



Sunday, 10th December, 2023

SECOND 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
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
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, Lillian 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: Dr Gerald Fitzgerald, James Eves.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Gately, Peter Craft.

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

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.

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.



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 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
 Next Week's Readings: Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28

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 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.

9th & 10th December - Second Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Darren Mobbs	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy Kerry Saad	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	Christine Kinsella	Rosemary Wickham	Danielle Dona Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	John Lacey
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Dawn Peat Anne Gately	Dominic Choi	Leila Safy

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erica Rheinberger, Terri Hirschhorn

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Rosemary Wickham, Lorraine Murphy, John Lacey

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

16th & 17th December - Third Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Lance Parker	John DeCourcy Anne Gately	Veronica Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Ken Coorey	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Trish Yates	Veronica Raic
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Mariana Tomasovic	Rob Haddad Dawn Peat	James Ryan	Fadia Sleiman

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Ken Coorey, Mario Azzopardi, Minister Needed

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 8: No flowers through Advent

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Maria Bietola; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Sarah Cook

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 3: Louis Kastoun, Paul Cook, Ryan Brown, Brian Euhus

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please pray for the children making their First Reconciliation on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons this week in the Church from 3.30pm.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Parramatta Catholic Foundation and Catholic Care thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised \$2010 which will provide pastoral, spiritual and sacramental support to people in times of darkness.

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.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

CTK PRIMARY SCHOOL YEAR SIX GRADUATION MASS

This Tuesday, 12 December at 7:30pm a Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated for Year six and their families graduating from Christ the King school.

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. Meetings are held at St John XXIII Parish Stanhope Gardens. Can anybody attend this meeting and represent our parish? 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.

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.

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.

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. 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/>.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council will have its final meeting for the year this Wednesday, 13 December at 7:30pm. This meeting will be short and conclude with Christmas refreshments and a meal.

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS: 10 FEBRUARY 2024

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org.

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

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 or call 1300 782 856 to book your tickets now.

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.

JOIN OUR CYP TEAM

The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team (MET) is looking to expand and deepen the work of Catholic Youth Parramatta in 2024. Forward your current CV, refer to the position description, and record a 2-3 minute video addressing your passion, skills and experience for the role to parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org.

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.