

## 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).



### 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.

### MY LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN WEEKEND RETREAT

'My Little Piece of Heaven' is a weekend retreat for young women aged 17 and over. Starting on Friday 12th January at 6.30pm and concluding on Sunday 14th January at 4pm at the 'Home of Light', Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. The weekend includes talks, singing, music, discussions, adoration and Holy Mass. Cost \$75. RSVP to Sr Rita Baysari on 0493 026 628 or [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au) by 7th January.

### GIRLS SUMMER CAMP

A Girls Summer Camp for 12-16 year old from 15th to 17th January at 'Home of Light', Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Activities include Arts & Craft, Games, Singing, Prayers, Discussion. Cost \$85. Contact Sr Rita Baysari on 0493 026 628 or [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au).

### 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.

CHRIST THE KING  
NORTH ROCKS



## Sunday, 31st December, 2023 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Year B



### REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

In an era when so much talk is devoted to the discussion of family values, the readings for this feast offer significant challenge. Those who believe in Christ, while still adhering to certain cultural codes of conduct, are asked to consider new and ever more balanced ways of relating. In view of their lives as Christians, parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters must all be embraced as equal members of the household of God.

While it is important that children of all ages honour their parents, the caring relationship of adult children for aging parents is vital in a time of mobility, nursing homes, and the lack of extended families. From God's perspective, loving care of aged members is non-negotiable. It is a family virtue that is to be kept sacred.

Wisdom comes with time and experience. Such wisdom is a source of blessing, for it provides insight and a perspective that allows the community to know the mystery and the presence of God. When the wisdom of the elderly is respected, the young are enriched by the stories of the past. Wisdom figures can point the community to places where God is working and where the divine can be found. It is their respect for tradition that allows the elderly to speak the prophetic words that can change the course of the future and inspire noble deeds of courage in the face of great pain. In reverencing the elderly and their wisdom, the community of believers receive Christ.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS** will be celebrated tomorrow (Monday) at 9.00am.



### 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.

**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

### 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, Lillian 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, Sue Ferguson. Abraham Concepcion, Delia Hipolito, Edna Esmero, Sonia Merchant.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Edith Angel RSM Josephine Thorncraft, Rev Dr Bill Aliprandi

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Marko Lulic

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

Next Week's Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**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.*

#### 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<br>Liza Jilesh      | Veronica Chacty   | Gillian Mobbs        |
| <b>Sunday 8am</b>      | John Murphy     | Lorraine Murphy | Julie Elliott<br>Veronica Raic | Trish Yates       | Jim Kinsella         |
| <b>Sunday 10am</b>     | Rosanne Vaughan | Aubon Fernando  | Danielle Dona<br>Dawn Peat     | James Ryan        | Marea Mooney         |

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

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

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

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 2:** Lanny Carter and Barbara Haddad

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

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

#### 6th & 7th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

|                        | Welcomer         | Acolyte          | Reader                       | Computer Operator | Eucharistic Minister |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Saturday 5.30pm</b> | Julie Hook       | Peter Hrast      | Liza Jilesh<br>Kerry Saad    | Veronica Chacty   | Maria Bietola        |
| <b>Sunday 8am</b>      | Volunteer Needed | Rosemary Wickham | Tony Hughes<br>Danielle Dona | Jo-Anne Castaneda | John Lacey           |
| <b>Sunday 10am</b>     | Rosanne Vaughan  | Lorraine Murphy  | Rob Haddad<br>Sarah Cook     | James Ryan        | Marea Mooney         |

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

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Rosemary Wickham, Ken Coorey, John Lacey

**COUNTER GROUP 2:** Ron Ruskin, Keith Henson, John Lenehan, John Coakley

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 3:** Maria Bietola and Barbara Haddad

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Maria Bietola; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1:** CTK School Mums and Gemma Smart

### A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCENT

"Behold, I am doing a new thing". These words of the prophet Isaiah have provided the inspiration for us to undertake the historic journey of synodality that culminated in our first Diocesan Synod. We have been emboldened to chart a new way forward for the local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Galvanised by the spirit of Jesus that calls us to greater communion, participation and mission, we have been enriched rather than torn apart by our differences. Though the road towards a new horizon is full of challenges, we have moved decisively towards a model of Church that is rooted in the Trinitarian paradigm of deep mutuality, solidarity and dynamism. This is the Church united to serve that Pope Francis dreams about.

Nowhere else is this summons towards newness more radical and crystal clear than the Incarnation. Christmas is the venue for possibility. Christmas is the in-breaking of the cosmic kingdom of justice, love and peace. In Christ, God has come to make all things new. In Him, the alternative universe of compassion, equality and fraternity to the unjust, corrupt and unsustainable status quo is indeed possible. One can begin to dare to live again and flourish. Humanity is ushered to a new level.

Christmas opens us to the dawn of this new era of God's justice, love and compassion in Christ. The imperial culture of domination, exclusion and consumption can no longer hold sway. The trickle@down economy that favours the rich and disadvantages the poor can no longer be the only viable option. Christmas calls us to place the care of the vulnerable and the stewardship of all God's creation at the centre of human endeavour. A new ethic of communion not just among humans, but with all life forms must guide our way of life.

Christmas offers us the opportunity to join the divine project of reconciling all in Christ. For with the Incarnation, God has reset the cycle of human behaviour. Jesus did not follow the script of the empire. He came as a poor and humble servant in order to minister at the thresholds of human vulnerability. He rejected violence, demonisation and scapegoating. We no longer need to use violence in order to counter violence; or resort to scapegoating mechanisms to drive out opponents. God in Christ enables us to build a new future with the very people whom we regard as outsiders and enemies.

Let us commit ourselves to the task of building a new future at home and abroad. As believers, we cannot remain indifferent to the issues that impact the lives of our brothers and sisters, whether it is the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the war in Ukraine, the ecological crisis, or the reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in the aftermath of the Referendum.

This Christmas, as we contemplate the Christ child in the manger, let us commit ourselves to pray and work for justice in all its manifestations so that God's reign will come in our world.

**Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv**

Bishop of Parramatta

**Happy New Year!**

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org).