



# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR C  
5TH DECEMBER 2021  
FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA (6 DEC)

Tel: (02) 4721 2509 | Website: [www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au](http://www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au) | P O Box 1868, Penrith 2751 |

@SNOMPenrith

## PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours 9am - 5 pm  
Lunch 1pm – 1.30pm (*Office closed*)

### PARISH STAFF

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joe Manjaly E: [joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Ever Bernaldez E: [AP@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:AP@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
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E: [sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Catechists:** Fred Keuneman E: [catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)  
**Volunteer Admin Support:** Margaret Cobden & Ursula Gomez

### PARISH EMERGENCY NUMBER: 4732 3039

During this Pandemic time **Craig Walsh** is our Health & Safety Coordinator. Contact 0428 284 568

**Nepean Hospital Chaplain:** Fr Porathur Joy (PJ)

**Deacon:** Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap

**RCIA Coordinators:** Ina & Norm Heffernan  
[inanorm@optusnet.com.au](mailto:inanorm@optusnet.com.au) Ph: 4732 1751



## PARISH SCHOOLS

St Nicholas Primary Principal :  
Ms Anita Knezevic Ph; 4752 3300  
St Mary Mackillop Primary Principal :  
Mr Scott Buchan Ph; 4724 3200



**WELCOME HOME**  
Our Church is open for all, regardless of vaccination status.  
Please follow COVID-19 signage.



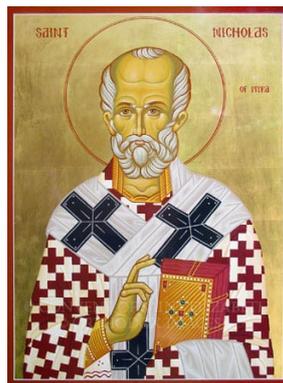
## HAPPY PATRONAGE FEAST DAY!

This weekend we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas, the Patron of our parish Church. Every year, 6th December is the feast day of St. Nicholas (St. Nicholas Day). He is one of the most popular saints commemorated in Eastern and western Church.

Nicholas was born at Patara, a seaside town in Licia, in southern Turkey, in the third century. He came from a good family that raised him as a Christian. When he was orphaned at a young age, Nicholas, remembering the rich young man in the Gospel, used his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the poor. He was elected Bishop of Myra, and under the emperor Diocletian was exiled and imprisoned. After being freed, he attended the Council of Nicea in 325. He died in Myra on 6 December 343.

One of the most ancient stories about Saint Nicholas involves a man with three daughters of marriageable age. The family was poor, and the young girls were in danger of being forced into prostitution, because their father could not afford to offer a suitable dowry. Hearing of their plight, at night St. Nicholas threw a bag of coins through an open window. He did this three times, but at the last time the father of the girls ran after St. Nicholas and caught him thanked and promised not to tell anyone.

Throughout Germany and near-by areas generally, the winter feast of Saint Nicholas (in Dutch, "Sint Nikolaas" and later "Sinteklaas"), and his patronage of the young, gave rise to the tradition of giving gifts on his feast day: on the Eve of his feast children would leave socks or shoes on a chair, or next to the fireplace, and go to sleep trusting that the following morning they would be filled with gifts, yes they were – such is the faith of a



believer! Do not forget to get the young ones to string up their stockings, and do not forget to fill them up. It will be an honour to the tradition of Sinteklaas or Santa Claus.

After the death of Saint Nicholas, his tomb at Myra soon became a place of pilgrimage; his relics were considered miraculous on account of a mysterious liquid that flowed from them, known as the "manna of St Nicholas."

After Licia was conquered by the Turks in the tenth century, Venetians attempted to make him their patron -- but sailors from Bari were able to acquire his relics first and brought them to their town in Puglia in 1087. Two years later they were buried in the crypt of a new Church, which the Baresi had built over the place where a Byzantine palace had once stood. The relics were placed under the altar by the reigning Pope, Urban II, as the Norman rulers of Puglia looked on. The translation of the relics of Saint Nicholas was seen in the Medieval period as an extraordinary event, and his sanctuary soon became an important goal for pilgrims, with the result that devotion to Saint Nicholas "of Bari" (rather than "of Myra") spread throughout the world.

St. Nicholas of Myra, Pray for us! Happy feast!  
✠ Liturgy team.

**Alone At Christmas: How to spend the Christmas Day if you don't have family around:** Christmas is the season for family and friends, this year your parish family is inviting you to take part in a 'Christmas Lunch' on Christmas Day together with the priests of the parish if you don't have a family around. Please RSVP with your name and phone number and number of attendees on the sheet in the foyer or through the parish office. If you know someone who is alone at Christmas, please invite them to our Parish Christmas Lunch.

## RCIA | NEXT WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

**The Gospel – Third Sunday of ADVENT Luke 3: 10-18.**  
**Discussion Topic: The Season of Christmas**

As Catholics we celebrate two unique 'Joy' Sundays: the **third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete, Latin for 'Rejoice')** and the **fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare, another Latin word for 'Rejoice')**.

As Christians, joy should be central to our nature. It should not be insincere or unnatural, but something effervescent, stemming from our sharing in Christ's vision of life. Jesus came to bring freedom, joy, and peace to people, not only in the past or in the future, but here and now. No one is more liberated than the Christian who follows Christ joyfully and with enthusiasm. That doesn't mean there won't be times of sadness in a Christian's life – everyone experiences times of pain, of sickness, of failure, of great loss. Allowing ourselves time to grieve and move on is an important part of life, and these experiences only bring temporary setbacks. Christian joy or happiness lies deep within our heart and is not at odds with physical and emotional pain or difficult situations.

**John the Baptist** could see beyond his time and place to something greater and he empowered people to believe - **to see beyond their current situation to see One Greater** - or, more specifically, **SOME-ONE** greater. John advocated dramatic changes in the lives of the baptised, and he compelled them to make practical, moral changes that would enhance the common good. Our role is not unlike that of John the Baptist, for it is our mission as Christians - whether lay persons, religious or priests - to bring people to sincere and honest conversion; a conversion that brings them face to face with Jesus and God and to conversion that brings real joy and happiness into their lives.

### OUR GOSPEL REFLECTION AND QUESTIONS

*What causes people to change their lives?*

- ✓ Is it guilt from past indiscretions?
- ✓ Is it hope for a better future? Or is it both?
- ✓ How has God changed your life?
- ✓ How have you changed morally?
- ✓ How has He changed your outlook on the future?

### For more information about joining the Catholic Church:

Ina & Norman Heffernan 4732 1751 inanorm@optusnet.com.au

## PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

**RECENTLY DECEASED** : Sr Sheila Ruane, Josie Carey, William Byrnes, Amneris Yassa, Brian Condon & all those who have died from COVID-19.

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES** : Fr Anto Pudusserry, Albert Thomas Palmer, Murray Ware, Paul Chambers, Jack McKnight, Peg Williams, Boleslawa & Stanislaw Gwiazda, Charlie & Doris Schembri and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**DECEASED** : Francisco Requermé Jr, PC George, Tania Felice, John Nettare, Dennis Bryant, Ron Howe, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Barry Wilson, Anesia Catubigan, Anita Sequeira, Mary Menezes, William D'Souza, Michael Menezes & all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**SICK** : Paul James, Joe Tabone, Anthony Ruzgas, Anthony Ruzgas Jnr, Connie Limjap, Salvatore Murru, Fay Smith, June Wilson, Matthew Thompson, Christopher Ware, Natasha Sullivan, Majid Lilleh, Easter Kalotay, Lyn O'Hare, Chris Ropati, Daryl Young, Jose Catubigan, Tu Tran, Elenita & Lolyn Velayo, Ann & Raymond Thompson, Suzan K. Ferreira, Rebecca Hackney, Terry Donnelly, Olivia Evans, Georgina Rastegorac, Baby William Martines, Ricardo Azores, Romas Levers, Yvonne Kore, Allen & Jackie Cullen, Charlie Camenzuli, Virgilio Cruz, Alexander Diana, Bernadette Garcia, Danilo Monilla, Henry Duffy, Filippa Borg, Nina Muscat, George Bell, Magi Gahli, Mildred Fitzgerald, Theresa Jordan, Jane McCann, Cirillo (Loy) Kabiling, Erlinda Kabiling, Georgie Brown, Patrick Grand and all who suffer from COVID-19.

**THANKSGIVING** : Happy 50th Marriage Anniversary to Hugh & Jane McCann (27 Nov)

## OUR MASS SCHEDULE

### Weekday

Monday	9.30am	
Tuesday	6.45am	9.30am
Wednesday	9.30 am	
		7.00pm (followed by Our Lady of Perpetual help Novena)
Thursday	9.30am	
Friday	6.45am	12.10pm

### Saturday

Mass	9.00am
Reconciliation	9.30am-10.30am & 5pm-5.45pm
Adoration	After Saturday Morning Mass
Filipino Mass	11.00am (1st Sat of the month)
Vigil Mass	6.00pm

### Sunday

Mass	7.00am, 8.30am
	10.00am* (no Children's Liturgy)
	6.00pm

Mass marked with an Asterisk \* is live streamed through our Facebook

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Orange Bus Trip** The Orange bus trip is now cancelled. Due to excess rain the cherry farms are closed. Please get your refund from the parish office.

**Christmas Roster** Please volunteer your ministry for Christmas this year. A sign on sheet has been prepared by Craig and is at the Foyer of the Church.

**The Hour of Grace** On Wednesday, 8th of December the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, we will be celebrating, "The Hour of Grace" at 12pm at St. Nicholas of Myra Church. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Sr. Pierina, as The Mystical Rose asking her to keep "The Hour of Grace" on the 8th of December. During this time she promised that whatever a person asked at this Hour would be granted. You are all welcome.

### **Celebrating Stuart's 90th Birthday**

We invite all parishioners to help us celebrate Stuart Paterson's 90th birthday. Our special Sacristan also celebrates in 2022, 50 years service to this parish so we would like your help to make this celebration a momentous one.

**Date and Time:** Sun 16th Jan, 2022 at 12noon  
**Venue:** Hornseywood Hall at Penrith RSL, Castlereagh Street  
**Cost:** Sit down 2 course meal \$47 per person or \$19.50 per child (4-12 yo). BYO drinks at the bar.

**Instructions:** Please organise a table of ten people and your groups payment and then call the Parish Office to book and pay for your table. Individuals or couples who are happy to sit with anyone can also call to book at a table.

**RSVP:** With names and payment by Friday 7 January



### **Christmas Mass Times**

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation:** Tues 21 Dec at 7pm

**Christmas Eve:** Fri 24 Dec at 6pm, 9pm & 11.30pm

**Christmas Day:** Sat 25 Dec 7am, 8.30am, 10am & 6pm

*Feast of the Holy Family:* Sunday 7am, 8.30am, 10am & 6pm

**No bookings required, pls come early to secure a seat. There will be no Outdoor Mass this year all Masses are in the Church.**



**Recently Deceased** Please pray for the reposed soul of Brian Condon, a much loved parishioner. His funeral will take place on Monday 6th December at 11.00am in our Church.





No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas

## BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Dear Parishioners, Thank you so much for your generous support last weekend to our Bishop's Christmas Appeal, for vulnerable young woman and their children. Your gift to Parramatta Catholic Foundation will support CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to provide a loving sanctuary for young mothers in crisis.

For those of you who may not have had a chance to support this important social service, please complete the giving envelope and place your gift in the receptacle provided or to the Parish Office. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and will be receipted. Your kind donation today will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child.

**THANK YOU!**

## PLANNED GIVING

*We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times*

### FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy

**BSB** 067 950  
**Acct No** 00004265  
**Acct Name** Parramatta Diocesan Clergy  
**Reference** 6029 [SURNAME DONATION]

### SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

**BSB** 067 950  
**Acct No** 00000487  
**Acct Name** Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church  
**Reference** [ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME]

Planned Giving Envelopes are available in the Foyer of the Church for pick up.

## SVDP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



The Penrith Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society invites parishioners to prepare Christmas hampers for the poor and disadvantaged families in the Penrith Area. Please see the Notice board for all details of Hamper categories, stickers and suggested items.

**HAMPER RETURN:** Hampers will need to be returned to the Parish Meeting Room 1 on **Sat 11th Dec** or **Sun 12th Dec**, or approximately 1 hour before or after each Mass.

**HAMPER DELIVERIES:** Once again, we ask for your generous help in the distribution of hampers. If you can spare an hour on: **Sat 18th Dec**, between 8am and 11:30am in PMR1. We will provide face masks, gloves, sanitiser etc, and we have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place to ensure the safety of our parishioners. If you have any enquiries, please contact Brian Brainwood on 0433 256 518 or Joe Tabone on 0412 234 651. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and God bless.

## PARISH ROSTER

### ROSTER 11/12 DECEMBER 2021

*Please Note: If you are unable to attend Mass as rostered below, please find a replacement. If you are able to fill in for the below positions, please present yourself to the Acolyte before Mass.*

**[VIGIL] Acolytes :** D Wheelahan, R Limjap  
**Altar Servers:** L & R Smee  
**Reader :** C Limjap  
**Eucharist Minister:** **Comm. Rep :** Volunteer Needed  
**MUSIC:** BNP Youth **AV:** Samara Dias

**[7.00 A.M] Acolytes :** D Wiggins, E Sajonia  
**Reader:** M Prendeville **Comm. Rep:** F Jackson  
**Eucharist Ministers:** R Bru, L Davie  
**AV :** Brian Rees

**[8.30 A.M] Acolytes :** C Walsh, C Limjap  
**Altar Servers:** G Peters, G Borg  
**Reader :** P Nematalla **Comm. Rep:** R Walsh  
**Eucharist Ministers :** O Nugpo, C Wright, P Wheller  
**MUSIC:** J Mizzi **AV:** Tuckers

**[10.00 A.M] Acolytes :** J Tabone  
**Altar Servers:** W Ezekiel, R Idris  
**Reader :** O Kiss **Comm. Rep:** L Gal  
**Eucharist Ministers :** C Gill, J Vella, K Pemberton  
**MUSIC:** AMDG Adult Choir **AV:** M Johnson

**[6.00 P.M] Acolytes :** M Tolentino  
**Altar Servers:** E Moniz  
**Reader:** E Marshall **Comm. Rep :** J Doman  
**Eucharist Ministers :** D Streher, K Wrightson  
**MUSIC :** CFC **AV :** S Shahoud

*Reminder: We need AV operators for the Christmas period. If you are available, please email the Parish Office*

## COVID-19 SAFETY



- **Our Church doors are open for all regardless of vaccination status.**
- We are now able to accommodate approximately 300 parishioners in the Church.
- All normal Mass times have resumed.
- We are listed as a COVID Safe business and an updated COVID-19 Safety plan can be found at the entrance of the doors.
- Please wear a mask.
- Please check in with the QR Code and show proof of check in to the door volunteer.
- Please place a red sign in between you and another family when sitting in the pews and observe 1 person per 2sqm outdoors social distancing at all times.
- Please occupy the middle of the pew first, to avoid contact with others. Those seated on the ends of the pew please exit first to avoid contact with others.
- There will be no sign of peace or singing by the congregation.
- **Members of a Choir (maximum of 10) must be double vaccinated.** They must send proof of vaccination to their Choir Leader and also have it on their person (digital or hard copy), ready for inspection at Mass, if asked.
- **Please process up the aisle for communion whilst maintaining a distance from the person in front of you. There are markings on the floor to assist you with social distancing.**



# Thanksgiving Offertory

I will give thanks to you, Lord,  
with all my heart.

Psalm 9:1

Your gift supports our parish to share Christ's message  
of love and salvation with all

**GIVE TO OUR PARISH**

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Address: 67 Ladbury Ave Penrith 2750

ABN #45694859807 / Lic 121977C



### SUMMER PROGRAM

4-Day Program (11-14 or 18-21 January 2022)

Lectures on history, philosophy,  
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Free program for ages 16-20

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[www.campion.edu.au/summer-program/](http://www.campion.edu.au/summer-program/)



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