



# Sunday, 18th December, 2022

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Year A



**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr Ian McGinnity  
**Deacon:** John Collins  
**Parish Secretary:** Frances Gallagher  
**Parish Office Hours:** Mon - Fri: 9am - 3pm

**School Principal:** Tony Hughes

**School Phone:** 8846 2700

**School Web Site:**

[www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au)

**Baptisms:** Every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 11:15am

**Weddings:** By Appointment

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 9:30am

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** **Suspended until further notice**

**Children's Liturgy:** The 1st & 3rd Sundays during 10am Mass (excluding school holidays)

**Good Neighbours Group:** Mary MacKillop Hall every 2nd Thursday at 10am- **Suspended until further notice**

#### PARISH SERVICES

##### Sunday Masses:

**Saturday** 5:30pm

**Sunday** 8.00am

**Sunday** 10.00am

##### Weekday Masses:

**Wednesday** 9.00am

**Thursday** 9.00am

**Friday** 9:15am

**Saturday** 9.00am

##### **Parish Address:**

10 Statham Ave, North Rocks NSW 2151

**Phone:** 9871 8710

**Email:** [northrocks@parracatholic.org](mailto:northrocks@parracatholic.org)

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

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

**THE SICK:** Ingrid Wulf, Jui-May Lee, Anthony Sullivan, Paul Sullivan, Irene Vaughan, Natalie De Maria, Margaret McCaffrey, Frances McKiernan, Barbara Ison, Marija Barclay, Brian & Warren Johnson, Margaret Martin, Tina Coorey, Peter Reiter, Eric Vaughan, Mimi Jayatilaka, Sandra Neill, Patrick Wheeler, Abraham Concepcion, Ace Sortisas, Oliver Ofiana, Jenny Commisso Smith, Helene Graham, Ken Sunderland, Sonia Merchant, Delia Hipolito, Bev & Pat McAppion, Edna Esmero.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Betty Griffin (mother of Sue DeCourcy), Rita Lucas (mother of Fr Brian Lucas)

**DECEASED:** Damiano Raschella.

## REFLECTION

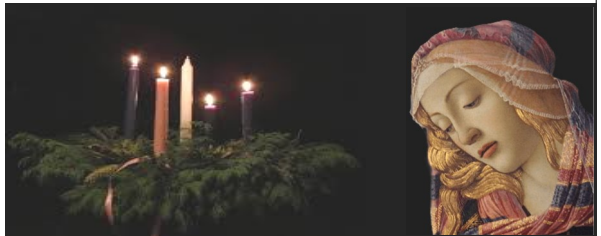
by Dianne Bergant CSA

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

## CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES

Many thanks to all who assist us over the busy Christmas period. Next weekend we hope we will have many visitors to our community. We may need assistance from regular parishioners to fulfil the roles of ushers/welcomers, lectors and special ministers of the Eucharist, particularly if regular ministers are away. If you can assist at any of the four Masses, please contact the parish office and please make our visitors feel welcome.



## 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 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24  
 Next Week's Readings: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 (Christmas Day)

**Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)**

## TO OUR MINISTERS OF THE PARISH

Should you be rostered and feel you are not ready to return to Mass, please email the parish office: [northrocks@parracatholic.org](mailto:northrocks@parracatholic.org) or ph 9871 8710 or indicate on the roster through Ministry Scheduling, that a volunteer is required. A replacement can then be organised on your behalf.  
*Thank you for your ongoing participation in these important ministries.*

### 17th & 18th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	George Germanos	Ron Ruskin	Dexter Tabeta Georgette Rissmiller	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	Chris Brown	Peter Bosci	Danielle Dona Veronica Raic	Trish Yates	Caroline Thurairatnam
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Peter Elchaar	Mariana Tomasovic	Rob Haddad Sam Safy	James Ryan	Fadia Sleiman

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Sarah Cook, Rachel Parnaby, Mary Cook

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Bosci, Mario Azzopardi, Ken Coorey

**COUNTER GROUP:** Counting is on the 1st Sunday of the month

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP:** Advent - No flowers

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Carole Frare & Sue Hales; 8.00am Volunteers needed; 10.00am: Sarah Cook

**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 6:** Ryan Brown, Luke Peterson, Ellen Vaughan, Brian Euhus

### 24th & 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	Darren Mobbs	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy Inge Wienker	Sarah Cook	Jim Kinsella
<b>Saturday 7.30pm</b>	Peter Elchaar	Peter Hrast	Dawn Peat Zeina Chacty	Veronica Chacty	Fadia Sleiman
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	John Murphy	Lorraine Murphy	Liza Jilesh Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Christine Kinsella
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Volunteer Needed	Aubon Fernando	Sam Safy Danielle Dona	Volunteer needed	Cate Joseph

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** School holidays - No Children's Liturgy

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Lorraine Murphy, Christine Kinsella, Rosemary Wickham

**COUNTER GROUP:** Counting is on the 1st Sunday of the month

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 3:** Maria Bietola, Barbara Haddad

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Julie Hook; 8.00am Volunteers needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1:** CTK School Mums, Julie Bechara



## CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 24TH DECEMBER

Would you like to help make the 5:30 Christmas Eve Mass a special family event? We are inviting all preschoolers through to Year 6 children to come along and join our performance. We plan to perform during the Gospel, the Offertory and at Thanksgiving. Rehearsals will take place during Children's Liturgy every Sunday in



December at 10.00am Mass with a church rehearsal this Sunday 18th December from 11:00am to 12 noon.

For any inquiries you can speak to Sarah Cook at Mass or via email [cook@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cook@parra.catholic.edu.au). All welcome!

**We invite all children to wear Christmas clothes to the Christmas Eve Mass at 5:30pm. Children can dress as angels, shepherds or sheep. We will be singing the Little Drummer Boy for the offertory procession so, if your child has a small drum, (handmade is fine) they can bring that as well.**

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil: 5.30pm Children's Mass  
7.30pm  
Christmas Day: 8.00am  
10.00am

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all the children who celebrated their first reconciliation on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. Particular thanks to their parents who, with the assistance of the parish, prepared the children to receive God's loving forgiveness. Father Ian particularly thanks the visiting priests who ministered the Sacrament while he was unwell.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

St Vincent de Paul will be conducting the annual Christmas Appeal at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Envelopes will be left on the table in the entrance foyer of the Church this weekend. Please use these for both cash and card donations and when you require a receipt for tax purposes for donations over \$2. These envelopes can then be placed in the red St Vincent de Paul buckets at Christmas.

The money helps Vinnies to provide food and other relief services to the people they assist in the North Rocks, Carlingford, Dundas and Telopea areas. Thank you for your support of the very needy in our community.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER THANK YOU

The North Rocks Conference of St Vincent de Paul would like to thank the parishioners of Christ the King Parish for your most generous donations of food and toys for the 2022 Christmas Hampers. We were able to provide substantial hampers to the people we assist in the North Rocks, Carlingford, Dundas and Telopea areas and they were very appreciative of the generosity shown to them by the community to help them celebrate Christmas. May you and your families have a very blessed Christmas and may 2023 bring you much joy, peace and love.

### HEALTH UPDATE

Father Ian, having contracted Covid in early November and recovered, recently was diagnosed with an adenovirus which included symptoms of pharyngitis (inflammation of the throat), sinusitis and conjunctivitis. He is slowly on the road to recovery and thanks all who have extended their care and sympathy. Particular thanks to Fr Paul Hanna, Monsignor John Boyle, Fr Wim Hoekstra, Father Chris Dixon, Fr Jessie Balorio and Graham Lum for assisting while Fr Ian was out of action. This weekend Bishop Vincent has kindly offered to celebrate the 10am Mass this Sunday to assist with Fr Ian's recovery.

This is a reminder to us all that Covid is still very present (many of our parishioners have recently been diagnosed) and other viruses are very prevalent according to doctors at this time. We should continue to be careful if we are sick- to wear a mask in public and keep our hands clean as well as to stay away from crowds if our symptoms are obvious.

### CATHOLIC OUTLOOK

The Christmas edition of the Catholic Outlook is available from the church foyer today. A photo from the Parish Jubilee Mass is included in this edition as well as Christmas articles and a children's section.

To see all the photos from the Parish Golden Jubilee celebration, go online to Catholic Outlook at [catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.org), open the News section and scroll down the page till you come to 'Christ the King Celebrates 50 years'. Click the heading to view the article and scroll down the page to click for the full photo album.

## **2022 CHRISTMAS MASS AND RECONCILIATION TIMES**

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on the Parramatta Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org). The Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated locally this Monday, 19 December at 7:30pm at St Michael's Church, 1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills

## **"QUO VADIS?" PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023**

At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. The pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter. Details are available at [www.olivetreetravel.com.au](http://www.olivetreetravel.com.au). If you need further details, please contact Fr Wim on 0409 908 361 or email [wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org](mailto:wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org).

## **'NEW YEAR'S DASH' TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

This year over 700 people across the Diocese participated in Face-to-Face Training and achieved their 6 points of mandatory Safeguarding Training as volunteers in parish ministry. Have you had a chance to complete your Safeguarding Training yet? Please take advantage of these New Year's dates in readiness for ministry in 2023. The Office for Safeguarding is offering a range of opportunities across the Diocese to complete your Safeguarding Training to kick off 2023. Please choose one of the following venues and register for your Safeguarding Modules.

### **Mary Immaculate Parish – 125 Barnier Drive Quakers Hill**

Monday 13th February: 9.30am - 2.30pm

### **St Bernadette's Castle Hill – 367 Old Northern Road Castle Hill**

Saturday 4th March (All modules: 9am - 2pm)

Please register by emailing [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org) or, if you would like to complete your training online, go to <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>.

## **SHARE JOY THIS CHRISTMAS WITH A GIFT THAT CAN CHANGE A LIFE**

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards that reflect real items that support vulnerable communities around the globe. Visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse their range of Global Gifts cards today.

## **TAP TO GIVE**

Our Parish has a Tap to Give device to make it easier for our faith family to give an offertory gift to help sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable ministries.

Our Tap to Give device, located in the Church Foyer, enables us as a Parish to accept cashless donations which are automatically deposited into our bank. Our Tap to Give device has been pre-set with a gift amount of \$10.

### **CREDIT CARD AND DIRECT DEBIT CHANGES**

Please inform the Parish Office on 9871 8710 or send an email to [northrocks@parracatholic.org](mailto:northrocks@parracatholic.org) of any changes to your credit card number/expiry date or direct debit account.

Parishioners who wish to make a donation to the parish, can access the facility on the front page of the Parish website by clicking "Donate Now" on the top right-hand side of the page or donating directly to

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/ChristTheKingParishNorthRocks> via Credit Card. Should you wish to make a donation via direct debit, please use the following details:

BSB: 067-950

Account Number: 00000479

Account Name: North Rocks Catholic Church

### **FIRST COLLECTION:**

If you would like to contribute towards the support of the priests, please use the following details:

BSB 067-950

Account No. 00004265

Account Name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy

Reference Number: 6027

*Thank you to everyone in the continual support of the parish and the clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta.*

### **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](mailto:northrocks@parracatholic.org) as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **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.