



Sunday, 21st April, 2024

FOURTH 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: Coral Lacey.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Francis Murphy, Richard Diaz.

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphoric language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day is celebrated this Thursday with Mass at 9.00am



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 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18
 Next Week's Readings: Acts 9:26-31; 2 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

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.

20th & 21st April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Darren Mobbs	Lance Parker	Georgette Rissmiller	Miriam Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Ken Coorey	Caroline Thurairatnam Tony Hughes	Trish Yates	Christine Kinsella
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Aubon Fernando	Rob Haddad Danielle Dona	Volunteer needed	Margaret Coakley

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Ken Coorey, Lorraine Murphy, John Lacey

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 9: Barbara Haddad

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Lena Henson, 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

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

28th & 29th April - Fifth Sunday of Easter

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Keith Henson	John DeCourcy Liza Jilesh	Ruth Jilesh	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Volunteer needed	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Mariana Tomasovic	Anne Gaely 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

BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL TODAY

Our parish is proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal. 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. Please give generously via the giving envelopes on your seats and place them in the collection bag for the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal.

PROJECT COMPASSION THANK YOU

Thank you for your very generous support of Project Compassion. So far, a total of \$7036.00 has been sent to Caritas Australia on your behalf. This is a wonderful effort which will help empower the world's vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. If you still need to drop off your Project Compassion box, please do so ASAP so results can be finalised.



FIRST EUCHARIST SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Thanks to all the parents who attended the meeting in the Parish Hall which outlined the program for this year for children in Year 4 or above who have made their First Reconciliation. Registrations are now closed (Friday 19th April). Resource materials can be collected from the parish office (not school office) from 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 weekend Masses: 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.



FATHER IAN AWAY

Father Ian is in Melbourne this weekend to celebrate a wedding of a former parishioner. Msgr John Boyle and Father Raymond Ugwu CSSP will be filling in whilst he is away, and we thank them for their assistance.

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

Good Neighbourhood Group will be taking a short break over the school holidays. The next gathering will be on 3rd May. All are welcome!

EASTER - AUTUMN 2024 CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE OUT NOW!

The next edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition invites us to pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, and more. Pick up your free copy today.



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.

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



SCAN ME

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 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16, 23 & 30 April. Registration and more dates and details via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org.

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.

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.