

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

16th May 2021, Year B/1



ANGELICO, Fra The Ascension of Christ, The Last Judgment, Pentecost (Corsini Triptych), 1447-48

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm Live Stream
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 Reilly - Principal

School Office Times

8:30am - 4:00pm - 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: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Address: 12 Richmond Road, 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

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw Him go, alleluia

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

SUNDAY 8:30am

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday 8:00am 7th Week of Easter

For the Mikulic Family

Tuesday 8:00am 7th Week of Easter

Mariam Arik (Deceased Anniversary)

Wednesday 8.00am 7th Week of Easter

All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 8.00am 7th Week of Easter

21st Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving

Friday 8.00am 7th Week of Easter

Luke Schoemaker (For his Faith)

Saturday 8.30am St Rita of Cascia

Esperanza Bagay (Deceased Anniversary)

LIVE STREAM OF WEEKEND MASS AT 6PM

The 6pm Vigil on Saturday evening will continue to be livestreamed every Weekend and will be available online through to Sunday.

Please visit our website:

<http://stjosephskingswood.org/> or type in your browser: bit.ly/stjoe

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Baillache

DECEASED ANNIVERSARY: Mariam Arik,
Esperanza Bagay

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2021

First Communion: Sunday 6th June

Confirmation: Sunday 7th November

Registration & 1st Session: 1st August

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart

as though You have already come.

I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ROSARY DURING THE MONTH IN MAY

Rosary and Benediction will follow the weekday Masses during the month of May. As Pope Francis has requested, we will be praying for an end to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Zig Barglik, Joseph Brady, Joy Cavanagh, Brian Colbert, Kevin Collins, Margaret Colville, Valerie Davis, Katalin Domotor, Marie Donaldson, Frances Gunn, Nora Hehir, Andrew Isbitski, Jason Isbitski, David Jenkins, Carmel Kerr, John McCahon, Karen Morvan, Ophelia Paraan, Shayla, Cameron Stevens, Roger Stevens, Margaretha Sultana, Barbara Thompson, Kelly Tonna, Kathryn Tuckwell.

SICK LIST: Due to privacy laws, if you have anyone for the sick list, please 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.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH AND THE DIOCESE

POPE FRANCIS' MAY INTENTIONS

The World of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: \$829**
 Loose: \$389.65
 Tap & Go: \$250
Total Donations for Chalice & Paten: \$1556.95

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are ready for collection at the back of the Church. Please be aware that your number may have changed this year. We ask that you throw out any unused envelopes at the end of June and use the new ones for the 1st weekend in July.

TAP AND GO DONATION FACILITY

Tap once to donate \$10; tap twice to donate \$20 etc. up to \$150. All contributions go to the 2nd Collection.

PARISH CELL GROUP

Every 1st & 3rd Monday of the month in the Parish Centre at 7pm. Please ring Jim on 0478 027 210 with any questions.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY

No Bible Study this week 19th May. Bible Study resumes Wednesday 26th May 9.15am. All are most welcome.

YOUTH GROUP

Every Wednesday during the school term from 3pm to 5pm. Young People from Year 6 to 18 years old are most welcome.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Young Adults Group, from 18 to 35 years old, have resumed meetings. For any information concerning meeting dates type bit.ly/YASJK into your browser.

PARISH LUNCH

2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next lunch is 9th June at 12noon at the Colonial Hotel at Werrington. If anyone needs a lift please get in touch with the Parish Office. All are most welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Meet 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 12pm. Ring Delfin for details on 0478 784 885.

REFLECTION DAY - JOSEPH MAN OF DECISION

Day for Men on 29th May from 9am to 3pm with Fr Pawel at Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre. BYO Lunch; morning and afternoon tea provided. Cost \$35. Information at <https://bit.ly/3nk8CC3>

BELOVED 2021 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday 12th June from 8.30am to 8.30pm at St Finbar's Church, Glenbrook. A time of praise and worship, which includes Mass and Reconciliation. All enquiries to beloved2021info@gmail.com. Cost is \$60.

PRIVATE PRAYER AND MASS BOOKINGS

Following the 2 sq. metres per person, 150 people are allowed in our Church. Priest and Essential Workers excluded.

Private Prayer – QR Code is preferable for signing in. Sign-in sheets are also provided prior to entry to provide your contact details for Private Prayer.

Weekend Masses – Bookings are required. To register please ring the Parish by calling 4721 4080 during Office hours or ring 0423 725 148 outside Office hours.

You will need to provide your name and contact details when registering. Your presence will be confirmed as you arrive at the Church. Walk-ins are permitted, subject to available vacancies up to the 150 capacity, in which case we ask you to sign in using the QR Code if possible.

Weekday Masses - There is no registration for weekday Masses.

Please use the QR Code and show the Usher that you have been CHECKED IN or sign in on sheets provided at the entrance of the Church.

When attending Mass, please keep these rules:

- There will be no procession of gifts or collection plates.
- The sign of peace will be given without contact.
- Holy communion may be received on the hand. If receiving on the tongue you must approach the Priest after everyone has received by hand.

Hand Sanitisers are available in the Church. Door handles, pens and all hard surfaces are sanitised regularly.

Masks are now Compulsory and there is no Congregational Singing.

For details visit <http://stjosephskingswood.org/>

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

The Struggle of Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Christian prayer, like all Christian life, is not a “walk in the park”. None of the great people of prayer we meet in the Bible and in the history of the Church found prayer “comfortable”. Prayer certainly gives great peace, but through inner struggle, at times is hard, which can accompany even long periods of life. Praying is not something easy, and this is why we flee from it. Every time we want to pray, we are immediately reminded of many other activities, which at that moment seem more important and more urgent. This happens to me too! I go to pray a little... and no, I must do this and that... We flee from prayer, I don't know why, but that is how it is. Almost always, after putting off prayer, we realise that those things were not essential at all, and that we may have wasted time. This is how the Enemy deceives us.

All Godly men and women report not only the joy of prayer, but also the tediousness and fatigue it can bring: at times it is a difficult struggle to keep to the time and ways of praying. Some saints continued it for years finding no satisfaction in it, without perceiving its usefulness. Silence, prayer and concentration are difficult exercises, and sometimes human nature rebels. We would rather be anywhere else in the world, but not there, in that church pew, praying. Those who want to pray must remember that faith is not easy, and sometimes it moves forward in almost total darkness, without points of reference. There are moments in the life of faith that are dark, and therefore some saints call this “the dark night”, because we hear nothing. But I continue to pray.

Some doubt that prayer can truly reach the Almighty: why does God remain silent? If God is Almighty, He could say a couple of words and end the matter. Faced with the elusiveness of the divine, others suspect that prayer is a merely psychological operation; something that may be useful but is neither true nor necessary: and one could even be a practitioner without being a believer. And so it goes on, many explanations.

However, the worst enemies of prayer are found within us. The *Catechism* describes them thus: “Discouragement during periods of dryness; sadness that, because we have ‘great possessions’, we have not given all to the Lord; disappointment over not being heard according to our own will; wounded pride, stiffened by the indignity that is ours as sinners; our resistance to the idea that prayer is a free and unmerited gift” (2728).

If we look at the history of spirituality, it is immediately seen that the masters of the soul were very clear about the situation we have described. To overcome it, each of them offered some type of contribution: a word of

wisdom, or a suggestion for dealing moments fraught with difficulty. It is not a question of elaborate theories, of preconceived theories, no, but of advice born of experience, which shows the importance of resisting and persevering in prayer.

For example, the *Spiritual Exercises* of Saint Ignatius of Loyola makes us understand that the Christian vocation is militancy, it is the decision to stand beneath the standard of Jesus Christ and not under that of the devil, trying to do good even when it becomes difficult.

In times of trial, it is good to remember that someone is watching over us and protecting us. Saint Anthony the Abbot also faced terrible times in Egypt, when prayer became a difficult struggle. His biographer, Saint Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, recounts one of the worst episodes in the life of the hermit saint when he was about the age of thirty-five, a time of middle age that for many people involves a crisis. Anthony was disturbed by the ordeal but resisted. When he finally became serene again, he turned to his Lord: “But Lord, where were you? Why did you not come immediately to put an end to my suffering?” And Jesus answered: “Anthony, I was there. But I was waiting to see you fight” (*Life of Anthony*, 10). Fighting in prayer. And very often, prayer is combat. I am reminded of something I experienced close up, when I was in the other diocese. There was a married couple with a daughter aged nine, with an illness that the doctors were unable to diagnose. And in the end, in hospital, the doctor said to the mother, “Madam, call your husband”. And he said to the father, “The child will not survive the night. There is nothing we can do to stop this infection”. The man had great faith. He left, weeping; he left his wife there with the child in the hospital, he took the train and he travelled seventy kilometres towards the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján, Patroness of Argentina. And there he spent all night praying to Our Lady, fighting for his daughter's health. This is not a figment of the imagination: I saw him! I saw him myself. That man there, fighting. At six o'clock in the morning he returned home. He went to see his wife, and she was smiling, saying: “I don't know what happened. The doctors said that something changed, and now she is cured”. That man, fighting with prayer, received the grace of Our Lady. Our Lady listened to him. And I saw this: prayer works miracles, because prayer goes directly to the heart of the tenderness of God, who cares for us like a father. But always, combat in prayer to ask for grace. Prayer is combat, and the Lord is always with us.

The patriarch Jacob said one day: “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it” (*Gen 28:16*). At the end of our lives, looking back, we too will be able to say: “I thought I was alone, but no, I was not: Jesus was with me”. We will all be able to say this. Thank you.