



**Sunday, 24th December, 2023**  
**FOURTH 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, Mimi Jayatilaka, Oliver Ofiana, Delia Hipolito, Abraham Concepcion, Sue Ferguson Edna Esmero, Sonia Merchant, Reg & Tessie, Bonney, Mary Ahern.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sandra Neill, Josephine Thorncraft (mother of Anne Raiss) Sr Edith Angel RSM.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Marguerite Moon.

**DECEASED:** Camelina Cutrone, Beniamino Cutrone, Jimmy Cutrone, George Cutrone Jr.

*We Wish You a Christmas & New Year  
Filled with Joy and Peace*



**WELCOME** to Fr Chris Dixon who will celebrate the 7.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

There will be Mass on Tuesday, Boxing Day, 26 December (the feast of St Stephen) and Wednesday 27 December (the feast of St John) at 9.00am. Father Ian will be away on Thursday 28 December so a Communion Service will be led by Graham Lum at 9.00am. The Mass schedule will continue as usual with Mass on Friday and Saturday morning at the usual time.

**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: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Christmas Readings: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Next Week's Readings: Gen 15:1-6,21:1-3; Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19; Lk 2:22-40

**Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)**

### 23rd & 24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	Julie Hook	Ron Ruskin	Kerry Saad John DeCourcy	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	John Lacey
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Rosanne Vaughan	Peter Hrast	Sarah Cook Danielle Dona	Volunteer Needed	Margaret Coakley

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Arrive at 4.45pm for the Children's Mass

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Bosci, John Lacey, Anne-Marie Makin

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

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 1:** No flowers through Advent

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Carole Frare & Sue Hales; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

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

### Christmas Masses 24th & 25th December

<b>Christmas Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Darren Mobbs	Sue DeCourcy	Dawn Peat John DeCourcy	Dominic Choi	John Lacey
<b>Christmas Vigil 7.30pm</b>	Peter Elchaar	Keith Henson	Veronica Raic	Levi Brown	Margaret Coakley
<b>Christmas Day 8am</b>	John Murphy	Ken Coorey	Liza Jilesh Julie Elliott	Trish Yates	Christine Kinsella Marea Mooney
<b>Christmas Day 10am</b>	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Anne Gately	Volunteer Needed	Fadia Sleiman

### 30th & 31st December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
<b>Saturday 5.30pm</b>	Darren Mobbs	Phil Trainor	Kerry Saad Liza Jilesh	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	John Murphy	Lorraine Murphy	Julie Elliott Veronica Raic	Trish Yates	Jim Kinsella
<b>Sunday 10am</b>	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Danielle Dona Dawn Peat	James Ryan	Marea Mooney

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

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

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

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 2:** Lanny Carter, 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



## 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. Arrival time for the children this afternoon (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).

### 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)

The first Christmas gave to humanity a new beginning. The coming of Jesus brought a revelation of truth which with the passing of time became the basis of Western civilisation. That truth provided an explanation of existence, guided personal living, and gave an interpretation of history. The birth of Christianity was a supreme turning in the unfolding story of humanity. The world today cries out for new beginnings. Especially in the land where Jesus was born and grew up and died, we see terrible enmity, violence and hatred. In many places around our world where there is still conflict the message of Jesus has not hit home or been forgotten or ignored.

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 there is still much pain, suffering and destruction, 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, who has done such a wonderful job coordinating our parish activities and sharing gracious hospitality to all who connect with us.

This year marked my 40th anniversary of priesthood and I was grateful to take some long service leave for renewal and recreation. I am indebted to all who filled the breach whilst I was away. Christmas eve marks the 10th year of my arrival as parish priest of Christ the King.

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 2024. *Fr Ian*



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society will be conducting its Christmas appeal at all Christmas Masses. We once again ask for your support to enable us to assist the poor, the homeless, and the needy people in our local community who constantly rely on our support throughout the year and particularly during the festive season. There are 3 ways you can give: Put cash in the bucket - volunteers are waiting outside the Church to receive your donations; Fill in a Vinnies envelope and put it in the bucket or drop it into the Communications Box; Scan the QR Code on this page. The members of the St Vincent de Paul Society North Rocks Conference thank you for your kindness throughout the year and wish each and everyone the peace of Christ throughout the Christmas Season.



## CALENDARS & VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards are for sale from the table at the front of the Church: \$6 per pack. Please put your money in the Vinnies Box. The last 3 Columban Calendars are also 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.

## 2023 DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on the Diocesan website ([www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)) and on Catholic Outlook ([www.catholicoutlook.org](http://www.catholicoutlook.org)). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE OUT NOW!

The Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition features reflections on Mary's journey into the dark night, how our communities celebrate Christmas, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from the parish today.

## CHURCH CLEANER NEEDED

We are in need of a person to clean our Church on a Saturday morning. The roster is every 6 weeks for approx. 2 hours and you will be part of a friendly team. Please phone the parish office for more information.

## 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.