



St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



20th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A 15 / 16 August 2026

"Great is your faith!
Let it be done for
you as you wish."

Matthew 15:28

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: @SNOMPENRITH

Parish Emergency Numbers:

4732 3039 or 0416 910 334

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

Admin Assistant: Sharon Clarke (Th, F)

E: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Rodney Howard (T,W)

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

From the perspective of ... A disciple.

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

Historical Context ... Who were the Canaanites?

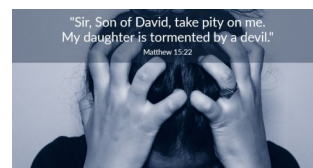
When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the 'Promised Land' they sought was the land of Canaan (approximately the area of modern Israel, TransJordan, Syria and Lebanon). Here they were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites and to subdue the land. (Exodus 23:23-24) The Israelites never successfully removed all the Canaanites from the Palestine region. By the time of Jesus, the Israelites had established themselves in the region between Judea in the south and Galilee in the north, while the original inhabitants of the area had been 'squeezed out' – predominantly to the north. The Canaanites were dispossessed of their land by the Israelites and it is easy to see why there was tension between them.

Scriptural Context

This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew's gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.

"Sir, Son of David, take pity on me.
My daughter is tormented by a devil."

Matthew 15:22



✍ Greg Sunter

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PARISH NEWS

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on **Saturday 29 August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown**. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day.

The Confirmation will take place on
Tuesday 1 September, 2026
at 7:30pm at the Cathedral.

Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW **before Monday 17 August, 2026**. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

RECENTLY DECEASED



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Charles Micallef

and for his family

His Requiem Mass will be held on

Thursday 20 August at 11am

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED: Charles Micallef, Fr Eugene Stockton

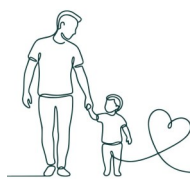
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Manuela Uy, Estelita & Reynaldo Alminaza, Lucy Saenz de Sicilia Alverado, Joyce David

DECEASED: Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, John Nettare, Margaret Donnelly, Paul Borg, Amy Gose, Claude, Evelyn & Desmond Fernandez, Ada & James Thompson, Warren Saithan, Virgilio Nazal, Joe Culhane

SICK:

Giselle Antoinette A, Mark Agar, Isabella Agius, Nicholas Agius, Jenet Arellano, Marylou Bailen, Kimberley Balandra, Zig Barglik, Jude Delfin Bayot, Ralph Beck, Riley Beecham, Margaret Bell, Ingrid Bentham, Vicenta Bernante, Noel Bernardo, Alex Biana, Ivan Brcar, Karan Bradburn, Julie Brenner, Marianne Brigden, Aiden Burke, Ting Cecilia, Cliff, Mick C, Claudia & Alfredo Cabrera, Brenda & Ronwald Cadandy, Jose & Norma Calabetto, Aiden Campbell, George & Lena Caruana, 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, M D'Souza, Debbie Dunn, Joe Farrugia, Peter Farrugia, Maria Anita Ferrer, Theo Fitzgerald, Sister Theresa Formosa, Cheyne Fynn, Robert Galino, Nancy Galon, Elwyn Geerin, Peter Gill, Tadeus Gwiazda, Olive Gyford, John Hill, Kellie Huggett, Kelly Ibram, Kellie Imray, Theresa Jordan, Danielle Kazare, Baby Alfred Knowles, Olga Kiss, Lara Langon, Baby Yuri Pavon Lara, Helen Lazarus, Ric Limjap, Nikola Ljubic, Mary Kukac, Josephine Magro, Melisa Maisseeh, Angelique Kara Manolis, Baby Capri Marshall, Nathan Martin, Sue Martin, Stanley Mascarenhas, Bryan & Kay McNerney, Moises Millena, Nympha Miller, Sandra Miller, Sydney Morris, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Tracy Mulla, Jacek Nawrot, Delia Nazal, Donnel Nazal, Dianne Nelson, Bruce Newham, Colleen Nolan, Maria Nyss, Zeny Oringo, Aurora Ostrea, Elsie Pajeta, Maria Pamen, Marios Pericleous, Pam Pizzuto, Ariane Robert, Herve Rochecousta, Luisa Emily Rosales, Trevor Rowe, Daniel Solomon Rowlands, Arren Samia, Norman Samuelu, Jason Sanderson, Roseanne Shirley, Sabbir Siddique, Len Sigle, Valentino Smiroleo, Lisa Sperineck, Brian Sullivan, Joe Tabone, Lorie Tabone, Alan Tago, Carmela Talos, Maria Tamer, Theresa M Taylor, Alicia Tecson, George Try, Robert Turner, Baby Charlotte Vella, Michael Vella, Susan Voros, Ron Vukovic, Edward Wagner, Milton Watts, David Wakeling, Heather Whitborn, Racheal Wilson, Bob Wrightson, Connie Xerri, Baby Stella Maria Zanette, Michelle Zotz, Thomas Zotz.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST



The Parish will be organising a **'Breakfast with Dad and family'** on Father's Day 6 September with the help of Couples for Christ.

The tickets will be available to buy from next weekend for \$8 per person.

All the proceeds will go to support the sick and retired Clergy of the Diocese.

SECURITY FENCE & GATES

The installation has been completed around the perimeter of the Church grounds.

Please be advised that the entrance gates will automatically lock each night at 10.30pm.

PARISH YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP - OVER 16'S

Next Meeting: Saturday 22 August 4:30 – 6pm, in PMR2



You are invited to attend a

Married Couples' RETREAT

"Reflect, Renew & Reconnect"

Saturday 5th September 2026

Bishop Bede Heather Centre,
1 Marion Street, Blacktown

8:30am to 4:30pm

\$45 per couple
Bookings essential
Places strictly limited
Register at:
parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/

Sessions

- Expressions of Love
- Living your Vocation of Marriage
- 7 Principles of making Marriage Work
- Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit
- Couple Prayer + Commitment Ceremony + Mass with Bishop Vincent

Included

Lunch + refreshments

PLANNED GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship
FIRST COLLECTION goes to supporting the Priests of the Diocese.

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

SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

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

PARISH NEWS

Mass Readings for 22 / 23 August 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

1st Reading	Isaiah 22: 19 - 23
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 137: 1 - 3, 6, 8
2nd Reading	Romans 11: 36 - 36
Gospel	Matthew 16: 13 - 20

YOUNG AT HEART GATHERING

(For over 50s)

Tuesday 18 August

After the 9.30am mass

at 10.15am in PMR1

Please come along with your friends to enjoy some light refreshments and to have a chat.



Please come and join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will celebrate our Thanksgiving mass for

**Milestone Birthdays and
Wedding Anniversaries and
the 180th Anniversary of the
Apparition of our Lady of La Salette
at the 6pm Vigil Mass on 19 September 2026**

- ◆ We celebrate all those who celebrate milestone birthdays this year, 18th, 21st, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, 80th, 90th and those over 90 years of age.
- ◆ We celebrate all those couples who are celebrating their 1st, or quinquennial (i.e. 5th, 10th, 15th, every 5th year) wedding anniversary this year.

To register please contact the Parish Office

on 4721 2509 or

parishmanager@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RECONCILIATION 2026

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING Tuesday 18 August 7pm in the Church

If you have not enrolled your child or grandchild please come to the information evening and complete an enrolment form.

COMMITMENT MASSES

Saturday 22 August 6pm

Sunday 23 August 8.30am, 10am, 6pm

Discover the Path to Catholic Faith with RCIA

Curious about the Catholic faith?

If you're an adult interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or thinking about becoming Catholic, we warmly invite you to join our **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** journey.

Our first information meeting will take place on

**Wednesday 9 September
at 7.00 pm in our PMR 1.**

To find out more or register your interest, please contact the Parish office on 02 4721 2509 or joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Please share with your families and friends about this Information evening.

RCIA is a welcoming and relaxed program where you can discover the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church and ask questions in a friendly, supportive environment.

Fr. Joe



SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR



We congratulate Sharon Falleiro who has been appointed as our new Sacramental Coordinator.

She will commence on the 9 September and will be working in the Parish Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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 17/8	Tue 18/8	Wed 19/8	Thu 20/8 St Bernard Memorial	Fri 21/8 St Pius X Memorial	Sat 22/8 The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Memorial	Sun 23/8 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time
					Reconciliation Commitment Masses	
9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass	6.45am Mass 9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am - 3pm Deanery Mtg 10.15am Young at Heart 10.30am Mother's who Pray for their Children 7pm Parent Information Evening Reconciliation 7pm Mother's who Pray for their Children	9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am - 3pm Clergy Gathering 11am Legion of Mary 7pm Mass followed by Novena of our Lady of Perpetual Help	9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 11am Funeral Charles Micallef 7pm Zumba	6.45am Mass 11.40am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 12.10pm Mass 7.30pm Mass BNP	9am Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 4pm Parish Youth Group over 16's 5pm Reconciliation 6pm Mass	7am Mass 8.30am Mass 10am Mass - Children's Liturgy 11.45am Baptisms 6pm Mass

PARISH ROSTER 22 / 23 August 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	Jenny Hogan Johan Soertsz	Dominic & Matilda Ear Shaun & Shenol Perera	Natasha Joseph	Joan Torres	Lee Scully Marcel Ugochukwu	Heart & Soul	BK Ugochukwu
7.00am	Alan Barnes Amanda Clarke	<i>Not required</i>	Nonye Amah	Sherica Valladores	Luisa Davie Yvonne Baccan	No Music	Vinta Jobin
8.30am	Michael Tolentino Manuel Credo Jnr	Marco & Manuel Credo	Jennifer Letran	Sue Von Bock	Erik Deveza Monica Gutierrez Lyn Olander Peter Spiteri Rebecca Spiteri	Jeffrey Mizzi	Phil Margerison
10.00am	Maryanto Josio Jun Relunia	Andrew Johnson Amelia Ross	Allan Johnson	Hanna Evangelista	Andrew Kozman Carmen Vella	Br David & Marian Choir	Mark Johnson
6.00pm	Jose-Elmer Simeon Aish Sebastian Angelo Aish	Francis Obama	Cheryl Clark	Queenie Reales	Ninea Nepomuceno Carolyn D'Mello	JY Family Choir	Sharon Clarke

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RMA AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2023 | Cambridge Park and Penrith

2022 | Cambridge Park, Kingswood & Werrington

2021 | Cambridge Park and Kingswood

2020 | Penrith and Werrington

2019 | Kingswood

Multi Award Winning Agency | SUBRUB 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

Gizzelle Powell 0428 934 618 | 02 4732 6007
 gizzellepowell@remax.com.au 233 High Street, Penrith, NSW



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