



# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



Third Sunday of Advent Year B  
17th December 2017

Grounded in Faith    Grow in Love    Live 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; John 1:6-8,19-28

**John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.**

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

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

Wed & Thurs	20th, 21st	10am-11am
	Fri 22nd	11am-12noon
	Sat 23rd	9.30am-11.30am

## Individual

## Christmas Roster

There are still many vacancies to be filled on the Roster.

Roster can be found in the sacristy.

## 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, Neil Rodrigues, Daniella Siciliano, Jacob Silia, and Gregory Schultz **who died recently and for** Joy Bourke, Jean Cobden, Terry Cuttall, Matthew Edmunds, Jim & Sheila Fullerton, Max & Bruce Gale, Brendan & Melieta Jacobs, Patrick Kenny, Josip Matesa, Blain Oliver, Peg Williams and Jonathan Xerri **whose anniversaries occur at this time and for** Mary Armstrong, Dennis Bryant, Tania Felice, Godfrey Gomez, Peter & Frances Hendry, John Lee, Reg Levinge, John Nettar, 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, Johnny Falzon, Darren Gallagher, Yanka Garan, Pamela Gold, Patricia Hansan, Rose Kenny, Sue Herbert, Nathan King, Annie Langan, Rosemary Matthews, Kevin Maggs, Marya Matesa, Jane McCann, Daniel McEntee, Melissa McNamara, Fr George O'Mara, 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
- ◆ **Newmarch Nursing Home** Tuesday 19th December at 10.30am
- ◆ **Summit Care (Jamison Gardens)** Wednesday 20th December 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 from Sunday-Saturday at 7pm.

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour** prayer meeting Friday 22nd December at 7pm in PMR1.

### Next Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

### Pope Quote

Let us be **renewed** by God's mercy, let us be **loved by Jesus...** and let us become **agents of his mercy.**



Pope Francis

### This Week at St Nicholas

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19th December</b>		<b>Friday 22nd</b>
11.30am	AA Meeting	(Hall)	11am-12pm Individual Reconciliation
12.30pm	Legion of Mary	(Piety store)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20th December</b>		<b>Saturday 23rd</b>
10am-11am	Individual Reconciliation		9.30am-11.30am Individual Reconciliation
6pm	St Vincent de Paul Meeting		&
			5.00pm-5.45pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21st December</b>		
10am-11am	Individual Reconciliation		



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## PARISH / DIOCESAN OUTREACH

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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.

### SAVE THE DATE - "St Patrick's Day Community Listening" Sat 17 March

2018 Our Citizens Action Penrith Affordable Housing (CAPAH) has teamed up with Sydney Alliance to be involved with a "St Patrick's Day Community Listening" to be held in our local Penrith community on Sat 17 March 2018 from around 11am - 2pm. This is a day of listening to the broader community in Penrith on the issue of Affordable and secure housing. Please save the date and more information to be provided. We are calling on all our parishioners to assist us with this important community event. If you are interested in making a difference in our community, enabling our local voices be heard, please contact or text Carolyn on 0448 443 619.

### 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](mailto:CONNECT@IFM.ORG.AU) **Applications closing soon.**

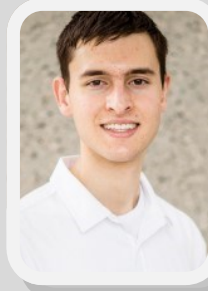
### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

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.

We warmly welcome  
our Seminarian

**GEORGE STANTON**  
to our Parish.

George will be with us until  
Christmas day.



### Happy Birthday

Pearl Levinge  
Lou Ryan  
Brian Wilcox

### Happy Anniversary

Anna & Jamie Calero (60th)





## DIOCESAN OUTREACH

### Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will shortly release its final findings on public hearings, and its recommendations, related to the Catholic Church in Australia. The Diocese of Parramatta once again offers its unreserved and deepest apologies to those many people who have suffered because of the child sexual abuse that has occurred in the context of Church ministry. In particular, the Diocese of Parramatta apologises to survivors of abuse and their families for the hurt and suffering this abuse has caused throughout their lives. During the Royal Commission, the Diocese of Parramatta has strived to engage in their processes with openness, transparency and a commitment to learning about our history so that our child protection policies and procedures are strengthened and there is restored confidence in Church ministry. The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au). For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website: [www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)

### 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, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm and will conclude it on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 accommodation) **RSVP:** Tuesday, 2 January 2018 (registration form and deposit required). Enquiries: Sr. M. Luka: (mob) 0439 537 843 /or (email) [sr.m.luka@bigpond.com](mailto:sr.m.luka@bigpond.com)

**New Parish Roster** has been emailed to all concerned. For those that do not have emails, the roster has been posted.

**Attention Altar servers**, Grace Nemadic and Bensen Payyappilly please collect your roster from office.

**Joseph Percival can you please contact the parish office 47212509.**

Enquiries about roster please contact  
Craig Walsh 0428 284 568 or [mamreintaid@gmail.com](mailto:mamreintaid@gmail.com)

23rd/24th December	Vigil	Parish Roster		6pm Christmas Eve Family Mass	
		7am	8.30am	10am	
Acolytes	J Buttigieg R Howard	J Sweeney	J Relunia R Kroon	C Pemberton D Welfare	J Tabone J Simeon
Servers	D & J Lestal		M Tickner	A Joseph E Moniz	X Whalen G Grady
Comm. Rep.	E Sicam	Alison Johnson	R Walsh	F Jackson	L Gal
Reader	C Limjap	H Ryan	E Isaaks	S Falleiro	To be advised
E.M.	R DeBono V Emerson K Smith	S Sweeney M Sultana A Yuzon	R Bryan G Burns B Keavy M Nyss H O'Connor B Oxlade P Wheller	P Samuelu M Stynes Need replacement	K Wrightson L Lufe A & N Calub J Buttigieg



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