



Sunday, 16th July, 2023

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 Friday at 10am

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: Bishop Peter Ingham, Irene Chow, Natalie De Maria, Betty Campbell, Anthony Sullivan, Mark Cheeseman, Brian & Warren Johnson, Margaret McCaffrey, Ken Sunderland, Barbara Ison, Marija Barclay, Pat McAppion, Ace Sortisas, Margaret Martin, Tina Coorey, Helene Graham, Peter Reiter, Mimi Jayatilaka, Sandra Neill, Abraham Concepcion, Oliver Ofiana, Delia Hipolito, Edna Esmero, Sonia Merchant.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Madden, Renzo de Luca (Son-in-law of Valma Costello), Fr Carl Ashton (former PP of Sth Mt Druitt), Fr Michael Mullins SM.

ANNIVERSARIES: Charles Bonney, Judith Lum

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?

Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation.

Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL TODAY

This weekend the Christ the King Vinnies Conference is conducting its Winter Appeal. The rising cost of living expenses is putting more low income and vulnerable people in need of their support. The focus this year is on homelessness, a situation that can affect people of all ages. We again ask you to support those in need. Your donation today, via the donation envelopes or cash buckets, will enable the Conference to have funds to support the needy and disadvantaged people in our local area.



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 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
 Next Week's Readings: Wis 12:13,16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

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 not be able to attend your rostered 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.

15th & 16th July - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Volunteer Needed	Keith Henson	Liza Jilesh Georgette Rissmiller	Veronica Chacty	Minister Needed
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Danielle Dona Julie Elliott	Trish Yates	Rosemary Wickham
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Lorraine Murphy	Sam Safy Dawn Peat	Operator Needed	Leila Safy

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: No Children's Liturgy during school holidays

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Rosemary Wickham, Peter Bosci, Mario Azzopardi

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

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 5: Margaret Isaac & Barbara Haddad

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Julie Hook; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Marea Mooney

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

22nd & 23rd July - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	George Germanos	Phil Trainor	Inge Wienker Georgette Rissmiller	Veronica Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	Volunteer Needed	Jim Kinsella	Danielle Dona	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Christine Kinsella
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Aubon Fernando	Liza Jilech Rob Haddad	Dominic Choi	Jecy Vaz

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Jim Kinsella, Ken Coorey, John Lacey

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

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 6: Carol Coorey & Barbara Haddad

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Lena Henson; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Sarah Cook

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1: CTK School Mums & Gemma Smart

BAPTISM WELCOME

We welcome the Tjoe family, Andrew and Stephanie and their daughter Emilia. May Emilia's baptism next Sunday be a happy and a memorable occasion and may God continue to bless her parents in this special step that they have taken to proclaim and support their child in the Christian faith.



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred in our parish on Wednesday, 20th September commencing at 7:30pm. In accord with Parramatta Diocesan policy we will conduct a parish-based, family centred, school supported method of preparation for the children to receive this sacrament.

A pre-requisite of children being confirmed is that they have already received First Holy Communion.

Children who have been baptised in Eastern Rite (Uniate Churches, e.g. Maronite, Melchite, Ukranian, Chaldean etc.) may have already been confirmed at Baptism and do not need to participate in this programme if this is the case.

Children in **Year Five and above** are eligible to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

The program for preparation will commence with an information meeting for parents/guardians on **Wednesday, 26th July commencing at 7:30pm** in the Church, where the program will be explained and any questions answered.

This is a significant step in your child's journey of faith. It is vital that parents/guardians attend this meeting.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

The GNG will start up again this Friday, 21st July and will meet every second Friday during the school term in the Mary MacKillop Hall from 10:00am (after Friday morning Mass) till approximately 12 noon. Note the change in day to Friday. Activities include bingo, morning tea, good conversation and we are looking for someone who might be able to run some Tai Chi for us. Everyone is welcome so please spread the word. Watch this space for more details.

SUNDAY NIGHT SESSION - 13 AUGUST

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 next session, on Sunday, 13th August is *'Mary Magdalene: The Myths and the Biblical Texts'* presented by Dr Debra Snoddy from the Catholic Institute of Sunday and the University of Notre Dame.

This talk will engage parishioners in the process of recovering the biblical portrait of Mary Magdalene. In 1969 Paul VI confirmed that she was a disciple who came with Jesus from Galilee and stayed with him at the cross when most of his followers had left. On the third day, she went to his tomb early, searched for, and encountered the risen Christ. Her discipleship of Jesus is confirmed when Jesus himself sent her to be the apostle to the apostles. So, how was it that, for much of the Christian era, she has been viewed as a penitent, a fallen woman? Why has her image as a penitent remained so strong in Christianity, and particularly in Roman Catholicism? Even in more recent publications used in popular Roman Catholic devotion, she is still portrayed as "the adulterous woman the Pharisees want to stone." There is an attempt to make a determined effort in Roman Catholicism to improve the biblical literacy of the faithful and their understanding of this Saint of Saints.

For more information, or if you would like to assist with organising these sessions, contact Deacon John through the parish office or via email john.collins@parracatholic.org.

FAMILIES CALLED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES WITH THE FIRST DIOCESAN SYNOD

Bishop Vincent wants to hear from families and households across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Your stories will inform the direction of our local Church into the future through what is known as a synod. Our Diocesan Synod is both an event and a process where people gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative experiences that lead to renewal in the Church's life. The success of the Synod relies on your participation. Families and households are encouraged to participate in the Synod at home using the resources 'Synod at Home' found at https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_resources/.

PARISH PLAYGROUP INTEREST

As our community continues to return to normal after the Pandemic, we are seeking interest to restart the Parish Playgroup. In the past, young families from our school, parish and local community met one morning a week/fortnight in the Parish Hall to share some collegiality and socialise with their children. If this is something that you would like to participate in, please email the parish office with your details.

SAVE THE DATE

Father Ian will be celebrating 40 years as a priest at the 10:00am Mass on Sunday 20th August. Please join us to help him celebrate this special event.

YOU CAN BE EMOTIONALLY FREE- A SESSION ON INNER HEALING BY DIANA INGLE - 25TH JULY.

You are invited to a session on inner healing by Diane Ingle in Christ the King Parish Hall on Tuesday 25th July at 7:30pm. Diana is currently the International CEO of Christian Renewal Association Inc, an ecumenical ministry. She travels internationally training trainers in evangelism, empowerment in the Holy Spirit and charisms, inner healing, and deliverance. Please use the QR code to register for this event.



Get #Active4Vocations in the City2Surf: 13 August

Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team in the City 2 Surf. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests and community. Visit tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocesan seminarians to become priests. Thank you for getting #Active4Vocations.

SHARING OUR STORY

Sharing Our Story is a 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 is conducted in CTK Church on the third Wednesday of each month from February to November from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The next session is this Wednesday, July 19. For more information email Mariana Tomasovic: mariana_tomasovic@hotmail.com or Deacon John Collins: john.collins@parracatholic.org.

JRS FOODBANK

Thank you to those who have donated to the Jesuit Refugee Service which is supporting 150 families a week with demand for help still growing. With the cost of living rising many are struggling to have enough food to get their kids through the week. Any and all support is greatly appreciated. The following essential items are especially needed:
Cooking oil (1L - 2L bottles) Basmati Rice Tinned tomatoes Dry/canned chickpeas Canned/dry red or green lentils
Long life milk (1L bottles) Toiletries Tuna in oil Red kidney beans Detergent (laundry & kitchen)
Pantry essentials (Sugar, salt, instant coffee, tea bags) Biscuits & snacks Nappies (sizes 1-6)
Items can be left in the Church foyer and will be taken by a member of the parish to the JRS office.

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.