



Sunday, 28th April, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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, Michael Gordon.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dr Allan Passmore.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jan & Stan Burgin, Nguyen Van Nu, William Lum.

DECEASED: Narciso, Conchita & Alma Pelayo.

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

The Lectionary of this Easter season draws out some of the 'classic' gospel passages, particularly some of the discourses from the Gospel of John. Like many 'famous' or familiar passages, it can be true that familiarity breeds contempt – we think we are so familiar with the passage that we don't need to pay it much attention.

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

I am reminded of the old Karate Kid movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

School resumes this Tuesday, 30th April.



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: Acts 9:26-31; 2 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8
 Next Week's Readings: 10:25-26,34-35,44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

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 ph 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.

27th & 28th April - Fifth Sunday of Easter

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Keith Henson	John DeCourcy	Volunteer needed	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Danielle Dona Julie Elliott	Volunteer needed	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Mariana Tomasovic	Anne Gately Jennie Mater	Levi Brown	Jecy Vaz

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: School holidays - No Children's Liturgy

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Peter Bosci, Jim Kinsella, Lorraine Murphy

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 1: Leslie Bosci & Gloria Blackwood

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Maria Bietola, 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Marea Mooney

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

4th & 5th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	George Germanos	Keith Henson	Kerry Saad Liza Jilesh	Veronica Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	Christine Kinsella	Ken Coorey	Danielle Dona Tony Hughes	Trish Yates	Anne-Marie Makin
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Aubon Fernando	Jennie Mater Anne Gately	Dominic Choi	Marea Mooney

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Ken Coorey, John Lacey, Anne-Marie Makin

COUNTER GROUP 3: Noel White, Peter Bosci, John Hunt, Graeme Gardiner

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 2: Lanny Carter & Barbara Haddad

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Carole Frare & Sue Hales, 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Sarah Cook

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

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE MOTHER'S DAY GIFT APPEAL

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is aiming to give all their clients who are mothers, a gift voucher for Mother's Day. JRS's mission is to advocate, serve and accompany refugees. None of JRS's clients are eligible for Centrelink, NDIS or childcare subsidies so a gift voucher would really help them out.

If possible, please donate cash so JRS can purchase \$25 gift vouchers. Alternately, Coles and Woolworths gift vouchers would be gratefully received and can be given to Frances in the parish office or left in the communications box at the back of the church. Please donate cards and cash by Monday, 6th May

BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal last weekend. Your generosity will enable our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park to support the formation of our seminarians who are committed to meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community. Envelopes are available again today. Please give generously.

FIRST EUCHARIST SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM



Resource materials can be collected from the parish office (not school office) from this Monday 29 April to Friday 3 May from 9am to 3pm. If you are unable to collect the materials during this time, please contact the parish office to arrange another mutually suitable time. **A reminder that the children will be liturgically enrolled in the program at any one of the three Masses next weekend 4th (5:30pm) /5th May (8am & 10am).** It is essential that the children attend one of these Masses. Please contact the parish office if you are unable to attend for some legitimate reason. The next compulsory meeting of parents and children to begin the first session will take place in the Parish Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 8 May. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on the weekend of the 1st (5:30pm) /2nd June (8am & 10am), fittingly on the feast of Corpus Christi.

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.



ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Bishop Vincent has issued an invitation for parishioners to attend the Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate of Mr Menard Gaspi on Saturday, 11 May at St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope Gardens.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Spread the word! The next gathering of the Good Neighbourhood Group will be on Friday, 3rd May in the Parish Hall at 10.00am. Good company, tai chi, bingo and lunch all for \$5. All are welcome!

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING HEALTHCARE WORKSHOP: 4 MAY

The Diocese of Parramatta is organising a free healthcare workshop to explore the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Voluntary Assisted Dying statement: "To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope" on Saturday 4 May at the St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Lunch will be provided. To register, contact met@parracatholic.org. For enquires, please contact Deacon Michael Tan on michael.tan@parracatholic.org.

DIOCESAN PENTECOST SCRIPTURE REFLECTION EVENING: 15 MAY

What does the Holy Spirit look like in your life? How can Scripture stretch our imagination when it comes to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit? Register for the Diocesan Pentecost Scripture Reflection Evening with Dr Michele Connolly rsj on Wednesday 15 May 2024 – 6:30 to 8:30pm. RSVP via the QR code or contact met@parracatholic.org.



SCAN ME

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.

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

*Basmati rice;

*Cooking or olive oil;

*Long life milk;

*Dishwashing detergent;

*Laundry detergent;

*Dried red lentils.

FaithLIFE THEOLOGY COURSE



Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the last-session of the FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesday 30 April. Registration and more dates and details via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org.

PEACE JUSTICE ECOLOGY TABLE TALK "LAUDATO SI' WEEK – SEEDS OF HOPE": 20 MAY

You are invited to an engaging conversation about caring for God's creation: Hear and discuss inspiring stories from lived experience, and play a role in creating positive change in the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. Join this Diocesan Table Talk on Monday 20 May, 6pm – 8:30pm, St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook. Light dinner will be provided on arrival. Please register by 12 May and find out more at tinyurl.com/laudatosi-table-talk

CCD FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES: MAY AND JUNE 2024

SRE catechists and all members of our faith communities are invited to participate in a series of formation opportunities organised by the Diocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Delve into St John's Gospel with a scripture expert, Dr Laurie Woods, over 5 weeks on 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 May. Continue your Journey of Faith for 5 weeks with Merilyn Hancock (Head of CCD) on 7, 14, 21, 28 June and 5 July. All sessions will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 9.30am to 1.30pm. For SRE Catechists to be accredited with Level 3 training, they must attend both sessions. Enrol via parracatholic.org/events or email ccd.training@parracatholic.org.

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.