



Sunday 8th December, 2019

Second 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 Thursday 6th February 2020.**

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.

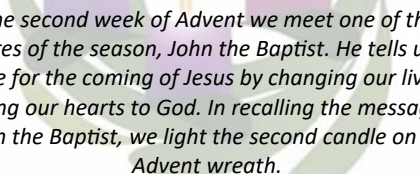
RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Barry Knobbs, Paul Safy, Pera Sciberras.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Craft, Neil O'Hara

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives. Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today. John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others. ©Dianne Bergant



In this the second week of Advent we meet one of the great figures of the season, John the Baptist. He tells us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by changing our lives and turning our hearts to God. In recalling the message of John the Baptist, we light the second candle on the Advent wreath.

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.

This Week's Readings: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12 Next Week's Readings: Is 35:1-6, 10, Jas 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11
Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: www.universalis.com

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 Rhenberger (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

14th / 15th December - Third Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday 6pm	Sam Bietola Ken Boys	Ron Ruskin	Georgette Rissmiller Gabby Scanlon	Volunteer Required Please	Maria Bietola Lilia Nuguid Nesli Nuguid Gerianne Sadaya	Thea Price
Sunday 8am	John Colman John Murphy	Jim Kinsella	John DeCourcy Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Mario Azzopardi Jui-May Lee Cecilie McCarron Lorraine Murphy	Pauline Chen
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar Graeme Gardiner	Peter Hrast	Stephen Doyle Sam Safy	Alik Orgun	Diane Campbell Cate Joseph Marea Mooney Leila Safy	Darren So Wea Yeung Ruth Jilesh

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erica Rhenberger (Coordinator), Terri Hirschhorn, (Preschool), Caroline Elchaar (Yrs 2&3), Paula Mitchell (Yrs 4-6)

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Mario Azzopardi, Aubon Fernando, Jim Kinsella, Lorraine Murphy

COUNTER GROUP 2: Keith Henson, John Colman, John Lenehan, George Isaacs

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 7: Ada Cheung

PIETY GROUP 2: Julie Hook, Sue Quigley, Jill Wulf

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 5: Mark & Carmela Corazza, Angela Lee, Jecy Vaz, Mariana Tomasovic

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 **this Thursday evening 12th December** in the Christ the King Primary staffroom, commencing at 7.30pm.

CHANGE OF MASS TIME FOR YEAR 6 CTK PRIMARY GRADUATION MASS

Please note due to the celebration of year 6 CTK graduation **this Tuesday, 10 December, the evening Mass will begin at 7pm** not 7:30pm for that evening only. End of School Year Mass Will be held on Wednesday 18 December at 9.15am. Please note change in Mass time on this day only from 9am to 9.15am.

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 next Monday** as the hampers are being delivered between December 10th to December 15th. Thank you for your support and generosity.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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. Donations can still be made, envelopes are available 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: cook@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. See enclosed flyer.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL 2019 THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers, and for reaching out to children and communities in need in Ghana and throughout the world. A total amount from our parishioners raised was \$4313.15 was raised. Your generosity makes it possible for programs such as the Nazareth Home for God's Children to provide love and support for children rescued from life-threatening situations. Thank you also to so many parishioners who have become monthly giving partners through our Ghana Mission Partners Program. For more information about the work of Catholic Mission, please contact our friendly team at the freecall number below, or at catholicmission.org.au/about-us/contact. Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/Ghana

CHRISTMAS 2019 MASS & RECONCILIATION TIMES AT

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

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

Wednesday 25th December: 8am & 10am Mass

Saturday 21st December: 9.30am & 4.30pm

Tuesday 24th December: 9am

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION TIMES

Thursday 19th December: Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville - 7.30pm

Monday 23rd December: St Michael's, Baulkham Hills - 7.30pm



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.

POSITIONS VACANT:

Facilities Maintenance Officer: Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 16 December.

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK IS BACK AND NOW AVAILABLE!

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.

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE

The Epiphany Pilgrimage, through the Blue Mountains, is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way. Registration and details at epiphanypilgrimage.org and facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

ST BERNADETTE'S LALOR PARK WEDNESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONS

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette and Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments every Wednesday evening at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office on 02 9672 4037 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS ADORATION CHAPEL

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains has opened an Adoration Chapel at St Canice's Church, Katoomba. If you would like further information or would like to sign up for a weekly hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, please call the parish office on 02 4782 2804.

GLENBROOK PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT: SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook's tradition Christmas concert will be held on Sunday 22 December at 7.30pm. Join the great organ in singing carols with the choir and congregation and rejoice in the Hallelujah Chorus with trumpets and timpani. Entry via donations – families \$34 and individuals \$15. Bring family, friends and neighbours. For enquiries, please contact (02) 4754 1780.

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.