



Sunday, 17th December, 2023

THIRD 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: David Ferguson.

ANNIVERSARY: John Kenny.

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John's version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

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 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28
 Next Week's Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: www.universalis.com

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	Volunteer Needed	Fadia Sleiman

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Ken Coorey, Mario Azzopardi, Lorraine Murphy

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 9: No flowers through Advent

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

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

23rd & 24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Ron Ruskin	Kerry Saad John DeCourcy	Veronica Chacty	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	John Lacey
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Peter Hrast	Sarah Cook Danielle Dona	Volunteer Needed	Margaret Coakley
Christmas Vigil 5.30pm	Darren Mobbs	Sue DeCourcy	Dawn Peat John DeCourcy	Dominic Choi	Christine Kinsella
Christmas Vigil 7.30pm	Peter Elchaar	Keith Henson	Veronica Raic	Levi Brown	Caroline Thurairatnam
Christmas Day 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Liza Jilesh Julie Elliott	Trish Yates	Fadia Sleiman Maria Mooney
Christmas Day 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Rob Haddad Anne Gately	Volunteer Needed	Margaret Coakley Veronica Raic

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Peter Bosci, John Lacey, Rosemary Wickham

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 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 today, 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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society will be conducting its Christmas appeal at all Christmas Masses this year. 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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to the 30 children who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. Particular thanks to their parents who, with the assistance of the parish, prepared the children to receive God's loving forgiveness. Father Ian particularly wishes to thank Mrs Erin Wynne and Mr Tony Hughes and parish secretary Frances Gallagher for their support of the program.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil: 5.30pm Children's Mass
7.30pm

Christmas Day: 8.00am
10.00am

COMMUNAL RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Monday 18 December at 7.30pm, St Michael's Baulkham Hills

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 our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Maureen Alexander and her team of helpers that for the last six or so weeks have made lovely homemade meals and delivered them for both my sister's family and mine. It is difficult at times to know what to say and what to do when tragedy occurs. Having a community that provides practical support for those in need whilst enabling an avenue for empathy for those who want to help and who identify with our grief is important for us all. Every condolence, touch and smile, every shared tear and sigh has helped us all, empowering us to live the Gospel in this small way. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this great giving and supportive group of people. With much thanks and God's blessings to you all. *Sarah and family.*

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.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS | SUMMER 2023 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, our four new leaders in the Diocese, a handy Christmas Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from the parish today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine.

CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED

We are in need of 2 people 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 team. Please phone the parish office for more information or to volunteer.

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/>.

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/>.

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.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS CARDS

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au.

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.