



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



Second Sunday of Advent Year B
10th December 2017

Grounded in Faith Growing in Love Living in Hope

Parish Staff

Fr Mathew Antony MS - Parish Priest
e-mail: mathew@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Fr Pio Jang - Assist. Priest
E-mail: papio.penrith@gmail.com

Fr Porathur Joy (PJ)
Catholic Chaplain - Nepean Hospital

Lyn Olander - Secretary / Office Manager
e-mail: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Marthese Sultana - Admin. Assistant
e-mail: bulletin@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mary Goh - Admin. Assistant
e-mail: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Colleen Nicholas - Sacramental Co-ordinator
Monday & Thursday only
e-mail: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Fred Keuneman - Catechist Co-ordinator
e-mail: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Office Hours 9am - 5 pm

Lunch 1pm - 1.30 pm (Office closed)

Weekend Mass

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday 7.00am 8.30am
10.00am 6.00pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am - 10.30am
5.00pm - 5.45pm

Adoration: After Saturday Morning Mass

Weekday Mass

Monday 9.30 am
Tuesday 6.45 am & 9.30 am
Wednesday 9.30 am & 7.00 pm
Thursday 9.30 am
Friday 6.45 am & 12.10 pm
Saturday 9.00 am

Healing Mass 9.00am 1st Saturday of month

Filipino: 11.00am 1st Saturday of month

Baptisms & Marriages by appointment only
Marriage Prep courses can be booked at
Parish Office.

Schools

St Nicholas Primary 4721 2623
Principal - Ms Anita Knezevic

St Mary Mackillop Primary 4736 3466
Principal - Mr Scott Buchan

Gospel Reflection; Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptise with the Holy Spirit.



Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptised. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

From Loyola Press



Christmas Timetable



Christmas Eve

Sunday, 24 December

6.00pm (Family Mass)

9.00pm Mass

11.30pm (Carols)

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Monday, 25 December

7.00am 8.30am

10.00am 6.00pm

Reconciliation

Individual

Wed & Thurs 20th, 21st 10am-11am

Fri 22nd 11am-12noon

Sat 23rd 9.30am-11.30am

5.00pm-5.45pm

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: www.parracatholic.org

PARISH OUTREACH

Welcome

A very warm welcome to anyone who is new to the parish. So that we can get to know you better, it would be great if you would please fill out a Census Card available in the foyer.

Please pray for Pauline Farrugia, Joy Goldsmith, Michael Griffiths, Geraldine Lonergan, Lynn O'Hare, Jacob Silia, Daniella Siciliano, Esther Remolador and Bill Wilkinson **who died recently and for** Gerald Barnes, Joy Bourke, Terry Cuttell, Matthew Lawrence Edmunds, Max & Bruce Gale, Kamala Handy, Dakila Muriel, Nimfa Relunia and Peg Williams **whose anniversaries occur at this time and for** Mary Armstrong, Dennis Bryant, Tania Felice, Godfrey Gomez, Peter & Frances Hendry, John Lee, Reg Levinge, John Nettare, Terrence O'Hare, Bernard & Norah Wilding and all souls.

Please pray for those who are sick Mary Rose, Dianne Constable, Vera Costello, Canute D'Souza, Allen Eyles, Marion Engsmayr, Enrique Esmayor, Romnick Estores, Darren Gallagher, Yanka Garan, Pamela Gold, Patricia Hansan, Rose Kenny, Sue Herbert, Nathan King, Annie Langan, Rosemary Matthews, Kevin Maggs, Jane McCann, Daniel McEntee, Melissa McNamara, Fr George O'Mara, Baby Phoenix, Barbara Sawyer, Isabella Savage, Chris Tabone, Charlotte Tan, Elizabeth Terrones, Rachael Wilson and Margarit Youssef.

Hospital Masses Parishioners are welcome

- ◆ **Nepean Hospital** every Friday at MIDDAY
- ◆ **Summit Care (Jamison Gardens)** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.30am
- ◆ **Newmarch Nursing Home** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.30am

If in need of a Catholic Chaplain whilst a patient is in hospital phone 47343150 or requiring a Priest urgently for an anointing phone 47342000 and request switch board or the nurse on duty to contact the Catholic Priest.

Rosary Statue is in the home of Polly Melder 1/143 Evan Street Penrith.

Prayer Meeting We warmly invite all parishioners, families and friends to join us here at St Nicholas on Tuesday 12th December **at 7pm in the Hall** to celebrate in Song, Prayer and the Sharing of God's Word.

Divine Mercy Holy Hour prayer meeting 4th Friday of the month 7pm in PMR1.

The Penrith Chapter of BNP Australia invites everyone to join us on Friday 15th December for celebration of Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation. Starts at 8PM and concludes at 10PM.

This Week at St Nicholas

Tuesday	12th December	
11.30am	AA Meeting	(Hall)
12.30pm	Legion of Mary	(Piety store)
7pm	Prayer Meeting	(Hall)
Wednesday	13th December	
St Lucy		
6pm	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	
Thursday	14th December	
St John of the Cross		

Next Week's Readings

3rd Sunday of Advent

Jonah 3:1-5.10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



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PARISH / DIOCESAN OUTREACH

Christmas Hampers



Hampers to be returned to the Parish Meeting Room 1 this weekend before and after each Mass.

Hamper Deliveries: Once again, we ask for your generous help in the distribution of prepared hampers. If you can spare an hour on: Saturday 16th Dec, between 8.30am and 11.00am in PMR1. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Brian Brainwood 0433 256 518 or Joe Tabone 0412 234 651. Thank you and God Bless

Sacramental Program First Reconciliation 2018

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Nicholas of Myra Parish will be in Term 1 next year. To be eligible for First Reconciliation, children must be in year 3 or above and must be baptised.

Parents wishing to enrol their children in the program must attend an information meeting, which will be at St Nicholas of Myra Church on

Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.00pm.

Further information regarding the program will be given at this meeting.

If your child has not been baptised, and you wish to enrol them in the program, please contact our Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas.

Christmas Eve Family Mass 6pm Children and Families



All children of our parish are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds (wise men) or Christmas colors, to celebrate our Family Mass on Christmas Eve at 6pm. There will be no practice beforehand.

Annual SRE Christmas Mass and Lunch

When: Friday 15 December at 12.10pm Mass followed by lunch at Fortune Palace Chinese Restaurant. For catering purposes please phone parish office by 14 December.

Bus trip to St Marys Cathedral to see the Christmas lights on Monday 18th Dec.

All need to be at the church by 4.30pm, as we are on a tight schedule. Buses will be leaving 4.45pm sharp. Dinner at the Marconi club, then heading off to the Cathedral and arriving back to the parish approximately 10.30pm.

Full balance of payment is required by Friday 8th December.

SGY Camp Retreat

If you are aged 17-25, you are invited to join our 2018 SGY Camp Retreat. We will begin the camp on Tuesday, 9th January at 4pm and will conclude it on Friday, 12th January at 4pm. Our Theme will be "Home Is where the Heart Is." Venue: "Home of Light," Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: \$115 (includes food and accomm.) RSVP: Tuesday, 2 January 2018 (registration form and deposit required). Enquiries: Sr. M. Luka: (mob) 0439 537 843 / (email) sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

Pope Quote

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down. Pope Francis



Happy Anniversary

Anna & Jamie Calero (60th)

Happy Birthday

Jamie Calero



DIOCESAN OUTREACH

Parish Mission Statement

*At St Nicholas of Myra we strive to be an inclusive faith community.
We aim to build on our past, be grounded in Faith, live in Hope and grow in Love.
We will continue to build a spirit-filled and prayerful community whilst nurturing responsible stewardship, in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

The Institute for Mission 2018 Reflective Ministry Program

To Enthuse those involved in the ministries of Catholic communities.
Taking applications for the program they are offering. See notice board for more information or phone Fr Paul 0417441177, Donnie 0432042140 or Charbel 0410759795 or email: CONNECT@IFM.ORG.AU **Applications closing soon.**

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses Readers of the Word, Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying, Adult Servers and /or Acolytes. **Where:** St Nicholas of Myra Parish Meeting Room 1, on Thursdays from 7pm-9pm, commencing 15th February. Courses are FREE. **Bookings close on 8th February.** To obtain an enrolment form please see Parish office.

Grief to Grace Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. For an application form contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griegtograce.org

Carols by Candlelight, Silent Night Holy Night Kemps Creek on Friday 15th December at 6pm, The Pavilion, Kemps Creek Cemetery 230-260 Western Road, Kemps Creek. Lots of entertainment, food and much more.....



Volunteers for the homeless needed

The Order of Malta requires volunteers to visit 'homeless hotspots' around Parramatta. Volunteer drivers, nurses and paramedics are needed to provide this service to Parramatta's homeless. If you would like to learn more, please email info@smom.org.au

16th/17th December	Vigil	Parish Roster		10am	6pm
		7am	8.30am		
Acolytes	R Howard C Pemberton	A Ruzgas	R Kroon C Walsh	J Tabone J Jordan	V Graham J Simeon
Servers	L & L Smee	G Grady	B Payyappilly	W Ezekiel K Ross V Sebi	T Keane
Comm. Rep.	L Alimangoha	Required	M Prendeville	M Varua	C D'Mello
Reader	C Limjap	H Ryan	L Gal	P Samuelu	A.M Pletkan
E.M.	V Emerson K Pemberton M Svehla	L Davie J McSpadden S Sweeney	B Brainwood C D'Mello E Isaaks B Keavy H O'Connor B Oxlade P Wheller	M Gutierrez L Kochappu N Perera	A Alimangoha D Lee D Streher

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