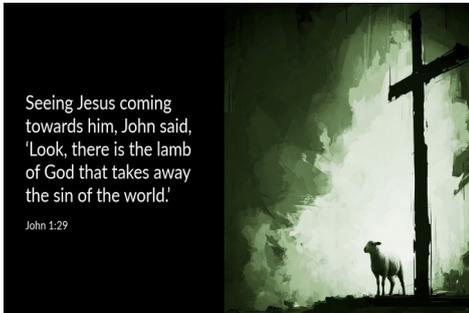




St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



Second Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A 17 / 18 January 2025



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.

Questions for Adults

- Q. Why was it necessary for John to draw the crowd's attention to Jesus?
- Q. Where do you see an 'us and them' attitude in the world (or your own community) today?

✉ Greg Sunter

© Liturgy Help 2026

Image Credit: Liturgy Help 2026

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hour: Monday—Friday 9 am—5 pm

Lunch: 1pm – 1.30pm (*Office closed*)

Telephone: (02) 4721 2509

Email: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Website: www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Facebook: @SNOMPernith

Parish Emergency Number: 4732 3039

PARISH PRIESTS AND DEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Manjaly

E: joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Rojan George

E: rojan.cheriyadan@parracatholic.org

Deacon: Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap

Nepean Hospital Chaplain:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

E: Zvonimir.Gavranovic@parracatholic.org

STAFF

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

E: parishmanager@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

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E: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Catechists Coordinator: Margaret Wilson

E: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Volunteer Admin Support: Margaret Cobden

RCIA Coordinators: Allan & Josephine Linga

E: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

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 : Miss Kirsty Reynolds

St Mary Mackillop Primary Ph: 4724 3200

Principal: Mr. Scott Buchan

PARISH NEWS

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

When completing a mass intention envelope for an anniversary of a death, please specify if the mass is for:

- only the anniversary date
- weekend masses (added to Prayers of the Faithful)
- anniversary date and weekend masses

All names will be included in the Bulletin.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Victoria Vella

and for her family

Her Requiem Mass will be held on

Thursday 22 January at 11am

✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Mary Healy

and for her family

Her Requiem Mass will be held on

Friday 23 January at 11am

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED: Virginia O. Amado, Victoria Vella, Mary Healy, Patricia Smith

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Dorrie Bertles, Andita Gastrock, Rudolph L Fonseca, Jorge Cajayon Geraldez, Savaria Buttigieg, Matthew Edmunds, Ildefonsa Fronda, Amelia Sarmiento

DECEASED: Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, John Nettar, Margaret Donnelly, Paul Borg

SICK: Peter Tomlinson

Kyla Aggar, Isabella Agius, Nicholas Agius, Jenet Arellano, Kimberley Balandra, Zig Barglik, Ralph Beck, Margaret Bell, Ingrid Bentham, Vicenta Bernante, Noel Bernardo, Ivan Bracar, Karan Bradburn, Brian Brainwood, Marianne Brigden, Aiden Burke, Ting Cecilia, Cliff, Mick C, Claudia & Alfredo Cabrera, Brenda & Ronwald Cadandy, Jose & Norma Calabetto, Aiden Campbell, George & Lena Caruana, Fr David Catteral, Steven Clauser, John Cluney, Mark Cluney, Nad Coder, Dylan Conway, Christine Court, Elizabeth Dawson, Adelia Delapaz, Raymond D'Lima, Diana Dooley, Lou Doyle, Helen Dowling, Holland D'Souza, Debbie Dunn, Joe Farrugia, Peter Farrugia, Theo Fitzgerald, Sister Theresa Formosa, Cheyne Fynn, Robert Galino, Nancy Galon, Elwyn Geerin, Peter Gill, Tim Green, Tadeus Gwiazda, Olive Gyford, Kellie Huggett, Kelly Ibram, Kellie Imray, Theresa Jordan, Danielle Kazare, Baby Yuri Pavon Lara, Helen Lazarus, Ric Limjap, Nikola Ljubic, Mary & Steve Kukac, Josephine Magro, Melisa Maiseeh, Baby Capri Marshall, Nathan Martin, Sue Martin, Stanley Mascarenhas, Bryan & Kay McInerney, Moises Millena, Nympha Miller, Sandra Miller, Angeliq Kara Manolis, Sydney Morris, Tracy Mulla, Jacek Nawrot, Delia Nazal, Herminigilda & Donnel Nazel, Dianne Nelson, Eric Nepomuceno, Bruce Newham, Colleen Nolan, Maria Nyss, Zeny Oringo, Elsie Pajeta, Marios Pericleous, Pam Pizzuto, Baby Harold Francis Eastman Reid, Ariane Robert, Herve Rochecousta, Trevor Rowe, Daniel Solomon Rowlands, Arren Samia, Norman Samuelu, Jason Sanderson, Brian Scott, Roseanne Shirley, Sabbir Siddique, Valentino Smiroleo, Lisa Sperineck, Brian Sullivan, Joe Tabone, Lorie Tabone, Alan Tago, Carmela Talos, Theresa M Taylor, George Try, Robert Turner, Baby Charlotte Vella, Michael Vella, Susan Voros, Ron Vukovic, Edward Wagner, Milton Watts, David Wakeling, Heather Whitborn, Bob Wrightson, Connie Xerri, Michelle Zotz, Thomas Zotz.

Mass Readings for 24 / 25 January

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st Reading | Isaiah 8 : 3 - 9: 3 |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 26: 1, 4, 13 - 14 |
| 2nd Reading | 1 Corinthians 1: 10 - 13, 17 |
| Gospel | Matthew 4: 12 - 23 |

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

RENEWAL TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

We thank you sincerely for your generous service and commitment to our Parish community. Your ministry, given so freely, is deeply appreciated and is a great blessing to our Parish. As you may recall, two years ago we gathered in the Parish Hall to complete Safeguarding Training Modules 1, 2, and 3. In line with Diocesan requirements, it is now time to complete the renewal training, which consists of Modules 4 and 5. This renewal is **mandatory for all volunteers** involved in Parish ministry.

To support you, we have arranged in-person renewal training sessions on the following evenings:

- **Monday 10 February**
- **Monday 17 February 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Both sessions will cover the required renewal content.

Alternatively, you may choose to complete the renewal training **online** at your convenience on: learning.safeguarding.org.au.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance with registration or access to the online modules, please do not hesitate to contact Rodney Howard, Parish Safeguarding Champion.

Once again, thank you for your faithful service and for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming parish for all.

SICK LIST

If any of your loved ones who are on our sick list have recovered from their illness through our continued prayers, can you please contact the Parish office to let us know so they can be taken off the list.

PLANNED GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship
FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy Foundation

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| BSB | 067 950 |
| Acct No | 100003570 |
| Acct Name | Parramatta Diocesan Clergy |
| Reference | 6029 [SURNAME DONATION] |

SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BSB | 067 950 |
| Acct No | 100001692 |
| Acct Name | Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church |
| Reference | [ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME] |

PARISH NEWS

MASS SCHEDULE: SUMMER HOLIDAYS From 26 December 2025 - 31 January 2026

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Mondays - Friday | 9.30am ONLY |
| Saturday | 9am mass followed by adoration and reconciliation |
| Saturday | 5pm Reconciliation 6pm Vigil |
| Sunday | 7am, 8.30am, 10am, 6pm |

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CONFIRMATION 2026

| | |
|---|--|
| Online Enrolments | Open: Wednesday 4 February Close: Wednesday 18 February |
| Parent Information Session | Tuesday 24 February 7.00pm in Church |
| Commitment Masses | Saturday 28 February 6.00pm Sunday 1 March 8.30am, 10.00am, 6.00pm |
| Family Sessions | Saturday 7 March, 14 March, 21 March 4.30pm Sunday 8 March, 15 March, 22 March 8.30am |
| Practice & 2 nd Rite of Reconciliation | Tuesday 21 April 6.15pm |
| Confirmation Masses | Thursday 23 April 5.00pm and 7.30pm |

PARKING

For the safety of our parishioners especially children and the elderly, please **only park in the designated car parking space** in the carpark.



There are clear signs to indicate where **NOT** to park particularly at the entrance to the carpark between the hall and PMR1

For disabled parking please ensure that only those with disabled parking permits are using these allocated parking spaces.

PLEASE HELP KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

ST NICK'S GROUPS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

10.00am Mass Sunday

RESUMES ON 1ST FEBRUARY

MOTHERS WHO PRAY FOR THEIR CHILDREN

7.00pm Tuesday in PMR1

RESUMES ON 4 FEBRUARY

PRAYER GROUP

6.30pm 2nd and last Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall.

RESUMES ON 27 JANUARY

YOUNG AT HEART - over 50's

10.15am 3rd Tuesday of month in PMR1

RESUMES ON 17 FEBRUARY

LEGION OF MARY

11.00am Wednesday in PMR1

ZUMBA CLASSES

7.00pm Thursday in Hall

ST NICK'S FLICKS MOVIE NIGHT

7.00pm last Friday of the month in Hall

RESUMES IN FEBRUARY

Fr Joe's 50th Birthday Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who made this a special celebration.



The Parish will be taking photos during major liturgical celebrations and other events to promote the Parish mission and may use these photos in the Parish Bulletin, Facebook page or website. If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Office.

CALENDAR

| Mon 19/1 | Tue 20/1 | Wed 21/1 St Agnes Memorial | Thu 22/1 | Fri 23/1 | Sat 24/1 St Francis de Sales Memorial | Sun 25/1 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass | 9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Mass 10.00am Catechist Mtg | 9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 11.00am Legion of Mary | 9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 11.00am Funeral Victoria Vella | 9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10.00am Catechist Mtg 11.00am Funeral Mary Healy | 9.00am Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass | 7.00am Mass 8.30am Mass 10am Mass 6.00pm Mass |

PARISH ROSTER 24 / 25 JANUARY 2026

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT

| | Acolyte MATA | Altar Servers | Community Rep | Reader | Eucharistic Ministers | Music | AV |
|---------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|----------|---------------|
| Vigil | Joseph Buttigieg Rodney Howard | Nathan Couto Evelin Hasna | Lauren Hasna | Jacinta Wheelahan | Lee Scully Jessica Couto | CD | Sheldon Couto |
| 7.00am | Alan Barnes | <i>Not required</i> | Margaret Scicluna | Yvonne Baccan | Louisa Davie Bradley Whiticker | No Music | Sharon Clarke |
| 8.30am | Michael Tolentino Remy Wood | Emmanuel Aurisch Jacob Barratto | Rose Walsh | Llewelyn Ross | Erik Deveza Lyn Olander Kathleen Pemberton Darlene Streher Peter Wheller | CD | Lesi Nagata |
| 10.00am | Jun Relunia Johan Soertsz | Andrew Johnson Amelia Ross | Hanna Evangelista | Allan Johnson | Arnel Alimangohan Mary Knox | CD | Mark Johnson |
| 6.00pm | Aish Sebastian Jose-Elmer Simeon | Francis Obama Angelo Aish | Carolyn D'Mello | Margaret Wilson | Ninea Nepomuceno Emma Clark | CD | Rodney Howard |

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- 2021 RMA AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS
- 2021 | Cambridge Park and Penrith
- 2022 | Cambridge Park, Kingswood & Werrington
- 2021 | Cambridge Park and Kingswood
- 2021 | Penrith and Werrington
- 2020 | Cambridge Park, Kingswood & Penrith
- 2019 | Kingswood

- MULTI AWARD WINNING AGENCY | SUBURB WINNER
- 2023 | Cambridge Park and Penrith
- 2022 | Cambridge Park, St Marys and Werrington
- 2021 | Cambridge Park, Kingswood & Penrith
- 2020 | Cambridge Park and Penrith
- 2017 | Claremont Meadows

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