



# CATHOLIC PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING NORTH ROCKS



Tuesday 25 December 2018, YEAR C  
*The Nativity of the LORD*



Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At night, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

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Today's Reading 25 Dec: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1:1-18

*Have a Blessed Christmas*

*Rejoice in the coming of our Lord!*

*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we saw his glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14

## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

*Christmas offerings are placed in a common fund which pays:*

Priests Salaries

Domestic needs of the Presbytery

Housekeeper's Salary

Retirement Plan for Priests

*Please make a worthwhile and meaningful gift this Christmas*

## SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

A special collection will be taken up at this festive time on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December. Please give as generously as you can. Christmas can be a challenging time for many people who struggles with basic food and clothing and utility bills. Through your generous support St. Vincent de Paul Society will be able to offer people the opportunity to share the joy of Christmas and give the gift of hope found in God's mercy and love.

## Thank You

2018 has been an eventful year for Christ the King Parish community. Father Eric Burton, passed away on 5 September, 2 months short of his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He had been appointed founding Pastor of our parish in 1970 and had remained living in the parish until 2014. The community celebrated a fitting farewell for him on the 17<sup>th</sup>/18 September.

Just prior to this on 15 September we conducted a very successful Christ the King Spring Fair. We have finally subdivided the land behind the old Convent and hope to sell it in the New Year to help progress towards achieving our Parish goals. After completing the renovation of Mary MacKillop Hall, we now look to separating the Priest's accommodation from the Parish offices by building a new Presbytery and converting the current building into a new parish centre incorporating offices and small meeting rooms. A lightning strike recently took out some of our electricals, the following week's storm brought down trees and many in our community were without electricity for a period of time!

We have celebrated with families in 2018 many Baptisms, 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion, Confirmation, 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and Weddings; we have also mourned the loss of loved ones and celebrated their funerals. We have conducted two meetings in preparation for the Plenary Council in 2020. We recently gathered with Bishop Vincent to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and acknowledged the many who untiringly work in ministry in our Parish.

Fr Ian, celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Priesthood in August and this Christmas Eve will mark the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year of his six-year appointment as Parish Priest. He would like to extend a warm thank you to parishioners for all their cards, gifts and good wishes received. Thank you all for your commitment and enthusiasm. A particular thank you to the Parish Council, Finance Committee, Liturgy Group, Building Project group, Senior Servers, Junior Servers, Special Ministers of the Eucharist, St Vincent de Paul Society, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Acolytes, Baptismal Group, Youth Group, Catechists, Sacramental team, Choirs, Musicians, Ushers, Flower Arrangers, Church Cleaners, Altar decorators, Care group, and the Sacristan who takes care of the liturgical linens and garments.

This year we welcomed John Collins (and his wife Sandy) on a pastoral placement in training to be a permanent Deacon. We also welcomed Adam Chioatto who has taken over from Brad Vergano as our new Youth minister. Michael Axiak, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year seminarian joined us for a month leading up to Christmas for pastoral experience. An enormous thank you to Tony Hughes (CTK School Principal) and to the teachers and ancillary staff for their support to help build a school strongly connected to our parish; and for all who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of our Church.

Together, may we continue to grow in strength and love as we celebrate God's presence in our lives and world. Have a Grace-filled Christmas and a peaceful New Year in 2019.

Fr Ian, John Collins, Michael Axiak, Adam Chioatto & Nadine Lucas (Parish Secretary).

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Ian McGinnity
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Nadine Lucas Ph: 9871 8710
<b>Youth Coordinator:</b>	Adam Chioatto Mob: 0423 077 677
<b>School Principal:</b>	Tony Hughes Ph: 9871 7438
<b>Baptisms</b>	Monthly 2nd & 4th Sun
<b>Weddings:</b>	By Appointment
<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Sat 9.30 am & 4.30pm
<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:</b>	Sat 9.30am
<b>Rosary:</b>	Sat 8.30am, Tue 7pm
<b>Children's Liturgy:</b>	10am Mass-During Term
<b>Parish Services</b>	
<b>Sunday Masses:</b>	<b>Weekday Masses:</b>
6.00pm Saturday	Tuesday 7.30 pm
8.00 am Sunday	Wednesday 9.00 am
10.00 am Sunday	Thursday 9.00 am
	Friday 9.15 am
	Saturday 9.00 am
<b>Parish Address:</b>	
10 Statham Ave, North Rocks NSW 2151	
<b>Email:</b> northrocks@parracatholic.org	