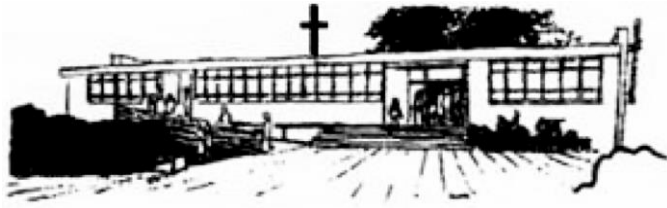


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 02 9673 5046

Please leave a detailed Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24th December 2017, Year B/2



CAVALLINI. Pietro, Nativity of Christ 1296-1300

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm (Mass in Polish)
6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am
10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Monday-Friday 8:00am
Saturday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday after 8:30am Mass

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Patricia Riley - Principal

School Office Times

8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Monday to Friday

Address

94 Joseph Street
Kingswood, NSW 2747

Telephone: 4726 4200; Fax: 4731 1432

www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm and Friday: 8:30am - 1:30pm

Address: 12-22 Richmond Rd, PO Box 39, Kingswood, NSW 2747 Telephone: 02 4721 4080; Fax: 02 4721 0089
Email: parish@stjosephskingswood.org; Web: www.stjosephskingswood.org; Facebook: [stjosephkingswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephkingswood)

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

LITURGY

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour

First Reading: Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Responsorial Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

Priests & Religious to Remain Steadfast in their Faith

SUNDAY

8:30am

10:00am

For the Parish

6.00pm

Christmas Eve Mass

Elizabeth Colville (Dec)

12.00am

Christmas Midnight Mass

For the Parish

Monday

9:00am

Christmas Day Mass

Stan & Joyce Jenkins (Dec. Ann.)

Tuesday:

8:00am

ST STEPHEN

Leticia de Guzman

Wednesday

8:00am

ST JOHN

For Pano

Thursday

8:00am

HOLY INNOCENTS

For Vlasta

Friday

8:00am

5th Day Octave of Nativity

For Fr. Henryk

Saturday

8:30am

6th Day Octave of Nativity

ADORATION CHAPEL:

Open during office hours or speak to Fr Andrew to arrange another time.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Please contact the Parish Office or one of the priests. In the case of Emergency please call the emergency number at the front of this bulletin.

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish Office.

DECEASED ANNIVERSARY: Leticia de Guzman, Stan & Joyce Jenkins,

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES:

Monday 1st January: 8:00am & 6:00pm

ROSARY IN OUR HOMES:

Please fill in the form at the back of the Church if you are interested in having Our Lady's Statue and the Rosary in your home for a week at a time. The Statue will be delivered to you by the Legion of Mary. Our Priests will also be able to visit your home to bless it during this time.

YOUTH MASS

Our Young People will be singing at the Christmas Eve Mass and the next Youth Mass will be Saturday 3rd February at 6pm.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kevin Collins, John McCahon, Kathryn Tuckwell, Carmel Kerr, Roger Stevens, Cameron Stevens, Shayla, Karen Morvan, Gisela Drobiszewski, Katalin Domotor, Charles Timmins, Barbara Thompson, Zig Barglik, Valerie Davies, Raymond Waters, Jason Isbitski, David Jenkins, Noeline Cruzado, Kathleen Angoves, Margaret Colville & Gill Waltisbuhl.

SICK LIST: If you have anyone for the sick list, (Due to privacy laws) contact the Parish Office to fill in a form and update it at the end of each month to keep the names on the sick list.

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today we begin catecheses on *mercy according to the biblical perspective*, in order to learn mercy by listening to what God Himself teaches us with His Word. We begin from the *Old Testament*, which prepares and leads us to the full revelation of Jesus Christ who, in an accomplished way, reveals the Father's mercy.

The Lord is presented in Sacred Scriptures as "*merciful God*." And this is His name, through which He reveals to us, so to speak, His face and His heart. He Himself, as narrated in the Book of Exodus, on revealing Himself to Moses describes Himself thus: "*The Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*" (34:6). We find this formula also in other texts, with some variation, but always the stress is put on mercy and on the love of God who never tires of forgiving (cf. Jonah 4:2; Joel 2:13; *Psalm* 86:15; 103:8; *Nehemiah* 9:17). Let us look together, one by one, at these words of Sacred Scripture that speak to us of God.

The Lord is "*merciful*": this word evokes an attitude of tenderness as that of a mother in dealing with her child. In fact, the Hebrew term used by the Bible makes one think of the insides or even the maternal womb. Therefore, the image it suggests is that of a God that *is moved and becomes tender for us* as a mother when she takes her child in her arms, desirous only of loving, protecting, and helping, ready to give everything, even herself. This is the image that this term suggests. A love, therefore, that can be described as "*visceral*" in the good sense.

Written then is that the Lord is "*gracious*," in the sense that He gives grace, has compassion and, in His greatness, bends over one who is weak and poor, *always ready to receive, to understand, to forgive*. He is like the father of the parable reported in Luke's Gospel (cf. *Luke* 15:11-32): a father who does not shut himself in resentment because of the younger son's abandonment but, on the contrary, continues to wait for him — he has generated him. And then he runs to meet and embrace him, he does not even let him finish his confession — as if he covered his mouth — so great is his love and joy for having found him again. And then he also goes to call his older son, who is angry and does not want to celebrate, and yet the father bends over him and invites him to come in, he tries to open his heart to love, so that no one remains excluded from the celebration of mercy.

Mercy is a celebration!

Said also of this merciful God is that He is "*slow to anger*," literally, "*in the long term*," that is wide-ranging in long suffering and the capacity to endure. God is able to wait, and His times are not the impatient ones of men. He is like the wise farmer that is able to wait, gives time to the good seed to grow, despite the darnel (cf. *Matthew* 13:24-30).

And, finally, the Lord proclaims Himself "*abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*." How lovely is this description of God! Everything is here, because God is great and powerful, but His greatness and power are displayed in loving us, we who are so little, so incapable. The word "*love*" used here indicates *affection, grace and goodness*. It is not the love of soap operas ... It is love that takes the first step, which does not depend on human merits but is of immense gratuitousness. It is the divine solicitude that nothing can stop, not even sin, because it is able to go beyond sin, to overcome evil and forgive it.

A "*faithfulness*" without limits: here is the last word of God's revelation to Moses. God's faithfulness never fails. Because the Lord is the Guardian that, as the *Psalm* says, does not fall asleep but watches constantly over us to lead us to life:

"He will not allow your foot to slip; or your guardian to sleep.

Behold, the guardian of Israel never slumbers nor sleeps.

The LORD will guard you from all evil; he will guard your soul.

The LORD will guard your coming and going both now and forever." (121:3-4.7-8).

And this merciful God is faithful in His mercy and Saint Paul says a lovely thing: if you are not faithful to Him, He will remain faithful because he cannot deny Himself. Faithfulness in mercy is proper to God's being. And therefore God is totally and always trustworthy — a solid and stable presence. This is the certainty of our faith. And then, in this Jubilee of Mercy, we entrust ourselves totally to Him, and experience the joy of being loved by this "God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."