



# Sunday, 22nd February, 2026

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Year A



**Parish Priest:** Rev Fr Ian McGinnity  
**Deacon:** John Collins  
**Priest-in-Residence:** Rev Fr Trevor Hird  
**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](http://www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au)

**Anointing of the Sick Mass:** To be advised.

**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](mailto:northrocks@parracatholic.org)

**Website:** <https://northrockscatholic.org.au>

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

**THE SICK:** Keith Henson, Hilary Heaton,  
Glen Godbier, Doone & Mark Ford, Lilian  
Cugola, Andrew Halmarick, Joseph Keece,  
Sue Ferguson, Kim Armstrong, Thomas  
Cook, Natalie De Maria, Peter Aw, Abraham  
Concepcion, Lilian Davidson, Delia Hipolito,  
Mark Cheeseman, Barbara Heaton, Edna  
Esmero, Gary Bailey, Ken Sunderland,  
Helene Graham, Lolita Linco, Bruce Wright.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Nancy Au (Funeral  
Tuesday 24th February at 10.30).

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Zenon Adamski, Avedis  
Qasabian, Faye Donaldson, Malcolm  
Bocking, Edith Azzopardi, Patrick Wheeler.

## REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression.

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

#### CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW FOR 2027

**OPEN DAY - 6 MARCH 9am to 11am**

Contact the school office on 8846 2700 or register online at  
[www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au).



#### 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: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Mt 4:1-11

Next Week's Readings: Gen 12:1-4, 2 Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9

**Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: [www.universalis.com](http://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](mailto: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.*

### 21st & 22nd February - 1st Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	George Germanos	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy Georgette Rissmiller	Volunteer needed	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Lorriane Murphy	Julie Bonney Mark Bonney	Trish Yates	Anne-Marie Makin
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Peter Hrast	Anne Gately Jennie Mater	Levi Brown	Fadia Sleiman

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

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Lorraine Murphy, Jim Kinsella, Anne-Marie Makin

**COUNTER GROUP:** 1st Sunday of the month

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 6:** Lent - No flowers

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Carole Frare & Sue Hales; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Marea Mooney

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

### 28th February & 1st March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Carole Frare	Ron Ruskin	Liza Jilesh Georgette Rissmiller	Volunteer needed	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Arthur Rizk Danielle Dona	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Jim Kinsella	Tiana Fernandes Dawn Peat	Miriam Chacty	Marea Mooney

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Erica Rheinberger & Alyce Bertolissio

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** Peter Bosci, Deirdre Lee, Jecy Vaz

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

**ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 7:** Lent - No flowers

**PIETY GROUP:** Vigil: Julie Hook; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Sarah Cook

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

### 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 on Friday, 6th March, so spread the word!

## RCIA

At the 10am Mass this Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, the Enrolment of Names ceremony will take place for our catechumen, Loretta Duffy and our candidate, Lara Moroney with their sponsors Aaron and Adam. We continue to pray for them as they lead up to their journey of baptism and full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass at 6:30pm on Saturday 4 April. At 2pm this Sunday the rite of election will take place for Loretta at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta with the Bishop and catechumens across the diocese.

## 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 2026 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*.



## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

During Saturday morning Mass on 28 February at 9am the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick will be conferred. If there are sick or elderly parishioners in your family or who are neighbours please bring them along to receive the grace of this Sacrament of healing and forgiveness.

## THE JOURNEY HOME - DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

Written by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge, this Lenten booklet has been created with both groups and individuals in mind. Each weekday includes a short scripture text and reflection, as well as some questions to provoke prayer and discussion. The booklet is available from the church foyer and a donation of \$5 is recommended. Please place the money in the Communication Box near the inner doors.



## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The inaugural meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council for 2026 will take place this Wednesday, 25 February in the Burton centre beginning at 7:30pm. At this meeting the new officeholders for 2026 will be determined. The invitation is extended again for anyone interested in joining the Council to contact Fr Ian or the parish office.

## CONNECT BOOK CLUB



The next Book Club meeting will take place this Thursday, 26th February and the book this month, by author Sue Williams, is *That Bligh Girl*, a fascinating story of Governor Bligh's trouble-making daughter, Mary. Please contact us for information or if transport is needed for any event: Terri

0407294332 email [mthirschhorn@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mthirschhorn@yahoo.com.au), Vivien 0413027507 email [vivien.brewer@gmail.com](mailto:vivien.brewer@gmail.com) or Marianne 0418641412 email [dave.dwver1@bigpond.com](mailto:dave.dwver1@bigpond.com).

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

This year St Matthew's Uniting Church at Baulkham Hills is hosting the World Day of Prayer on 6th March at 7.30pm. The country to learn about and bring to God in prayer is Nigeria. Everyone is very welcome. The evening will conclude with a light supper. For more information phone Pamela Leslie on 0404 023 588.

## MOUNT ST BENEDICT COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Sunday 1st March from 10am - 2pm. 449D Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills

Bookings online at [www.msb.nsw.edu.au](http://www.msb.nsw.edu.au). Please note: Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2028. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4.

## 2026 ACBC SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT ON THE COST OF LIVING

The Australian Bishops have released the first of two Social Justice Statements for 2026, titled *"The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good"*. The new statement and accompanying resources can be found at [socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au).

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2026

The Sacrament of First Eucharist (Yr 4 and above) on 6/7 June.  
The Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 5 and above) on 9 September.

## GIVE TO JRS FOODBANK

JRS is once again running its Lenten Appeal over the 6 weeks leading up to Easter. Food insecurity is a significant challenge for the families and individuals that JRS Australia serves. Long waits for resolution of asylum applications means many of their clients spend extended periods of time without work rights, access to Federal Government support or other ways of supporting themselves. The JRS Foodbank feeds and provides necessities for families who would otherwise have nowhere else to go. Each week of Lent, we will be collecting a different item:

**WEEK 1** - Cooking oil (750 ml or 1L)    **WEEK 2** - Dishwashing liquid    **WEEK 3** - Canned tuna (unflavored in oil)

**WEEK 4** - Laundry detergent    **WEEK 5** - Dried red lentils (375g or 1kg)    **WEEK 6** - Long life milk (1L, full cream)

The Parish of Christ the King's ongoing support is greatly appreciated and thank you for helping bring hope and comfort to those doing it tough this Lent.

## ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Located in Castle Hill, St Gabriel's School is an independent K-12 school that welcomes students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, 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 2 open days in March:

Kindergarten 2027 enrolments on Thursday, 5 March at 9.30am-11am. Bookings: [St Gabriel's School – Open Day – Kindergarten 2027](#)

Year 7 2027 enrolments on Thursday, 12 March at 9.30am-11am. Bookings [St Gabriel's School – Open Day – Year 7 2027](#)

## ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE WAHROONGA OPEN DAY INVITATION

St Edmund's College campus caters for students from Years 5 to 12 who have a range of disabilities. Their Open Day will take place on Tuesday, 10 March from 9.30am till 12 noon. Please register at [www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/open-day](http://www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/open-day).

## CATALYST FOR RENEWAL REFLECTION MORNING AT HUNTERS HILL

March 7 with Br Julian McDonald cfc - *Making the Sunday Readings relevant to our lives*. Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall, 3 Mary Street, Hunters Hill from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Enquiries phone Dawn: 0419 967 773.

## ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY PARRAMATTA CENTENARY CELEBRATION: 14 MARCH

The St Patrick's Parramatta School Community warmly invites all former staff, students, and families to join them in celebrating 100 years of faith, learning and community on Saturday 14 March at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Mass begins at 1.30pm with an afternoon tea to follow. RSVP via <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZCpRA1DLrNEICkwCltsabrOw43I5RYq3LiRTzvAlkOfmaA/viewform>.

### **TAP TO GIVE**

Our Parish has Tap to Give devices 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 devices, located in the Church Foyer, enable us as a Parish to accept cashless donations which are automatically deposited into the bank.

### **CREDIT CARD AND DIRECT DEBIT CHANGES**

Please inform the Parish Office on 9871 8710 or send an email to [northrocks@parracatholic.org](mailto: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

**DEFIBRILLATOR VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/mE-ZIaE\\_9fw](https://youtu.be/mE-ZIaE_9fw).

### **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](mailto:northrocks@parracatholic.org) as soon as possible. Thank you.

*Thank you to everyone for the continual support of the parish and the clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta.*