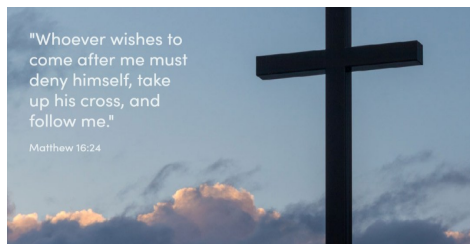




St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A 29 / 30 August 2026 Social Justice Sunday



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 is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

Historical Context. Whoever loses his life for my sake...

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

Scriptural context. Not quite there...

This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them.

Living the Gospel. Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

✍ 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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RECONCILIATION 2026

FAMILY SESSION 2

Saturday 5 September 4.30pm

Sunday 6 September 8.30am

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Johannes Bleys

and for his family

His funeral service will be held on

Thursday 2 September 1.30pm at Pinegrove

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED: Johannes Bleys, Yvonne Escaros, Dosha Chavich

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Benita Azores, Lipa Patau Filipino, Ken Howard, Maximo Y Abad, Mauricio Villanueva, Narcisa Panod, Egmedio, Dorothy, Zacary, Madga Nierras,

DECEASED: Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, John Nettar, Margaret Donnelly, Paul Borg, Beth Ariel Ave Luis, Julia Gutiza Ching, Itoi Maenzanise, Therese Lee, Edward Lee

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 Bracar, 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 Maiseeh, 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 Sperneck, 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.

Mass Readings for 5 / 6 September 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

1st Reading	Ezekiel 33: 7 - 9
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 94: 1 - 2, 6 - 9
2nd Reading	Romans 13: 8 - 10
Gospel	Matthew 16: 15 - 20

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE PRESENTATION

Our monthly Eucharistic Miracle Presentation will take place

Thursday 3 September at 7pm in PMR1.

All are warmly invited to come, to deepen your faith, and grow in love for the Eucharist.

DIVINE MERCY ADORATION

On the first Friday of each month we have Divine Mercy Adoration following the 12.10pm Mass.

Please come and join us on **Friday 4 September**

HEALING MASS

On the first Saturday of each month at the 9am Mass, we have an anointing of the sick and prayers for healing.

Please come and join us on **Saturday, 5 September**

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday 8 September

We will have the following Masses

9.30am and 7pm

Following the 7pm Mass a light supper will be served provided by the Legion of Mary to celebrate Mary's Birthday and Fr Joe's Ordination Anniversary.

THERE WILL BE NOT 6.45AM MASS.

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

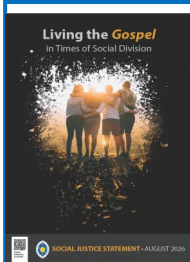
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Acct Name Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
Reference 6029 [SURNAME]

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



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Social Justice Statement *Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division* explores recent developments in Australia including the Bondi Beach attack of December 2025 as well as the alarming rise in Islamophobia and other forms of racism.

Scan the QR code to read the full Statement



BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

Honour a lifetime of faithful service

We give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve.

Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code. **Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.**



Envelopes are available at the doors of the Church, please take one and bring back next weekend.

FATHER'S Day BREAKFAST

HONOURING THE HEART BEHIND OUR FAMILIES
Thank you, Dad!

DATE: Sunday, 6-Sep-26
TIME: 7:30am to 11:30am
TICKET PRICE: \$8
VENUE: St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith (PMR1)

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO CLERGY SUPPORT FOUNDATION

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Tickets on sale this weekend after all Masses

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 31/8	Tue 1/9	Wed 2/9	Thu 3/9 St Gregory the Great Memorial	Fri 4/9	Sat 5/9	Sun 6/9 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass	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	9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 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 1.30pm Funeral Johannes Bleys (Pinegrove) 7pm Zumba	6.45am Mass 10am Mass Mountainview 12.10pm Mass followed by Divine Mercy Adoration 7pm Eucharistic Miracles Presentation	9am Healing Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 4.30pm Reconciliation Family S2 5pm Reconciliation 6pm Mass	7am Mass 7.30 - 11.30am Father's Day Breakfast 8.30am Mass 8.30am Reconciliation Family S2 10am Mass - Children's Liturgy

PARISH ROSTER 5 / 6 September 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 Brian Scott Christine Besa	Siona Sebastian Olivia Spain Lucas Besa	Del Conejar	Janell Ilagan	Deb Scott Bradley McGregor	AMDG Youth	Sharon Clarke
7.00am	Elenita Sajonia Robert Sajonia	<i>Not required</i>	Agnes Sulape	Nonye Amah	Yvonne Baccan Margaret Scicluna	No Music	Vinta Jobin
8.30am	Manuel Credo Jnr Michael Tolentino Janine Jensen	Manuel & Marco Credo	Mia Credo	Evette Isaaks	Erik Deveza Shane Didier Serre Peter Nematalla Lyn Olander Peter Wheller	Jeffrey Mizzi	Cory Gauci
10.00am	Rebecca Spiteri Peter Spiteri	Zachary Christie Jadrian & Adrio Maheswaran	Joan Torres	Bonita Thomas	Carmen Vella Lillian Martinez	Jane Chifley	Sheldon Couto
6.00pm	Aish Sebastian Jose-Elmer Simeon Angelo Aish	Francis Obama Joshua Esteban Ram Esteban	Daniel Whalen	Maria Baltazar	Emma Clark Ninea Nepomuceno	BNP Youth	BNP

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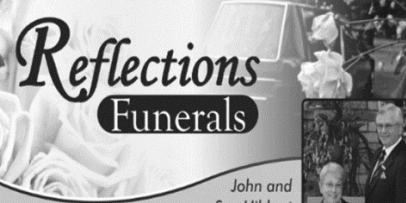
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2022 | Cambridge Park, Kingswood & Werrington
2021 | Cambridge Park and Kingswood
2020 | Penrith and Werrington
2019 | Kingswood

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

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