



Sunday, 22nd March, 2026 FIFTH 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, 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: Hilary Heaton (funeral to be confirmed), Frank Jacobs, Dr Gordon Hopkins.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK

now available from the Church foyer.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

RCIA PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

During the 8am Mass this weekend, catechumen Loretta Duffy and candidate Lara Moroney will be presented with the Lord's prayer during Mass. We continue to pray for them both as they count down to the Easter vigil where they will be welcomed fully into the Catholic Church.



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: Ezek 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45
Next Week's Readings: Mt 21:1-11, Is 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mt 26:14-27:66

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.

21st & 22nd March - 5th Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Sue Hales	Phil Trainor	Dawn Peat Georgette Rissmiller	Volunteer needed	Gillian Mobbs
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Peter Bosci	Danielle Dona Caroline Thurairatnam	Trish Yates	Anne-Marie Makin
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Peter Hrast	Wilma Fernandes Tiana Fernandes	Volunteer needed	Marea Mooney

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Peter Bosci, John Lacey, Anne-Marie Makin

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 9: Lent - No flowers

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

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

28th & 29th March - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Frank Gelonesi	Lance Parker	Liza Jilesh Kerry Saad	Miriam Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Lorraine Murphy	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Christine Kinsella
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Aubon Fernando	Anne Gately	Dominic Choi	Jecy Vaz

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Lorraine Murphy, Barbara Craft, Jim Kinsella

COUNTER GROUP: 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP 1: Lent - Palms

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Julie Hook; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 3: John & Sue DeCourcy, Chris Poole, Mario Azzopardi, Ken Coorey

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 Friday, 17th April, 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.



THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST (HOLY COMMUNION)

In accord with Parramatta Diocesan policy, we will be conducting the parish-based, family centred, school supported method of preparation for baptised Catholic children eligible to receive the next sacrament of initiation (First Holy Communion) into full membership of the Church.

Children in Year 4 or above who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and whose families reside within our parish boundaries (or who worship regularly at Christ the King) are now eligible to receive the sacrament of Eucharist (First Holy Communion).

In the parish of Christ the King, the sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the three parish Masses (Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8am and 10am) on the weekend of 6th/7th June (the Feast of Corpus Christi).

The program for preparation to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion will commence with an information meeting for parents/guardians (children not required) on **Wednesday, 22nd April commencing at 7.30pm** in Christ the King Parish Hall, where the program and enrolment procedure will be explained and any questions answered. This is a significant step in your child's journey of faith. It is essential that parents/guardians attend this meeting.



CONNECT BOOKCLUB

The Connect **Book Club** will meet this Thursday, 26th March at 10am in the Burton Centre. The book this month is *A Song of Comfortable Chairs* by author Alexander McCall Smith. 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.

JEFF HOOD'S DIACONATE ORDINATION AMENDMENT

The Diocese, for an unknown reason, has decided to separate the Diaconate ordinations of three seminarians, including Jeff, and do them individually. Hence Jeff Hood's ordination to the Diaconate will now take place on Sunday evening the 26 April beginning at 6pm and the location will be St John XXIII Church 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens. We apologise for the unavoidable confusion and rescheduling that will need to occur.

CHRISM MASS

The annual Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday, 1 April at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta beginning at 7:30pm. Terri Hirschhorn and Jecy Vaz will collect the oils of catechumens and the sick respectively and return them to the church on Holy Thursday evening.

RECONCILIATION

Individual Reconciliation (Confession) will be available at Christ the King for Easter on Saturday 28 March from 9:30 to 10:30am and on Saturday 4 April from 3 to 4pm. The second rite of reconciliation will take place at St Michael's, Baulkham Hills this Wednesday, 25th March at 7pm.

EASTER SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 1st April: Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm

HOLY THURSDAY: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm (no morning Mass)

GOOD FRIDAY: Stations of the Cross at 10.00am

Passion of the Lord at 3.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY: Vigil Mass at 6.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY: 8.00am and 10.00am

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. At the moment they are in need of UHD Full Cream Milk, Dry Chick Peas and Sweet and Savory Biscuits which are in short supply.

Other items we will be collecting for JRS over the six weeks of Lent for its Lenten Appeal are:

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.

SUNDAY SESSIONS

To mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi (1226–2026), the Vatican has declared a Jubilee Year (Jan 10, 2026 – Jan 10, 2027). The topic for the next Sunday Session on the 12th April is St Francis and the Franciscan movement in the life of the Church. Join us to explore some insights into the Church's and the world's favourite saint. 7.00pm to 8.30pm in the Burton Centre. For more information contact Deacon John at john.collins@parracatholic.org

SHARING OUR STORY

Sharing Our Story is a small group program offered at Christ the King which provides a safe and welcoming context for people to reflect on their life and faith in the light of the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday. Sharing Our Story is open to everyone, the only requirement is a desire to reflect on your life of faith and a willingness to ask questions. We meet in the in Burton Centre on the third Wednesday of each Month from February to November from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. The next meeting is 18th March. For more information contact Deacon John at john.collins@parracatholic.org.

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 to 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.

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.

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.