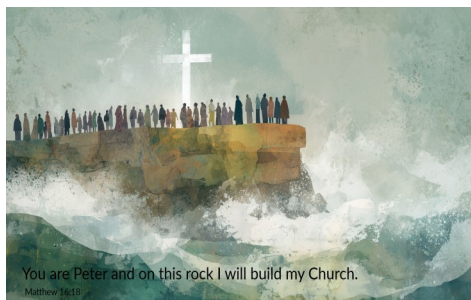




St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A 22 / 23 August 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: @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

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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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

Have you thought? What's in a name?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When a new Pope is chosen, he takes on a new name to indicate the new role and the new life he is beginning.

Living the Gospel ... Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

Gospel Focus

Jesus' words to Peter, 'on this rock I will build my church', are obviously the gospel writers' words and not the words of Jesus himself. (Jesus did not set out to build a church community; that did not emerge until later.) In fact they appear only in this particular gospel. The other synoptic gospels have Peter's confession of faith but not these words attributed to Jesus. The words are sometimes understood as asserting that Peter himself is the rock on whom the church will be built, rather than his declaration of faith being the rock. This has then sometimes become confused with the line of popes beginning with Peter.

✍ Greg Sunter

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Image Credit: Liturgy Help 2026

PARISH NEWS

HOLY SHROUD EXHIBITION

Be a witness to the **Holy Shroud Exhibition** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, from **6 – 13 September 2026**. A special presentation, "**The Shroud Puzzle Solved,**" by author, journalist and Shroud expert **Mr William West** will be held on **Sunday, 6 September at 1:00 pm** in Cloister Hall.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Moira Lawson

and for her family

Her funeral service will be held on

Monday 24 August at 11am

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Micheline Scafetta

and for her family

Her Requiem Mass will be held on

Thursday 27 August at 11am

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED: Moira Lawson, Micheline Scafetta, Fernando Guevara, Virginia Albuquerque, Adrian D'Souza

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Linda Perry, Leonard Cobden, Francis PV, Clare Parker, Esma Cram, Damiana Ordonez, Ester Villanueva, Joseph Thomas, Joseph Mifsud, Milka Static, Margaret (Peggy) Dowling

DECEASED: Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, John Nettar, Margaret Donnelly, Paul Borg, Godfrey & Ursula Gomez, Yvonne Hoobs, Peter Chiew

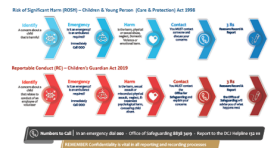
SICK:

Giselle Antoinette A, Mark Agar, Isabella Agius, Nicholas Agius, Janet 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 Brerar, 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 McInerney, 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, Bob Wrightson, Connie Xerri, Baby Stella Maria Zanette, Michelle Zotz, Thomas Zotz.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to respond to safeguarding concerns, complaints and reports

The Diocese of Parramatta commits to a Complaints Management Process which is effective and accessible, with a focus on ensuring the complainant is supported in the process.



BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL



On the weekend of **5 / 6 September** there will be a special collection for the Clergy Support Foundation's Bishop's Father's Day Appeal. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside.

Your thoughtful gift and prayerful support are gestures of love for our priests – our spiritual fathers who faithfully serve our Western Sydney and Blue Mountains community.

More information in next week's bulletin.

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 29 / 30 August 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

1st Reading	Jeremiah 20: 7 - 9
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 62: 2 - 6, 8 - 9
2nd Reading	Romans 12: 1 - 2
Gospel	Matthew 16: 21 - 27

ST NICK'S FLICK MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday 28 August at 7.00pm

we will be showing

Philomena



A true story of one mother's search for her lost son. Together with a journalist they embark on a journey of discovery revealing the extraordinary life of her son.

Please come along with your family and friends.

Popcorn, soup and drinks will be provided.

Congratulations to

Fr Zvonimir

who celebrated the 54th anniversary of his ordination on the **26 August**.



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 over the weekend of 29 / 30 August for \$8 per person at each Mass.

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RECONCILIATION 2026

FAMILY SESSION 1

Saturday 29 August 4.30pm

Sunday 30 August 8.30am

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

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

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 24/8 St Bartholomew Feast	Tue 25/8	Wed 26/8	Thu 27/8 St Monica Memorial	Fri 28/8 St Augustine Memorial	Sat 29/8 The Passion of John the Baptist Memorial	Sun 30/8 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 11am Funeral Moira Lawson	6.45am Mass 9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10.30am Mother's who Pray for their Children 7pm Mother's who Pray for their Children 7pm Liturgy Mtg	9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10.30am Mass Summit Care 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 10.30am Mass Thornton Park 11am Funeral Micheline Scafetta 7pm Zumba	6.45am Mass 11.40am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 12.10pm Mass 7pm St Nicks Flicks Movie Night	9am Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 4.30pm Reconciliation Family S1 5pm Reconciliation 6pm Mass	7am Mass 8.30am Mass 8.30am Reconciliation Family S1 10am Mass - Children's Liturgy 11.45am Baptisms 6pm Mass

PARISH ROSTER 29 / 30 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	Joseph Buttigieg Jenny Hogan	Llyla Tiamson Celine & Vivian Chanpowsee	Margaret Wilson	Carol Wright	Jim Fullerton Lee Scully	CD	Sheldon Couto
7.00am	Alan Barnes Maryanto Josio	<i>Not required</i>	Sherica Valladores	Margaret Scicluna	Bradley Whiticker Yvonne Baccan	No Music	Jose Valladores
8.30am	Michael Tolentino Janine Jensen Ryan Clarke	Jostick Joseph Emmanuel Aurisch	Evette Isaaks	Maria Varua	Shane Didier Serre Peter Nematalla Kathleen Pemberton Elenita Sajonia Robert Sajonia	CD	Corey Gauci
10.00am	Jun Relunia Remy Wood	Zachary Christie Adrio & Jadrian Maheswaran	Jennifer Letran	Liza Alimangohan	Arts Calub Nerissa Calub	Billy Cabillan	Phil Margerison
6.00pm	Rachel Conteh Rey Esteban	Isabel, Jerome & Marybel Joseph	Maria Baltazar	Llewelyn Ross	Carolyn D'Mello Darlene Streher	Magnificat Choir	Sharon Clarke

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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 | 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



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