



Sunday, 18th February, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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
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, Valma Costello, Natalie De Maria, Mark Cheeseman, Bev Johnson, Warren Johnson, Lilian Davidson, Anthony Sullivan, Edna Esmero, Margaret Merritt, Marija Barclay, Margaret McCaffrey, Barbara Heaton, Ken Sunderland, Pat McAppion, Helene Graham, Ace Sortisas, Tina Coorey, Mimi Jayatilaka, Oliver Ofiana, Sue Ferguson. Abraham Concepcion, Delia Hipolito,.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr George Eid, Peter Howard.

ANNIVERSARIES: Zenon Adamski, Patrick Wheeler, Faye Donaldson.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The first meeting of Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council will take place this Wednesday, 21 February beginning around 7:15pm in the Christ the King school staffroom. Any parishioners over 18 who would like to be members of this council please contact Fr Ian via the parish office.



EASTER VIGIL MASS THIS YEAR WILL BE AT 6.30PM

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: Gen 9:8-15; 1 Pet 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
 Next Week's Readings: Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10

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.

17th & 18th February - 1st Sunday of Lent

| | Welcomer | Acolyte | Reader | Computer Operator | Eucharistic Minister |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday 5.30pm | Darren Mobbs | Sue DeCourcy | Kerry Saad Georgette Rissmiller | Ruth Jilesh | Maria Bietola |
| Sunday 8am | John Murphy | Rosemary Wickham | Julie Elliott Daniella Dona | Jo-Anne Castaneda | John Lacey |
| Sunday 10am | Rosanne Vaughan | Aubon Fernando | Anne Gately Jennie Mater | Levi Brown | Fadia Sleiman |

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sarah Cook, Mary Cook, Rachel Parnaby

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Barbara Craft, Mario Azzopardi, Rosemary Wickham

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1: CTK Mum's Group, Gemma Smart

24th & 25th February - 2nd Sunday of Lent

| | Welcomer | Acolyte | Reader | Computer Operator | Eucharistic Minister |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday 5.30pm | George Germanos | Lance Parker | John DeCourcy Georgette Rissmiller | Miriam Chacty | Gillian Mobbs |
| Sunday 8am | Volunteer required | Lorraine Murphy | Tony Hughes Julie Elliott | Trish Yates | Caroline Thurairatnam |
| Sunday 10am | Rosanne Vaughan | Mariana Tomasovic | Rob Haddad Dawn Peat | James Ryan | Marea Mooney |

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sarah Cook, Mary Cook, Rachel Parnaby

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Lorraine Murphy, Barbara Craft, Rosemary Wickham

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 2: Lou Howitt, Paul Cook, Frances Gallagher

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the Church foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



CATECHIST COMMISSIONING MASS

This weekend at our 10am Mass, parishioners from our Parish will be commissioned as SRE Teachers. These parishioners go into the two State schools in our Parish and share their faith with the Catholic children that attend those schools.



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Volunteers from Christ the King Parish teach Catholic Scripture to students at North Rocks Public School and Carlingford West Public School. We urgently need volunteers, particularly to help us cover classes this year. If you are able to be part of this rewarding ministry, please contact the parish office

on 9871 8710 or at northrocks@parracatholic.org.

Classes at North Rocks Public School are held on Tuesdays at the following times: 9:05 to 9:35am; 9:40 to 10:10am; 10:15 to 10:45am

Classes at Carlingford West Public School are held on Wednesdays at the following times: 12.45 to 1.25pm; 2:05 to 2:45pm; 2:45 to 3:15pm

Teachers have a handbook which gives detailed notes to follow for each lesson. Students have an Activity Book which has a variety of activities for each lesson. Training for volunteers is held each year with classes being held either face to face or online.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Spread the word! The Good Neighbour Group has started up again for 2024. Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month in the Church Hall at 10.00am. Good company, tai chi, bingo and lunch all for \$5. Hope to see you there.

GIFTS AND TALENTS

Please don't hide your gifts and talents. We are looking for a musician to help out at 10.00am Mass on a Sunday (not every week) to play an instrument while our talented choir, led by Jecy Vaz, sing. Imagine the joy you will bring to the congregation and choir. Please contact the parish office or Sarah (scook@parra.catholic.edu.au) if you think you can help.

LENTEN REFLECTION

Lent is a time for renewal through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity leading up to the celebration of Easter. The Lenten books *A Resurrected Life* have all been taken but you can still access the daily reflections via an audio file at this link https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/arl_lent2024audios/. You may like to listen to it daily, perhaps when you're on your daily walk!

NORTH ROCKS PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE

Anyone interested in looking at the makeup of Catholics in our parochial area from the last national census in 2021 can go to this site for a comprehensive picture: <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-Parish-Social-Profiles/Parramatta/North%20Rocks.pdf>. It is certainly worth a look and the information may help us in pastoral planning for the future as well as clarify some of our misconceptions!

6 WEEKS OF LENT – GIVE 6 THINGS TO JRS FOODBANK

Right now, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia is supporting 150 families a week, and the demand for help keeps growing. The families we serve are not eligible for Centrelink or Medicare and many don't have work or study rights. With the rising cost of living, many are struggling to have enough food and essential items to meet their family's weekly needs. Any and all support would be greatly appreciated during the Lenten season where we are called to remember Jesus' sacrifice and love.

To help keep everyone fed, we are asking parishioners to donate one item a week:

1st Sunday of Lent, 18 Feb: Basmati rice;

2nd Sunday of Lent, 25 Feb: Cooking or olive oil

3rd Sunday of Lent, 3 March: Dried red lentils;

4th Sunday of Lent, 10 March: Dishwashing detergent;

5th Sunday of Lent, 17 March: Laundry detergent;

Palm Sunday, 24 March: Long life milk.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - 1 MARCH

You are invited to attend a World Day of Prayer Service on 1 March at 7.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Baulkham Hills which will be presented by the women of Palestine who will share stories and prayer.

OPEN DAYS AT ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL

St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill is a K-Year 12 Catholic independent school catering for children with a mild to moderate intellectual disability, as well as students who are deaf or hard of hearing; blind or have low vision; have Autism and other disabilities. St Gabriel's School are holding two Open Days in March:

Kindergarten 2025 enrolments on Friday, 8 March from 9.30am-11am

Year 7 2025 enrolments on Thursday, 14 March from 9.30am-11am

Register for the Open Days at: <https://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/events/kindy-open-day-2024> or

<https://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/events/year7-open-day-2024>.

YOUTH MASS 'ROUND THE DIOCESE: 25 FEBRUARY

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, next Sunday 25 February for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on laura@stbernadette.org.au.

MOUNT ST BENEDICT COLLEGE OPEN DAY

On Sunday, 3rd March from 10am to 2pm. Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2026. Location: 449C Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills.

YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION: 3 MARCH

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 3 March at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is Monica Doumit who will talk about and lead discussion on 'How to speak about Hot Topics in the public sphere'. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you have any questions please call Mark on 0477004687.

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.