



Sunday, 10th March, 2024

FOURTH 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: Valma Costello.

ANNIVERSARIES: Beryl & John Vaz, Gabby Wehbe, Eric Bokeyar, Maria Cummins, Alix Lucille Penny.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

WELCOME

We welcome the children from Christ the King School and their families at the 10.00am Mass today, as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week.



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: 2 Chron 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Next Week's Readings: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-30

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 March - 4th Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Lance Parker	Liza Jilesh John DeCourcy	Miriam Chacty	Minister needed
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Rosemary Wickham	Julie Elliott Danielle Dona	Trish Yates	Jim Kinsella
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Anne Gately Sarah Cook	Levi Brown	Fadia Sleiman

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erin Wynne

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Rosemary Wickham, Anne-Marie Makin, Lorraine Murphy

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Carole Frare & Sue Hales 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 4: Louis Kastoun, Paul Cook, Ryan Brown, Ejay Wang

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	John Murphy	Ken Coorey	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: Ken Coorey, 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, Jacy Vaz, Mariana Tomasovic

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.

SUNDAY SESSION THIS WEEK, MARCH 10, 7.00 TO 8.30 PM IN THE PARISH HALL

'Roman Crucifixion and the Death of Jesus' with Dr Debra Snoddy

Our evening together will investigate the death of Jesus from a variety of perspectives. While the Gospels give us an account of why Jesus dies, they obscure the horror that is crucifixion. It was so excruciatingly painful that even the Roman's make little mention of it in their texts and traditions. Why were people drawn to public killings to watch people die from this unique form of capital punishment? And how could Roman executioners kill their prisoners with such cruel efficiency?

Debra will detail the circumstances that would lead a criminal under Roman Law to be crucified. How it was done and where, as well as the various forms of crucifixion that were used during the Age of Roman Empire, will help inform participants of the unique sacrifice that Jesus has made for us. As the perfect lamb of sacrifice, Jesus accomplished all that God had asked him to do. By understanding Jesus' death on the cross, we may come to fully appreciate what God has done for us in Christ.

Join us for an evening like no other, where you will be provoked and challenged. In order to fully appreciate the miracle of the Easter Resurrection, the mystery of crucifixion must be explored.

CATECHIST URGENTLY NEEDED

We urgently need a catechist for Carlingford West Public School to teach on a Wednesday afternoon. Training will be provided. If you can help please call the Parish Office on 9871 8710.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Spread the word! The Good Neighbour Group has started up again for 2024. This Friday, 15th March 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 Wednesday, March 20. For more information email Mariana Tomasovic: mariana_tomasovic@hotmail.com or Deacon John Collins: john.collins@parracatholic.org.

First Eucharist will be celebrated on 2nd June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, for children in Year 4 and above.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on 18th September for children in Year 5 and above.

The Sacrament of first Reconciliation will be celebrated on 10th and 11th December for children in Year 3 and above.

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.

PONTIFICAL HOLY LAND GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: 29 MARCH

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 29th March from 10.00 to 11.30am, from the Valley to the Shrine. Address: 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.