Leila Safy	Dominic Wong

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erica Rhienberger (Coordinator), Paula Mitchell, (Preschool), Terri Hirschhorn (Yrs 2&3), Sarah Garland (Yrs 4-6)**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Bosci, Ken Coorey, Carmelita Khoo, Chris Kinsella**COUNTER GROUP 6:** Robert Wallace, Peter Bosci**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 4:** Anna Hunt, Barbara Haddad**PIETY GROUP 3:** Robyn Bacon, Kim Fryer, Frances Gallagher**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 2:** Frances Gallagher, Rosemaree Maroon, Paul Cook, Helena Roumanus**7th / 8th December - Second Sunday of Advent**

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday 6pm	George Germanos Paul Rankin	Phil Trainor	Dawn Peat Inge Weinker	Veronica Chacty	Ilana Blazevic Diane Campbell Gillian Mobbs Lilia Nuguid	Isabelle Chacty
Sunday 8am	Chris Brown Chris Kinsella	Ken Coorey	Rhoda Patrick Jason Scanlon	Trish Yates	Jim Kinsella John Lacey Jui-May Lee Rosemary Wickham	Mike Yates
Sunday 10am	Michael Nasr Michael Ng	Peter Hrast	Sarah Cook Sam Safy	Alik Orgun	Margaret Coakley Cate Joseph Cecilie McCarron Jenny Roddy	Dominic Wong

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erica Rhienberger (Coordinator), Lynette Kaddis, (Preschool), Aileen Beaini (Yrs 2&3), Paula Mitchell (Yrs 4-6)**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Ken Coorey, Jim Kinsella, John Lacey, Rosemary Wickham**COUNTER GROUP 1:** Ron Ruskin, Eric Olson, Michael Ng, Graeme Gardiner**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 6:** Carol Coorey, Barbara Haddad**PIETY GROUP 1:** Maria Bietola, Mary Magill, Ellen Vaughan**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 4:** CTK School Mums Group 4, Julie Bechara**CHRISTMAS 2019 MASS TIMES:**

Tuesday 24th December: 6pm - Children's Liturgy & 9pm - Family Mass

Wednesday 25th December: 8am & 10am Mass

CHANGE IN SATURDAY EVENING MASS TIME

After consultation with the major stakeholders' Fr Ian has decided to change the Saturday Evening Vigil Mass start time to 5:30pm, beginning in the New Year on **Saturday, 4 January 2020**. Saturday afternoon Reconciliation will also begin half an hour earlier at 4pm from that date. Thanks to all who offered feedback. Apologies to those whom it may inconvenience. Hopefully this will increase Mass attendance on Saturday evening.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

After a few years of wonderful service Rachel Elliott is stepping down from the role of preparing couples for their child's baptism. We are very grateful for her ministry during this time. The parish is looking for a team of people to take on this important task of welcoming and preparing young parents for the baptism of their children. If you would like to assist in this ministry, please contact the parish office. Suitable training in this ministry will be facilitated by John Collins and Rachel Elliott.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet next Thursday evening 12th December in the Christ the King Primary staffroom, commencing at 7.30pm.

CHANGE OF MASS TIME FOR YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS

Please note due to the celebration of year 6 CTK graduation **next Tuesday, 10 December, the evening Mass will begin at 7pm** not 7:30pm for that evening only.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING CELEBRATIONS - THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2019 Christ the King celebrations last Saturday evening. Thank you to all who were involved in the celebration of the liturgy with Bishop Vincent and for all who provided food and helped set up and clean the hall for this wonderful gathering.

BAPTISM WELCOME

We welcome the Jackson family, Scott and Shivon with their son Spencer. We also welcome the Michael family, John-Paul and Rosanna and their daughter Isabelle. May Spencer and Isabelle's baptisms be a happy and a memorable occasion and may God continue to bless their parents in this special step that they have taken to proclaim and support their children in the Christian faith.

CHRIST THE KING PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Squires meets every Friday night in the Mary MacKillop Hall for Years 5 - 8, that's right, welcome to all Year 5 students.

This term we look at our theme of **How to Meet Our Mother, Mary.**

*** THIS FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER: END OF YEAR PARTY!!!**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

With the Christmas Season approaching it is once again time to consider the less fortunate families in our area. This is where the St Vincent de Paul Society, with the help of our very generous parishioners, get together to provide food, toiletries, cleaning items and toys for children to bring a little joy to their lives. We are asking for your help to provide items for our Christmas Hampers. The Giving Tree has been placed in the Church Foyer with cards with hamper items. Please take some cards and return the items to the baskets in the Church Foyer. All items need to be returned by December 9th as the hampers are being delivered between December 10th to December 15th. Thank you for your support and generosity.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL - THIS WEEKEND

Bishop's Christmas Appeal helping vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive.

Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare to connect people with support and services to build strong foundations for self-sufficiency, fulfilling family relationships and brighter futures. Envelopes will be available on the pews and in the church foyer. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal

yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Thank you for sharing God's blessings this Christmas with our sisters and brothers in need.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

Calling all pre-schoolers - Year 6 to join us in making Christmas Eve Mass a special occasion for all the family! We will be preparing our performance during children's liturgy at 10am Mass through December. Please contact Sarah Cook if you would like your child to join in via email: scook@parra.catholic.edu.au or ph: 0433 590 722

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT NORTH ROCKS

The North Rocks Carols by Candlelight is a major community event run by local Churches for the local community. This year it is being held from 5-9pm on Friday 20th December at North Rocks Park. Naturally an event like this costs and so our Committee is still in need of sufficient sponsors. If you know of any local businesses who may be interested in sponsoring please advise. (Flyer available in church foyer)

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2020

Courses commence in February 2020 for Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Communion to the Sick & Dying, Senior Servers & Acolytes. Comprehensive training for ministers who wish to serve at the altar during Mass for their parish. To become an Acolyte, you must attend all the previous ministries to qualify for attending the Acolyte sessions. All applications need to be endorsed by your parish Priest prior to attending the first Introductory session. Upon completion of the final session, certificates will be issued to your local Parish to be distributed and an order of commissioning. Enrolment forms are available from the parish. Please contact the parish office via email: northrocks@parracatholic.org or phone 9871.8710 to receive a form for completion.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK IS BACK!

At the request of Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Catholic Outlook will be back from Sunday 1 December 2019. The revised Catholic Outlook will be published quarterly as an A4 magazine with a focus on Catholic faith formation, spirituality and a look at what is happening across the agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta. Look out for copies in your local Catholic Church, Catholic school or Catholic office from Sunday 1 December.

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR DROUGHT: The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. Access resources and find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/drought

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

The Plenary Council invites people to continue to participate in the journey towards the Council sessions in 2020. There are many opportunities to engage in the "Listening and Discernment" phase by participating in small group sessions within the Diocese. Ask your priests or Deanery Representatives for session dates in parishes and deaneries or contact the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3441.

CATHOLICARE BLACKTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD AID VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Blacktown Neighbour Aid, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to support our senior clients in the Blacktown area to remain living independently in their own home. If you feel you would like to make a positive difference to other's lives in this way, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or email deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au.

BISHOP VINCENT PNG VISIT PUBLIC FORUM: WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Bishop Vincent will speak on his recent visit to Papua New Guinea as part of a public forum organised by the Justice and Peace office of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Wednesday 4 December 5.30pm for a 6pm start at The Polding Centre, Level 8, 133 Liverpool St Sydney. The event is free, but registration is essential via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-forum-catholic-reflection-on-port-moresby-offshore-detention-tickets-83109840771>

ST MICHAELS & OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER

If you are a single person, a couple, or a family, you are warmly invited to share a Christmas Brunch with our St Michaels and OLOL Community. People from everywhere are welcome. We would love to share Christmas with you! Equally, if you know anyone who even *might* be spending Christmas by themselves, bring them along, and we'll celebrate together. A delicious brunch will be served at 11am on Christmas Day, 25th December, in the St. Michael's Old Church at Chapel Lane Baulkham Hills, (no cost!!) Transport can be arranged, just let us know when you RSVP if you would like a pick up or to be dropped off. Please RSVP to David Dowling at david.dowling@raywhite.com or on 0421 051 029

CREDIT CARD AND DIRECT DEBIT CHANGES

Please inform the Parish Office on 9871 8710 or send an email to northrocks@parracatholic.org 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 an email address, could you please notify the Parish Office northrocks@parracatholic.org as soon as possible. **Thank you**

ONLINE GIVING Donations may also be made online via credit card: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/ChristTheKingParishNorthRocks>

If you wish to contribute via Direct Debit, please contact the Parish Office on 9871 8710 for the BSB and Account number for the Parish or Parramatta Catholic Foundation Account.

BEQUESTS (Please contact the Parish Office for further information)

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. These kinds of gifts help the Parish free up other income to use toward pastoral care programs.