



# Sunday, 3rd December, 2023

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Year B



**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 1st & 3rd Friday at 10:00am

#### 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:** Sr Catherine Maddock, Bishop Peter Ingham, Natalie De Maria, Anthony Sullivan, Mark Cheeseman, Bev Johnson; Warren Johnson, Lilian Davidson, Mike Gordon, Margaret McCaffrey, Marija Barclay, David Ferguson Ken Sunderland, Barbara Heaton, Pat McAppion, Margaret Martin, Ace Sortisas, Tina Coorey, Helene Graham, Sandra Neill, Mimi Jayatilaka, Oliver Ofiana, Sue Ferguson. Abraham Concepcion, Delia Hipolito, Edna Esmero, Sonia Merchant.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Irene Chow, Peter Reiter, Greg Curnoe, Fr John Landy OCD, Ena McMillan OCDS, Marie Grima, Christine McCarthy.

## REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards are for sale from the table at the front of the Church: \$6 per pack.



## 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 63:16-17,64:1,3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Next Week's Readings: Is 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**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 phone 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.*

### 2nd & 3rd December - First Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	George Germanos	Keith Henson	Kerry Saad Liza Jilesh	Veronica Chacty	Maria Bietola
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Veronica Raic Tony Hughes	Volunteer needed	Rosemary Wickham
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Peter Elchaar	Peter Hrast	Rob Haddad Dawn Peat	Levi Brown	Margaret Coakley

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

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Bosci, Ken Coorey, Rosemary Wickham

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

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 7:** No flowers through Advent

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

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

### 9th & 10th December - Second Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	Darren Mobbs	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy Kerry Saad	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	John Murphy	Rosemary Wickham	Danielle Dona Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Minister Needed
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Dawn Peat Liza Jilesh	Dominic Choi	Leila Safy

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

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Rosemary Wickham, Lorraine Murphy, Minister Needed

**COUNTER GROUP:** 1st Sunday of the month

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 8:** No flowers through Advent

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

**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 3:** Clarry Barbera, Chris & Beverley Poole, Ken Coorey

## BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Thank you for the \$1780 which was donated to last weekend's Bishop's Christmas Appeal, raising funds for our Catholic Care chaplaincy services. Your Christmas gift will help our chaplains to bring faith, hope, and comfort to people who are isolated and lonely in hospitals and prisons. If you were away from the parish last weekend and would like to donate, envelopes are available on the seats today. We thank you once again for your generosity.

### THE GIVING TREE

The Christ the King Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society has placed the Christmas Tree for our Giving Tree Hamper Appeal in the Church foyer. Suggestions for items required to enable us to pack Christmas Hampers can be taken from the tree and donations can be returned and placed in the Church foyer. We once again thank you for your continued support and generosity as we continue to support the poor and needy in our community.



### NORTHERN DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish is looking for two people to represent our community on the Northern Deanery Pastoral Council and to report to Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council. The Northern Deanery Pastoral Council comprises representatives of all the parishes in our Northern Deanery and is a listening and consultative body for the larger Diocesan Pastoral Council. The next meeting of this body is on Saturday, 9 December beginning at 9:15am at St John XXIII Parish Stanhope Gardens. Can anybody attend this meeting and represent our parish? Especially post the Diocesan Synod it is important that our parish community has representatives on this body. Please contact Father Ian if you can represent us. If you wish to find out more about this task, feel free to contact Lorraine Murphy via the parish office.



### CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS - SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER AT 5.30PM

All Pre-School and Primary aged children are invited to help us celebrate Christmas Eve Mass. Practice will be each Sunday during 10.00am Mass at Children's Liturgy. There will also be an additional rehearsal at 11.00am on Sunday, 17th December. Arrival time for the children on Christmas Eve will be 4.45pm. Please contact Sarah Cook with any questions at [scook@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:scook@parra.catholic.edu.au).

### THE SIGN - ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTIONS

The Sign is an 80 page pocket-size book containing short, spiritually rich daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January). Available from the Church foyer, these books are free, but we ask that you drop a small offering in the Communication Box to cover costs.

### COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Columban Calendars are available from the Church foyer at a cost of \$10 each. Please put your cash in the envelope provided and place in the Communications Box.



Dear the Christ the King Parish Community,

We would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Jesuit Refugee Service Australia Foodbank! Your solidarity and compassion, especially during these very tough times, means a great deal.

We deeply appreciate your support of the Food Bank Program and want you all to know that your kindness has directly helped the 150 families that access our foodbank service each week.

We couldn't do our work without you!

*The Jesuit Refugee Service Australia Team*



### BE PART OF OUR SYNOD JOURNEY: DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15 October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now:

<https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>.

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. 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. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit the website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>.

## DONATE TO CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA APPEAL

Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence in Gaza. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/) or call 1800 024 413.

### AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CONCERT: 12 DEC

Reel in the festive season with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Choir on Tuesday 12 December at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral for their annual Christmas concert, *Noël! Noël!*. The Brandenburg perform stunning choral works and Christmas classics, conducted by Artistic Director Paul Dyer. SPECIAL OFFER: Get four tickets for just \$149! There are less than 200 tickets remaining, so head to [brandenburg.com.au](http://brandenburg.com.au) or call 1300 782 856 to book your tickets now.

### 60TH YEAR OF THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY COMMEMORATIVE MASS

Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60th Anniversary of Sacrosanctum Concilium (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4th December at 7.30pm. Please RSVP to 0460 037 795 or Hannah Portelli [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org).

### EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTA 2024

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2 - 9 Jan 2024). Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer on the journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbar's Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org).

### 2023 ADVENT SCRIPTURE REFLECTION NIGHT WITH DR MICHELE CONNOLLY R SJ

Enter into the season of Advent with a guided reflective evening with the Word of God. Tuesday, 5th December from 6.30 to 8.30pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP to [fparra.org.au/advent-scripture-reflection-night](http://fparra.org.au/advent-scripture-reflection-night).

### 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.