



Sunday, 11th December, 2022

THIRD 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

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

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Gately, Peter Craft, Neil O'Hara.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Anita Arcamone.

DECEASED: Narciso, Conchita & Alma Pelayo.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

Only 1 pack of the Vinnies Christmas Cards (\$6 per pack of 10) and 2 Columban calendars (\$10 each) are still available from the tables in the Church foyer. Please put the Christmas card money in the SVdeP box. Calendar money in the communications box.



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 35:1-6; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Next Week's Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: 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 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.

10th & 11th December - Third Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Darren Mobbs	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy Gabby Scanlon	Volunteer needed	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Jim Kinsella	Julie Elliott Tony Hughes	Jo-Anne Castaneda	John Lacey
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Jose Jilesh	Dawn Peat Sam Safy	Levi Brown	Margaret Coakley

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erica Rheinberger, Terri Hirschhorn, Erin Wynne, Sarah Cook, Rachel Parnaby, Mary Cook

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Jim Kinsella, Lorraine Murphy, John Lacey

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

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Advent - No flowers

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Maria Bietola; 8.00am Volunteers needed; 10.00am: Marea Mooney

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

17th & 18th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	George Germanos	Ron Ruskin	Dexter Tabeta Georgette Rissmiller	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	Chris Brown	Peter Bosci	Danielle Dona Veronica Raic	Trish Yates	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	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



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 next 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. 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.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you for helping Catholic Care to end homelessness. Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and Catholic Care thank you for generously supporting our Assistance with Care and Housing service. Our Parish's Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised a total of \$3300.00. Because of your compassion and prayers, Catholic Care can give more homeless people practical support and a safe place to call home. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please pray for the children making their First Reconciliation on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon this week in the church from 3:30 to 5pm.

CTK REFUGEE OUTREACH GROUP

Thanks to all who supported our recent plant and baking stall outside church. We were delighted to raise just under \$4000, which we will try to use wisely in supporting the family. We have now met the family we will be mentoring over the next 12 months – a mother, 22-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son from Iran who live in Fairfield. We are looking to get the son a bicycle so that he can get to and from school, and do the grocery shopping for the family. Does anyone have a good-quality used bike suitable for a 14-year-old boy they would be willing to donate? Please let John DeCourcy know if so – 0412 909 700. Thanks again for your support. *CTKRO*

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.



CTK PRIMARY SCHOOL YEAR SIX GRADUATION MASS

This Tuesday, 13 December at 7:30pm a Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated for Year six and their families graduating from Christ the King school.

CTK PRIMARY SCHOOL END OF YEAR MASS

This Friday, 16 December at 9:15am the primary school will join the parish Mass to celebrate the end of the school year. Parishioners should be warned that Mass will go a little longer and they are welcome to leave prior to the distribution of awards.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council will have its final meeting for the year this Thursday, 15 December at 7:30pm. This meeting will be short and conclude with Christmas refreshments and a meal with members of the parish Golden Jubilee committee.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2023. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. For information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>.

2022 CHRISTMAS MASS AND RECONCILIATION TIMES

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org, on Catholic Outlook www.catholicoutlook.org and on the Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta.

"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. If you need further details, please contact Fr Wim on 0409 908 361 or email wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org.

FirstCPR TRAINING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Diocese of Parramatta is participating in a program called FirstCPR that involves education and training in responding to cardiac arrest in the community. The program will provide you with CPR accredited training for parish staff and volunteers and is free of charge. Sessions will be organised across the Diocese and require a minimum of 10 people per session. For more information please visit <https://parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/>.

GLENWOOD-STANHOPE GARDENS PARISH CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: 17 DECEMBER

St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens, invites you to their annual Carols by Candlelight evening on Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm in the grounds of St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on 8883 5981.

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 or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

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.

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 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 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.