



Sunday, 8th March, 2026 THIRD 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

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

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

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

THE SICK: Keith Henson, Hilary Heaton,
Mark Ford, Kerry & Bruce Wright, Liliana
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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Paloma Escarlan
(mother of Fr John-Paul Escarlan)

DECEASED: Deceased Members of the
Qasabian and Totonjian Families.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into ‘too much’?

The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not.

Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?

ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

Last Tuesday, the 3rd of March was the 30th anniversary of the opening of our new Church of Christ the King at North Rocks.



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 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2,5-8, Jn 4:5-42
Next Week's Readings: 1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41

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.

7th & 8th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Kath Patterson	Sue DeCourcy	Georgette Rissmiller Kerry Saad	Miriam Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Rosemary Wickham	Deirdre Lee Julei Elliott	Trish Yates	Lorraine Murphy
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Liza Jilesh Sarah Cook	Thomas Sissons	Margaret Coakley

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Rosemary Wickham, Barbara Craft, Lorraine Murphy

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 8: Lent - No flowers

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 6: Ryan Brown, Luke Peterson, Barbara Craft, Steve Frare

14th & 15th March - 4th Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Keith Henson	John DeCourcy Kerry Saad	Volunteer needed	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Jim Kinsella	Julie Bonney Mark Bonney	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Christine Kinsella
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Aubon Fernando	Anne Gately Jennie Mater	Miriam Chacty	Fadia Sleiman

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sarah Cook, Sabena Peterson, Mary Cook

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Jim Kinsella, Deirdre Lee, Jecy Vaz

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 9: Lent - No flowers

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

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1: CTK School Mums & Maria Ellis

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 \$10. All are welcome to join including people outside the parish and non-Catholics. The next gathering is on Friday, 20th March, so spread the word!

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*.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

From Monday, 2 March to this Sunday 8 March, Catholic Schools Week is held to highlight the mission and community of Catholic education across the state. The week emphasizes the faith-based, academic, and community aspects of Catholic education. Members of Christ the King school will be attending Mass this Sunday at 10am to celebrate this occasion.

RCIA

This Saturday at the evening Mass the presentation of the Creed will occur for our RCIA catechumen, Loretta Duffy and candidate, Lara Moroney. On Friday evening Lara will attend the penitential rite for candidates presided over by Bishop Vincent to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. We continue to pray for them as they prepare to be welcomed into the Church at Easter.



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.

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.

CONNECT BOOK CLUB

The CTK Connect Group will next meet from 10am to 12 noon on Thursday March 12. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Burton Centre (previously the Parish Presbytery) for a yummy morning tea, lively chats, Bridge, card games and crafts. This week those who are interested will be knitting red poppies – wool and patterns/instructions will be provided but it would be helpful if knitters could bring along a



pair of size 8 needles. Please contact us for information or if transport is needed for any event: Terri 0407294332 email mthirschhorn@yahoo.com.au, Vivien 0413027507 email vivien.brewer@gmail.com or Marianne 0418641412 email dave.dwyer1@bigpond.com.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

On Saturday 21 March from 8:00am to 10:00am at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills. Cost: \$20 per person (breakfast included). All women are warmly invited to a special community breakfast celebrating the Feast of St Joseph and honouring the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. Guest speaker: Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. Bookings essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1543336>.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT: 3 APRIL

You are invited this Good Friday, April 3rd at 10am for Stations of the Cross at Mount Schoenstatt (beginning in the valley) . The address is 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. All welcome.

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.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Yr 3 and above) on 8 & 9 December.

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. 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.

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>.

SCHOENSTATT SISTERS OF MARY CELEBRATIONS: 6 APRIL

You are invited to celebrate the 75 years of the arrival of the first Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to Australia and 60 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. Join us on Easter Monday, 6th April 2026 from 1:30pm – 5:30pm at Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. RSVP Shirley Hall 0417 153 930 or movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au.

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 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.

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.

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