



# Sunday, 26th February, 2023

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### 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:** Marea Mooney, Michael Agius, Natalie De Maria, Anthony Sullivan, Margaret McCaffrey, 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:** Patrick Wheeler (Grandson of Barbara Kenny).

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bill Costello, Edith Azzopardi

## REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression.

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.



#### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2023

The Sacrament of First Eucharist (Yr 4 and above) on 10/11 June.  
The Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 5 and above) on 20 September.  
The Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Yr 3 and above) on 12 & 13 December.

#### 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: Gen 2:7-9,3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Next Week's Readings: Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

**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 not be able to attend your rostered 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.*

### 25th & 26th February - First Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	Julie Hook	Lance Parker	Kerry Saad	Veronica Chacty	Maria Bietola
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	Chris Brown	Lorraine Murphy	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Trish Yates	John Lacey
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Rosanne Vaughan	Mariana Tomasovic	Liza Jilesh Dawn Peat	Tianna Fernandes	Leila Safy

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Lorraine Murphy, Jim Kinsella

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

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

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Lena Henson; 8.00am Volunteers needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 4:** Louis Kastoun, Paul Cook, Ryan Brown, Brian Euhus

### 4th & 5th March - Second Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	Darren Mobbs	Phil Tranor	Inge Wienker Zeina Chacty	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Jim Kinsella
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Rosanne Vaughan	Peter Hrast	Sam Safy Dawn Peat	Dominic Choi	Jecy Vaz

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Erica Rheinberger, Terri Hirschhorn, Erin Wynne

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Bosci, Ken Coorey, Jim Kinsella

**COUNTER GROUP 1:** Tony Clancy, John Lacey, Roger Brewer

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

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Maria Bietola; 8.00am Volunteers needed; 10.00am: Volunteer needed

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

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes this Lenten season to help Caritas Australia support vulnerable people around the world. Together we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the Church foyer, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



## SHARING OUR STORY

Sharing Our Story is a new small group program offered at Christ the King. It provides a safe and welcoming context for people to reflect on their life and faith in the light of the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday.

Sharing Our Story is open to everyone. The only requirement is a desire to reflect on your life of faith and a willingness to ask questions. The program will be conducted in the CTK Church on the third Wednesday of each month from February to November from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The next session is on Wednesday, March 15th.

For more information email Mariana Tomasovic: [mariana\\_tomasovic@hotmail.com](mailto:mariana_tomasovic@hotmail.com) or Deacon John Collins through the Parish Office or via email: [john.collins@parracatholic.org](mailto:john.collins@parracatholic.org).

## LENTEN PROGRAM 2023

The season of Lent is upon us. It is a time for spiritual renewal, repentance and reflection. If you would like to facilitate or take part in a program reflecting on the Sunday scriptures, please let the parish office know. This year the Parish is offering a Lenten Program for Year A called 'God is on the journey too' by Melbourne priest, Christopher Monaghan CP, a Garratt publication. Parishioners may like to host groups either physically or virtually via zoom (or something similar). Copies of this program are available from the church foyer.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need two volunteers to be part of a team to clean our church once every six weeks on a Saturday morning. For information or to volunteer, please phone Brian Euhus on 9873 5603 or contact the parish office.



## SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Volunteers from Christ the King Parish teach Catholic Scripture to students at North Rocks Public School and Carlingford West Public School. We urgently need more volunteers to help cover classes this year. Classes at North Rocks Public School are held on Tuesdays mornings and classes at Carlingford West Public School are held on Wednesdays afternoons. If you are able to be part of this rewarding ministry or would like to know more about this ministry, please contact Fr Ian or the Parish Office.

## SUNDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

A series of presentations, seminars, workshops, discussions, and stories designed to invite adults (young and old) to grow and develop in their faith. Each session begins at 7.00pm and finishes at 8.30pm and is held in the CTK Parish Hall. Sessions are designed to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions, share thoughts and ideas and learn new stuff.

The aim of the sessions is to further develop a community of mature inquisitive Catholics at Christ the King. Everyone 16 and over is welcome to participate. Sunday Night Sessions are to be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month from February to November. A Gold Coin Donation to assist with the cost of coffee, tea and biscuits is welcome.

The next session on 12th March is 'Vatican II and Pope Francis' and is to be presented by Deacon John.

For more information or if you would like to assist with organizing these sessions contact Deacon John through the parish office or via email [john.collins@parracatholic.org](mailto:john.collins@parracatholic.org).

## MESSAGE FROM BARBARA KENNY

As many parishioners are aware, Barbara's grandson, Patrick Wheeler, has been struggling with cancer for the last four years. Sadly, Patrick (21) passed away last Sunday at the Mater Hospital, Newcastle. Barbara would like to thank all who have prayed for Patrick during this time and request that you continue to pray for him and his family. Patrick's funeral will take place next Wednesday at Saint Joseph's Church, East Maitland at 10am.

## HELP FOR SYRIA

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria, desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake](http://www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake).

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023**

Various churches in The Hills have worked together for many years, taking turns to host the World Day of Prayer Service. Each year, the service is prepared by Christians from different countries, sometimes small islands and sometimes large countries, but everyone has concerns which need prayer. This year the service has been prepared by people from Taiwan. A speaker with a strong connection to Taiwan has been invited to share her story from her extensive time spent there. All are invited to this event at the Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Road, Castle Hill this Friday, 3rd March at 7:30pm. For information phone 9894 8999.

**REFLECTION MORNINGS AT HUNTERS HILL** commencing Saturday 4th March from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall, 3 Mary Street, Hunters Hill with guest speaker Fr Michael Whelan sm. See the noticeboard in the Church foyer for more details.

## **LED BY THE SPIRIT**

You are invited to participate in a Lenten Series, called *Led by the Spirit* presented by Disciples of Jesus (DOJ) and the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL). Sessions are on Sundays during Lent from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the Parish Hall. Each Sunday will begin with a high tea. For more information contact Matthew Leslie on 0409 295 962.

## **MOUNT ST BENEDICT OPEN DAY**

Sunday, 5th March from 10am to 2pm at 449C Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills. Please book online at [www.msb.nsw.edu.au](http://www.msb.nsw.edu.au). Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2025. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4.

## **ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL OPEN DAY**

St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill is a K to Year 11 Catholic independent school for children with a mild to moderate intellectual disability as well as Autism and sensory impairment. The school is holding two Open Days in March: Year 7 2024 enrolments on Wednesday, 1st March from 9:30am-11am. Kindergarten 2024 enrolments on Wednesday, 8th March from 9:30am-11am.

## **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.