



# Sunday, 25th December, 2022

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### 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:** 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:** Ingrid Wulf (funeral Tuesday 3rd Jan at 10am), Christopher Friery (funeral Thursday 5th Jan at 10.30am), Betty Griffin.

**DECEASED:** Damiano Raschella.

## REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

#### **MASSES IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

On Boxing Day (26 Dec) and the feast of Saint John (27 Dec) there will be Mass at 9am at CTK church. The other scheduled Masses for the week will also take place.



#### 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 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 (Christmas Day)

Next Week's Readings: Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**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.*

### 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                | Sarah Cook        | Jim Kinsella              |
| <b>Saturday 7.30pm</b> | Peter Elchaar    | Peter Hrast     | Dawn Peat<br>Anne Gately     | Jo-Anne Castaneda | Margaret Coakley          |
| <b>Sunday 8am</b>      | John Murphy      | Lorraine Murphy | Liza Jilesh<br>Julie Elliott | Trish Yates       | Christine Kinsella        |
| <b>Sunday 10am</b>     | Volunteer Needed | Aubon Fernando  | Sam Safy<br>Danielle Dona    | Volunteer needed  | Cate Joseph<br>Leila Safy |

**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

### 31st December & 1st January 2023 - The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

|                        | Welcomer         | Acolyte         | Reader                        | Computer Operator | Eucharistic Minister |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Saturday 5.30pm</b> | George Germanos  | Peter Hrast     | Liza Jilesh<br>John De Courcy | Volunteer needed  | Maria Bietola        |
| <b>Sunday 8am</b>      | John Murphy      | Lorraine Murphy | Julie Elliott<br>Tony Hughes  | Trish Yates       | John Lacey           |
| <b>Sunday 10am</b>     | Volunteer Needed | Aubon Fernando  | Dawn Peat<br>Rob Haddad       | Volunteer needed  | Leila Safy           |

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

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Hrast, John Lacey, Lorraine Murphy

**COUNTER GROUP 2:** Ron Ruskin, Keith Henson, John Lenehan, John Coakley

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 4:** Anna Hunt, Barbara Haddad

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Lena Henson; 8.00am Volunteers needed; 10.00am: Marea Mooney

**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 2:** Paul Cook, Rosemaree Maroon, Louise Howitt, Frances Gallagher



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

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                |

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR IAN

"I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."(Lk2:10-14)

This baby creates the charm of Christmas. Babies promise a future and inspire our tenderness and protectiveness. We are awed at their fragility. The scandal of Christmas is that it reveals that this is how God comes: vulnerable and fragile, unwelcomed at home while revered by the poor and strangers.

All our Nativity stories include hints of the end — both the cross and resurrection, Jesus' rejection and love's triumph through him. Christmas reminds us that God remains among us weak and mild. The baby Jesus can represent a sweet message and also the earth-shattering revelation that God's power is the antithesis of domination. The shepherds and Magi, Caesar and Herod, remind us that not everyone desires Emmanuel, God-with-us, and that those who reject Emmanuel will stop at nothing to carry out their plan. The coming of Christ, then and now, is what the poet William Butler Yeats called "a terrible beauty."

Today, it is we who must incarnate the promise of peace to people of goodwill. In a world in which at least 30 nations are at war, where we are still struggling to deal with the effects of Covid, we who come to the manger are called and empowered to become sacraments of Emmanuel. Let us wonder at the babe and remember that we must be the body of Christ today. That's why he came in the first place.

I would like to extend a warm thank you to all our parishioners for all their cards, gifts and good wishes received. A particular thank you to the Parish Council, Finance Committee, Liturgy Group, Building Project Group, Senior servers, Lectors, Sacramental Team, Musicians, Computer Operators, Special ministers of the Eucharist (particularly to the sick), Catechists, St Vincent DePaul Society, Refugee Support Group, those who decorate the church (the Bosci family), Flower Arrangers (especially Barbara Haddad), Church cleaners, Money Counters, Children's Liturgy Teachers, Sacristan (Rosemary Wickham who cleans our liturgical linens and garments and vessels), Ushers/ Welcomers and all who have contributed throughout the year.

Special thanks go to Deacon John Collins and his wife Sandi, for their ministry among us. To Mr Tony Hughes (School principal), the teachers and ancillary staff of CTK school, for their wonderful work to connect our school with our parish. To Mrs Frances Gallagher, our parish secretary for almost a year now, who has done such a wonderful job coordinating our parish activities and sharing gracious hospitality to all who connect with us.

Together, may we continue to grow in strength and grace as we celebrate God's renewed presence in our lives and world. I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year in 2023. *Fr Ian*

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

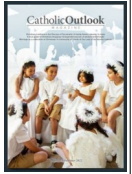
St Vincent de Paul will be conducting the annual Christmas Appeal at all Masses this weekend.

Envelopes can be found on the table in the entrance foyer of the Church. 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 after Mass.

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.

## 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 for the full album.



## "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).

## 'TAP TO GIVE' - AN EASY WAY TO DONATE

More than ever, Christ the King Parish is needed to bring love, hope, care and Christ's message of salvation into our community. Our Parish now 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.

The 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. Safe and easy, Tap to Give allows people to give an offertory gift of support without anyone needing to handle cash. The device has been pre-set with a gift amount of \$10. If you wish to give more, please tap the device multiple times to increase your giving. Your gift will nurture the spiritual vitality of our Parish and ensure we can continue to provide Christian pastoral care that brings hope to our community.

Thank you for your ongoing faithful support of our Parish which helps bring love, hope, care and Jesus Christ's message of salvation to our Communityruskin. We wish you and your loved ones a happy, Holy Christmas and filled with God's love and grace.

**SAVE THE DATE** – Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass, including Anointing of the Sick, on Saturday, 11th February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome.

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## 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.