



Sunday, 2nd March, 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C



Parish Priest: Rev Fr Ian McGinnity
Deacon: John Collins
Parish Secretary: Frances Gallagher
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am - 3pm

REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

In our post-modern world, the lesson of the hypocrite seeking to remove the speck from their neighbour's eye before removing the log from their own has at times been taken too far and too literally. We are often confronted with a minimalist notion that nobody can be corrected or criticised because one person's opinion is just as good as the next person's. In this view, there is no room for universal truths; no room for authority; no room for an over-arching view of the world or a meta-narrative – an underlying 'big picture' story for life.

On the surface, the idea that one person's opinion is as valid as any other's seems very democratic and sociable. However, it is fundamentally not true. Someone who has spent a lifetime studying and practising in a particular field of endeavour cannot be lightly dismissed as 'that's just your opinion'. Yet, all too often, such learned knowledge and experience is given the same weight as ill-informed and sometimes mischievous opinion – frequently in the name of 'balanced' discussion.

For some people immersed in the post-modern culture this wash of opinion dressed up as fact is not only confusing but sometimes dangerous. Social norms and even laws can be seen as just another opinion that differs from my own. The opinions of friends and complete strangers on the internet or social networks are held with the same level of legitimacy as established sources of social, moral, legal and religious authority. Whilst it is proper to question established authority and require accountability and justification, the absence of universal truths and meta-narratives lead us back to the proverb that begins today's gospel: the blind leading the blind.

School Principal: Tony Hughes
School Phone: 8846 2700
School Web Site:
www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au

Anointing of the Sick Mass: Friday, 16 May at 9:15am
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 Neighbour 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://northrocks.catholic.org.au>

IN YOUR MERCY, PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED

THE SICK: Joseph Keece, Sue Ferguson, Thomas Cook, Raphael Satyo, Natalie De Maria, Peter Aw, Warren Johnson, Mark Cheeseman, Abraham Concepcion, Lilian Davidson, Edna Esmero, Marija Barclay, Margaret McCaffrey, Barbara Heaton, Ken Sunderland, Pat McAppion, Helene Graham, Ace Sortisas, Tina Coorey, Mimi Jayatilaka, Oliver Ofiana, Delia Hipolito.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Alba Kanzos, Margaret Ford (sister of Adrian Sullivan).

ANNIVERSARIES: Zenon Adamski.

DECEASED: Rodney Jayatilaka, Geronimo & Jonito Gatpatan, Cecille Resuta, Narciso, Conchita & Alma Pelayo,

LENTEN PROGRAM 2025

The season of Lent commences this Wednesday. A Lenten Program which is available this year is 'Start Anew in Christ' from the Archdiocese of Brisbane and these booklets are available now in the Church foyer for you to take home. If you wish to donate \$5 to cover costs, place the donation in the locked box.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES at 9am & 7.30pm

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: Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Cor 15:54-58, Lk 6:39-45

Next Week's Readings: Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

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.

1st & 2nd March - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy	Volunteer needed	Jim Kinsella
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Rosemary Wickham	Julie Elliott Tony Hughes	Jo-Anne Castaneda	John Lacey
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Anne Gately Sarah Cook	Levi Brown	Margaret Coakley

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Erica Rheinberger, Rachel Parnaby, Terri Hirschhorn

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Mario Azzopardi, Rosemary Wickham, Ken Coorey

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

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 9: Barbara Haddad

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1: CTK School Mums, Greta Metz, Maria Ellis

8th & 9th March - First Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Darren Mobbs	Keith Henson	John DeCourcy Georgette Rissmiller	Miriam Chacty	Minister needed
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Rosemary Wickham	Mark Bonney Julie Bonney	Trish Yates	Caroline Thuraiatnam
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Danielle Dona Rob Haddad	Thomas Sissons	Fadia Sleiman

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Rosemary Wickham, Mario Azzopardi, Jecy Vaz

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 1: Lent (No flowers)

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Maria Bietola; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 2: Lou Howitt, Paul Cook, Frances Gallagher

GOOD NEIGHBOUR GROUP

The Good Neighbour Group meets in the Parish Hall on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 10.00am for good company, Tai Chi, bingo and lunch, all for \$7. All are welcome to join including people outside the parish and non-Catholics. The next gathering is Friday, 7th March so spread the word!

ASH WEDNESDAY

The beginning of the season of Lent is this Wednesday, 5th March. The parish will celebrate two Masses on that day, 9am with the primary students from the school and Mass at 7.30pm. At both of these Masses Ashes will be distributed on the forehead. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics from the age of 18 to 59, meaning only one full meal and two smaller meals not equal to a full meal are permitted. The Church asks that, if possible, the fast on Good Friday, the 'paschal fast,' be continued until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday to honour the suffering and death of Jesus and prepare more fully for his resurrection. Lent is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at Easter and an opportunity for the faithful to undertake the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as a means to know Christ better and follow his will more faithfully.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable.

Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes or envelopes which are available this weekend in the church foyer. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



CHRIST THE KING PASTORAL COUNCIL

Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council met recently, for the first time this year. We noted at the meeting that we would like to have more representation from a younger generation of parishioners. So, if there are any parishioners, 18 or over, who would like to contribute something to your parish with your perspective, please come forward or alternatively other parishioners may nominate you. Please contact the parish office if you have any suggestions. This body has an important advisory role to the Parish Priest in administering the parish and enabling us to be a more synodal local church into the future.

CHRIST THE KING NORTH ROCKS 2025 OPEN DAY (FOR 2026 ENROLMENTS)

11.30am - 1.00pm Friday, 7th March

The Community of Christ the King North Rocks invites parents, friends, neighbours and their families to join us for a Liturgy, morning tea and a visit to our Learning Areas. Year 6 Students will be offering guided tours for families looking to enrol in 2026. Enrolment packages will be available on the day.

When: Friday, 7th March. Liturgy begins at 11.30am. Tours begins at 12.00pm.

Where: 2 Statham Avenue, North Rocks. Come along and join us for an Introduction to Our School. Enquiries to: northrocks@parra.catholic.edu.au or contact Mr Hughes on 0432 056 959 to make an enquiry or book a tour.



SUPPORT OUR PARISH THROUGH RETURN AND EARN!

The Parish Pastoral Council is excited to introduce the **Return and Earn** recycling initiative as a way to raise funds for much-needed repairs to our **leaking church roof**. By recycling eligible bottles and cans, you can help both the environment and our parish! It's simple to get involved:

Download the Return and Earn app for iPhone or Android. You will need to register on the app with your name.

1. Click on charities then search for Christ the King. The title is Church Roof.
2. Select "SET AS PAYOUT" to set us up as your preferred payout method
3. Scan the app at your local Return and Earn machine
4. Return your containers and press "TRANSFER" on the screen

Join us in **caring for creation and our church**—small actions lead to big changes!

Please contact me should you have any trouble with the app scook@parra.catholic.edu.au and I will call you back.



CONNECT 2025



Our next Activities Meeting will be at 10am on Friday, March 14 at the Burton Centre (previously the Parish Presbytery). We are pleased to announce that we have invited a guest speaker, Mrs Jill Reardon, to share her comprehensive knowledge of the history of the North Rocks local area. Jill used to live in North Rocks, was a Councillor with the Hills Shire Council, and is a member of the local Heritage Committee. After morning tea (provided) we will continue with our popular Bridge Club and Craft activities and general chat sessions. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Please contact us if we can help with transport on the day.

Marianne (0418641412 email: dave.dwyer1@bigpond.com) Vivien (0413027507 email: vivien.brewer@gmail.com)

URGENT CALL FROM JRS FOODBANK

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia has put out an urgent call for food donations. With the rising cost of living, many are struggling to have enough food and essential items to meet their family's weekly needs. As stocks are running very low, any and all support would be greatly appreciated. To help keep everyone fed, we are asking parishioners to donate: Basmati rice; Cooking or olive oil; Long life milk; Deodorant; Men's shavers; Dried red lentils; Laundry detergent. These goods will be taken down to the JRS Centre each week for distribution to the needy.

BAPTISM WELCOME TEAM

At our recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting, we reflected on how we can make our parish a warmer, more welcoming place for new families. One of the beautiful moments when families connect with our parish is during Baptism, as they bring their child into the faith.

To help foster this spirit of hospitality and belonging, we are forming a Baptism Welcome Team - a small group of parishioners who will meet three times a year to:

- ☑ Welcome families preparing for Baptism
- ☑ Support them through the preparation process
- ☑ Answer any questions and encourage ongoing involvement in our parish

No special training is needed. By joining this team, you will play a vital role in strengthening our parish community, building relationships with young families, and sharing the joy of faith.

If you feel called to be part of this ministry, please contact the parish office, Fr Ian or Sarah Cook scook@parra.catholic.edu.au. Let's make our parish a true home for all!



MOUNT ST BENEDICT COLLEGE OPEN DAY: SUNDAY 2 MARCH FROM 10AM - 2PM

Please note: Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2027. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4. 449C Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills. Bookings: www.msb.nsw.edu.au.

ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL CASTLE HILL OPEN DAYS

St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill is a Kinders to Year 12 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.

The School is holding two Open Days in March: Kindergarten 2026 enrolments on Thursday, 6 March at 9.30am-11am. Year 7 2026 enrolments on Thursday, 13 March at 9.30am-11am. Parents can register for the Open Day using the following links: [St Gabriel's School – Kindergarten 2026 Open Day](#) / [St Gabriel's School – Year 7 2026 Open Day](#)

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.

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.bpoin.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.