



Sunday, 17th March, 2024

FIFTH 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, Raphael Satyo, George Vumbaca, 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: Archbishop Francis Carroll (former archbishop of Canberra Goulburn)

ANNIVERSARIES: Ruth Austin, Jack Bellemore.

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'.

This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again – the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2024

The Sacrament of First Eucharist (Yr 4 and above) on 1/2 June.
The Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 5 and above) on 18 September.
The Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Yr 3 and above) on 10 & 11 December.



THE 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: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-30

Next Week's Readings: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

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.

16th & 17th March - 5th Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Ron Ruskin	John DeCourcy Liza Jilesh	Ruth Jilesh	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	Volunteer needed	Lorraine Murphy	Tony Hughes Caroline Thurairatnam	Jo-Anne Castaneda	John Lacey
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Mariana Tomasovic	Rob Haddad Danielle Dona	Tianna Fernandes	Jecy Vaz

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Lorraine Murphy, Mario Azzopardi, Barbara Craft

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Julie Hook, 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Marea Mooney

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

23rd & 24th March - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	George Germanos	Keith Henson	Liza Jilesh Kerry Saad John DeCourcy	Miriam Chacty	Lorraine Murphy
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott Danielle Dona	Trish Yates	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Peter hrast	Dawn Peat Rob Haddad	Dominic Choi	Jecy Vaz

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the Month

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

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Palms

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 6: Ryan Brown, Luke Peterson, Ellen Vaughan, Steve Frare

PROJECT COMPASSION

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation envelopes available from the Church foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST (HOLY COMMUNION)

Children in Year 4 or above who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and whose families reside within our boundaries (or who worship regularly at Christ the King) are now eligible to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist (First Holy Communion). In the parish of Christ the King, the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the three parish Masses (Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8am and 10am) on the weekend of 1st / 2nd June (the Feast of Corpus Christi).

The program for preparation to receive the Sacrament will commence with an information meeting for parents/guardians (children not required) on **Wednesday, 10th April commencing at 7.30pm** in the Church where the program and enrolment procedure will be explained and any questions answered. This is a significant step in your child's journey of faith. It is essential that parents/guardians attend this meeting.

CHRIST THE KING PRIMARY SCHOOL JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Our school is celebrating 50 years in its current location, why not organise a table of past and present families and friends. Held at the Epping Club on Saturday 29th June, for \$99 you get a three course meal and a five hour drinks package. Tables are of 10-12 attendees. If you have a table group in mind, you can email it directly to ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au. Alternatively, we can place you on a table as the event gets closer. We kindly ask that you secure your seat and make payment for this event as soon as possible. Payment can be made via the Qkr app or through the school office. Please pass this onto any ex Christ the King families you are still in touch with. To attend this event please click [RSVP for Jubilee Dinner](#) or use the QR code.



EASTER RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation on Saturday, 30th March will be at 9.30 till 10.30am and in the afternoon from 3.00 till 4.00pm. The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation is available at St Michael's Parish, Baulkham Hills on Monday, 25th March at 7.30pm.

EASTER SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 27th	Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm
HOLY THURSDAY	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm (no morning Mass)
GOOD FRIDAY	Stations of the Cross at 10.00am
	Passion of the Lord at 3.00pm
HOLY SATURDAY	Vigil Mass at 6.30pm
EASTER SUNDAY	Masses at 8.00am and 10.00am

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Spread the word! The Good Neighbourhood Group has started up again. Friday, 5th April in the parish hall at 10.00am. Good company, tai chi, bingo and lunch all for \$5. Hope to see you there.

PRACTICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY READERS

A practice for readers of the Passion on Good Friday will take place at 10.00am on Saturday, 23rd March in the church. As a video will be shown for the Gospel on Palm Sunday, no extra readers are needed for that day. If you wish to be part of the 'crowd' for the Good Friday Gospel, please also turn up at the practice.

SHARING OUR STORY

Sharing Our Story is a small group program offered at Christ the King. It provides a safe and welcoming context for people to reflect on their life and faith in the light of the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday. Sharing Our Story is open to everyone. The program is conducted in CTK Church on the third Wednesday of each month from February to November from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The next session is this Wednesday, March 20. For more information email Mariana Tomasovic: mariana_tomasovic@hotmail.com or Deacon John Collins: john.collins@parracatholic.org.

6 WEEKS OF LENT – GIVE 6 THINGS TO JRS FOODBANK

Right now, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia is supporting close to 200 families a week, and the demand for help keeps growing. The families they 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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

You are invited to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St Agatha's, Pennant Hills on Sunday 7th April:

1:00pm Confessions will commence and be available for the whole afternoon.

1:30pm: Welcome, Rosary, Act of Entrustment to Our Lady, Prayers for the Pope.

2:00pm: Mass and Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. 3:45pm: Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

Enquiries: Church Office 9484 1427 or Greg 0419 228 199.

LAUDATO SI - CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR

Back in 2015 Pope Francis released his landmark document Laudato Si - Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. From this document seven goals, or areas of focus, were identified to help everyday people begin to make the changes needed for ecological conversion. The first goal is 'Response to the cry of the Earth'. If you would like to help our parish respond to Pope Francis' Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, let me know. Some ideas include: organising a technology cleanup day, cleaning up Hunts Creek, promoting practical ways households can make a difference. Sarah scCook@parra.catholic.edu.au.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT

Good Friday, 29th March from 10.00 to 11.30am, from the Valley to the Shrine. 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa.

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.