



Sunday, 3rd March, 2024

THIRD 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, Augustin Grez, Bertha Alfaro de Galindo.

ANNIVERSARIES:

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself – thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. However, to further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage – so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

ANNIVERSARY

This Sunday, 3 March, marks the 28th anniversary of the opening of the new Christ the King Church.



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: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
 Next Week's Readings: 2 Chron 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

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.

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

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Phil Trainor	John DeCourcy Liza Jilesh	Ruth Jilesh	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Danielle Dona	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Christine Kinsella
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Peter Hrast	Dawn Peat Rob Haddad	Dominic Choi	Margaret Coakley

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Peter Bosci, Ken Coorey, Rosemary Wickham

COUNTER GROUP 1: Tony Clancy, John Lacey, Roger Brewer

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 3: Clarry Barbera, Chris & Beverley Poole, Ken Coorey

9th & 10th March - 4th Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Volunteer needed	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 Jennie Mater	Levi Brown	Fadia Sleiman

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

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 3: Louis Kastoun, Paul Cook, Ryan Brown, Ejay Wang

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES

Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

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 boxes and envelopes available from the Church foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



CHRIST THE KING PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY - FRIDAY 8TH MARCH

Liturgy starts at 11.30. Tours start from midday till 1.30pm. Enrolment packs available on the day.



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 Tuesday mornings and classes at Carlingford West Public School are held on Wednesday afternoons. 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.

SUNDAY SESSION 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.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Spread the word! The Good Neighbour Group has started up again for 2024. This Friday, 1st March in the parish 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.

BAPTISM WELCOME

Today we welcome the Russo family, Robert & Bianca and their son Jacob. We also welcome the Chew family, Gareth & Carmen and their daughter Giselle. May Jacob and Giselle’s baptism be a happy and a memorable occasion and may God continue to bless their parents in this special step that they have taken to proclaim and support their children in the Christian faith.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT

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

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.

SYNOD 2023 UPDATE: DECREE ISSUED AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIOCESAN PLAN BEGINS

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod.

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>.

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.

SYDNEY CATHOLIC SINGLES METING GROUP

All ages welcome. Scan the code to join the group or search 'Sydney Catholic Singles' on [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com).



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.