St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
14th / 15th January 2023

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hour: Monday—Friday 9 am—5 pm

Lunch: 1pm – 1.30pm (*Office closed)*

Telephone: (02) 4521 2509

Email: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Website: www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Facebook: @SNOMPenrith

PARISH EMERGENCY NUMBER: 4732 3039

PARISH PRIESTS AND DEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Manjaly

E: joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Asst Priest: Fr Chinonye Akamadu

E: chuk.akamadu@parracatholic.org

Nepean Hospital Chaplain: Fr Porathur Joy (PJ)

Deacon: Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap

STAFF

Office Manager: Rodney Howard (M,Th,F)

E: manager@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Admin Assistant:

E: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Rodney Howard (T,W)

E: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Catechists: Margaret Wilson

E: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Volunteer Admin Support: Margaret Cobden

RCIA Coordinators: Allan & Josephine Linga

E: allan.linga@gmail.com

P: 0410 638 421

Health & Safety Officer: Craig Walsh

P:0428 284 568

ORGANISATIONS

St Vincent de Paul

Hub: 8861 9770

Catholic Care

E: enquiries@ccss.org.au

02 8843 2500

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Nicholas Primary Ph; 4752 3300

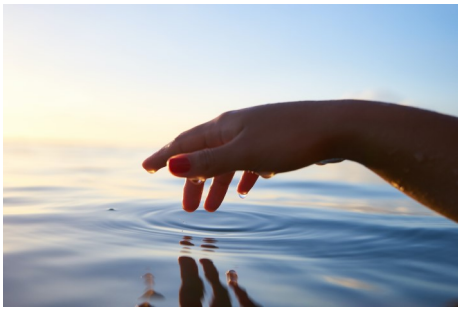
Principal : Mr. Tim Van Tempest

St Mary Mackillop Primary Ph; 4724 3200

Principal: Mr. Scott Buchan

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.



The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

Living the Gospel – Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

Scriptural context – Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

Gospel Focus – Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.

✍ Greg Sunter

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Image Credit: Liturgia 2022

DIOCESAN NEWS

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

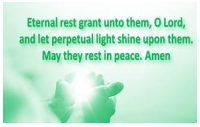
The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence this year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at https://officeforrship.org.au/

SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN OUR PARISH AND ENROLMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Diocese of Parramatta WYD23 Pilgrimage Registrations Open!

Registration for WYD23 in Lisbon has now opened. Young people aged 16-35 can now view our itinerary, inclusions, indicative pricing, register and pay their $800 deposit to secure their place. Limited spaces still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit www.parrawyd.org

We wish Catherine Gill a very happy birthday for 14th January.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Cardinal George Pell

who entered eternal life on **11th January 2023**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Irene Dobranski

Her funeral will be held on **Tuesday 17th January at 11.00am**

She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED: Cardinal George Pell, Fr Constantin Iana, Francisco Taracatac Jnr, Mary Nelson, Estella Yu Bolisay Chan and all who have died from COVID-19.

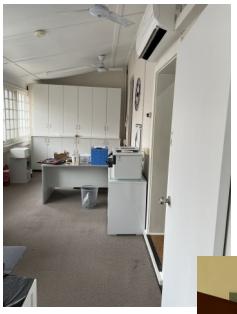
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Mark McSpadden, Elbert Goh, Carmela Sultana, Dorrie Bertles, Antdon Nieuwenoijk, Jerry D'souza, Rita Pathirana, Mallika Phillip, Antonio Del Monte, Freddie & Carmela Fenech, Ruby Lesseps-Fonseca and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

DECEASED: Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Margaret Donnolley, John Nettar, Ismenia Moniz, Fausta Da Costa, Sandra Bastoli and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

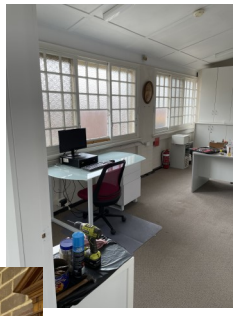
SICK: Robert Galino, Theresa Jordan, Michael Nolan Nad Coder, Herve Rochecousta, Ariane Robert, Bill Hardy, Bob Hardy, Kieren Brocktoff, Rita Bonello, Charles Tabone, Billy Downes, Sue Wheelahan, Heather Whitborn, Phil Thatcher, Michael Vella, Stanley Mascarenhas, Trevor Rowe, John Vella, John Wakeling, Nicholas Agius, Baby Capri Marshall, Melisa Maiseeh, Tracy Mulla, Lou Doyle, Norm Heffernan, Robin Harkin, Lisa Sperineck, Anne Maree Geagea, Roger Wilkom, Margaret Bell, Antonio Malicdem, Jenet Arellano, Marianne Brigden, Nancy Galon, Peter Farrugia, Tadeus Gwiazda, Danielle Kazare, Sheryl Oszust, Ting Cecila, Moises Millena, Olga Kiss, Sydney Morris, Thanda Manjaly, Adelia Delapaz, David Wakeling, Jane McCann, George and Lena Caruana and all who suffer from COVID-19.

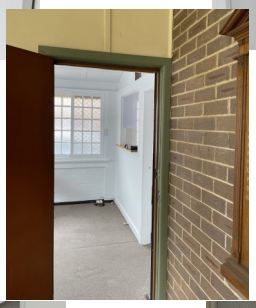
Office Renovations

Some pictures to show the progress so far.

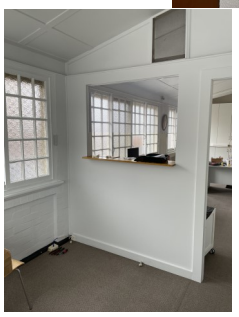


Main Office

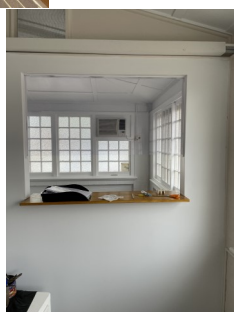




Entrance



Reception Area



PLANNED GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times

FIRST COLLECTION ***goes to the Clergy Foundation***

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]**

PARISH NEWS

Mass Readings for 21st / 22nd January 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	
1st Reading	Isaiah 8: 23 - 9:3
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 26: 1, 4, 13 - 14
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1: 10 - 13, 17
Gospel	Matthew 4: 12 - 23

MASS SCHEDULE: SUMMER HOLIDAYS From 26th December—27th January	
Mondays - Friday	9.30am only
Saturday	9.00am mass followed by adoration and reconciliation
Saturday	5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday	7.00 am, 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 6.00 pm

Sacramental Program

Confirmation

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Confirmation will open on our website, stnicholasofmyra.org.au
on
Wednesday 25th January 2023
and close on
Wednesday 8th February 2023

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Practice afternoon and Reconciliation

To be eligible for Confirmation,
Children must be in Year 5 or above, must be baptised, have made their First Reconciliation, and received First Holy Communion

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at

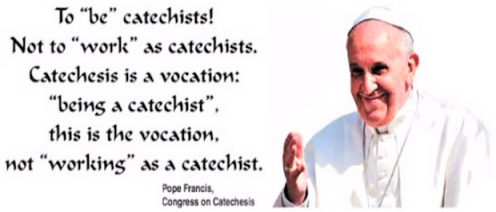
St Nicholas Parish
Ph:4721 2509
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Parish Office Renovations

The Parish office in undergoing renovations at the moment to make it a more friendly and welcoming environment for parishioners and visitors. A new reception area has been created and the office work area is being reorganised and painted. This work is expected to be completed this week and we will have an open house next weekend after each of the masses.

Come, join our Catechist team, 2023.

We need more Catechists for the next school year to work in the ministry of spreading the Gospel message to the Catholic students in our 6 local State schools. Ongoing training, mentoring and excellent resources available. If interested please contact Catechist Coordinator, Margaret Wilson at the Parish Office, (02) 47212509, catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au.



SAVE THE DATE

The Parish will be holding a Lenten Reflection for all Acolytes, Ministers at the Altar, Readers, Commentators, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on

SATURDAY March 18th

Further details to follow in coming weeks

LOST PROPERTY

A number of eye glasses and other jewellery have been found in the Church over recent months, we have placed these in a "Lost Property" box in the Foyer. Please have a look and claim what is yours.

CALENDAR

Monday 16/1	Tuesday 17/1 St Anthony Memorial	Wednesday 18/1	Thursday 19/1	Friday 20/1	Saturday 21/1 St Agnes Memorial	Sunday 22/1 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
9.30am Mass	**9.30am Mass** 11.00am Funeral Irene Dobranski	**9.30am Mass** 11.00am Legion of Mary in PMR1	**9.30am Mass**	**9.30 am Mass** 7.30pm BMP Mass	**9.00am Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation** **5.00pm Reconciliation** **6.00pm Mass**	**7.00am Mass** **8.30am Mass** **10.00am Mass** **6.00pm Mass**

PARISH ROSTER 21st / 22nd JANUARY

If you are unable to attend the Mass please find a replacement.

	Acolyte MATA	Altar Servers	Community Rep	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Music	AV
Vigil	R Howard D Wheelahan		N Perera	S Perera	M Svehla C Limjap	CD	J Linga
7.00am	E Sajonia R Sajonia		M Scicluna	S Paterson	R Bru L Davie		B Rees
8.30am	J Jordan M Tolentino	G Borg M Ostrea	J Doman	M Prendeville	Y Baccan U Gomez	CD	U Gomez
10.00am	J Relunia R Wood	M Credo M Credo	D Dawson	P Samuelu	M Nyss M Knox	CD	M Johnson
6.00pm	C Clark N Nepomuceno	J Joseph I Jobin	C D'Mello	K Smith	L D'Lima D Streher	CD	S Shahoud

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