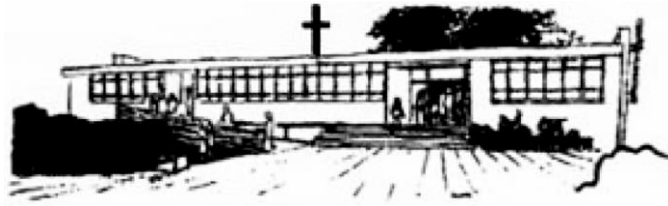


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11th December 2022, Year A/1



EYCK, Jan van, John the Baptist, The Ghent Altarpiece, 1425-29

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 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

Ms. Jennifer Crowley - 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: 9.00am - 1:00pm

Address: 12 Richmond Rd, PO Box 39, Kingswood, NSW 2747 Telephone: 02 4721 4080

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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

Peter Andary (Deceased Anniversary)

SUNDAY

8:30am

Thanksgiving Mass

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday

8:00am

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Kevin O'Connor (For his Health)

Tuesday

8:00am

St Lucy

Cynthia Azores (Birthday Blessings)

Wednesday

8.00am

St John of the Cross

Joan, Norm & Jenny McLaurin (Dec. Ann.)

Thursday

8.00am

3rd Week of Advent

Vartan Nerkizian (Recently Deceased)

Friday

8.00am

3rd Week of Advent

Beato, Justine & Asiselo Toledo & Johnes & Gertrude Aycardo (Dec. Ann.)

Saturday

8.30am

3rd Week of Advent

Baselisa Nunez Nueles (Deceased Ann.)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Available for an hour before 8.00am Masses during the week and before 8.30am Masses on the weekends.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2023

Reconciliation: Thursday 30th March

Registration & 1st Session: 19th February

First Communion: 11th June

Registration & 1st Session: 16th April

Confirmation: Sunday 12th November

Registration & 1st Session: 30th July

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

Please speak to one of the Priests or contact the Parish Office.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Vartan Nerkizian, Gina Koloc

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Andary,

Joan, Norm & Jenny McLaurin, Beato, Justine & Asiselo Toledo, Johnes & Gertrude Aycardo, Baselisa Nunez Nueles

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday 24th December – 6pm

Sunday 25th December – Midnight, 8.30am & 10am

Reconciliation: Monday 19th December – 9am to 12noon & 5pm to 7.30pm

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Jonathon Ansell, Michael & Marianne Callaghan, Margaret Colville, Frances Gunn, Andrew & Jason Isbitski, David Jenkins, Carmel Kerr, John McCahon, Karen Morvan, Ophelia Paraan, Shayla, Cameron Stevens, Roger Stevens, Barbara Thompson, Charley Tonna, Kelly Tonna, David Wakeling, Paul & Mary Woodward.

SICK LIST: (Due to privacy laws) if you have anyone for the sick list, 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' DECEMBER INTENTIONS

Volunteer Not-for-profit Organisations

We pray that volunteer not-for-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: \$500**
 Loose: \$295.60
 Tap & Go: \$210
 Smart Facility: \$165

TAP & GO & SMART DONATION FACILITIES

All contributions go to the 2nd Collection.

QR CODE FOR DONATIONS ON PARISH WEBSITE



BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Bible Study next week. We will resume on Wednesday 14th December at 9.15am in the Parish Hall. All are most welcome.

LADIES' MORNING TEA

There will be no morning tea on 3rd January. Next date will be Tuesday 7th February in the Parish Hall. All ladies of the Parish are most welcome.

PARISH LUNCH

Our next Lunch will be this coming Wednesday 14th December at St. Mary's Band Club. All are most welcome.

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Congratulations Charles Abela on your Ordination. Charles will join us at 10am Mass as a Deacon this weekend and for Morning Tea after Mass. Please join us in giving Charles our blessings for his future.

PARKING NOTICE

People attending 8.30am Mass please exit via Joseph Street to enable people coming to the 10am Mass access to the main gate.

THANK YOU TO WOLLEMI WORKING BEE

Thank you to the young men of Wollemi who gave of their time and energy to help us. They moved the Church pews for carpet cleaning, washed windows, removed cobwebs and did a lot of work in the gardens. God bless each and every one of you.

POPE FRANCIS' CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA & UKRAINE TO IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Mary, Mother of God and our mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the prince of peace. Amid evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the church and for all humanity.

O Loving Mother, hear our prayer: help us out of the depravity of war, inspire reconciliation, restore God's peace to the world, eliminate hatred, and teach us forgiveness. Queen of the Rosary, make us realise our need to pray and to love. Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world from your Son, the Prince of Peace.

At this hour, we stand with you beneath the cross, entrusting to you the people of Ukraine and Russia. Mother of God and our mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the church and all humanity, especially the people of Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love.

Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. We trust that, through your Immaculate heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world. Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Amen.

CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM

10th to 13th or 17th to 20th January 2023. Open to ages 16 to 20. Attendance is fully funded but spaces are limited. Register at www.campion.edu.au/summer-program

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We will have the Bishop's Christmas Appeal again this weekend to make up our quota. \$2195.55 has been donated. Thank you for your generosity. Our quota is \$3204. Please be generous.

PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME

From 5th to 23rd September 2023 Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel & Rome, which will follow in the footsteps of St Peter. Details can be found at www.olivetreetravel.com.au under Upcoming Tours or ring Fr Wim on 0409 908 361 or email him at wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

Discernment – Confirmation of the Good Choice

7th December 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the process of discernment, it is also important to remain attentive to the stage that immediately follows the decision taken, in order to either catch the signs that confirm it or those that disprove it. I have to make a decision, so I make the discernment, I pray, then this process ends and I make the decision and then comes that part where we have to be careful. Because in life some decisions are not good and there are signs that disprove them, while on the other hand, good ones are confirmed.

Indeed, we have seen how time is a fundamental criterion for recognizing God's voice amidst so many other voices. He alone is Lord of time: it is a hallmark of His originality, which differentiates Him from imitations that speak in His name without actually doing so. One of the distinctive signs of the good spirit is the fact that it communicates a peace that lasts in time. If you consider more profoundly, then make the decision and this gives you a peace that lasts through time, this is a good sign and indicates that the path was good. A peace that brings harmony, unity, fervour, zeal. You come out of the "deepening" process better than when you entered it.

For example, if I make the decision to devote an extra half hour to prayer, and then I find that I live the other moments of the day better, that I am more serene, less anxious, I do my work with more care and zest, that even relations with some difficult people become smoother. These are all important signs in favour of the goodness of the decision taken. Spiritual life is circular: the goodness of a choice benefits all areas of our lives. For it is participation in God's creativity.

We can recognize some important aspects that help us read the time after the decision as a possible confirmation of its goodness, because the subsequent period confirms the goodness of the decision. In some ways we have already encountered these important aspects in the course of these catecheses but now they find their further application.

A first aspect is whether the decision is seen as a possible sign of response to the Lord's love and generosity toward me. It is not born out of fear, or emotional blackmail or compulsion, but born out of gratitude for the good received, which moves the heart to live liberally in relationship with the Lord.

Another important element is having a sense of one's place in life – that tranquillity, "I am in my place" – and feeling that you are part of a larger plan, to which one wishes to make a contribution. In St. Peter's Square there

are two precise points from which one can see Bernini's columns perfectly aligned. Similarly, a man can recognize that he has found what he is looking for when his day becomes more orderly, when he feels a growing integration among his many interests, when he establishes a proper hierarchy of importance, and when he is able to experience this with ease, facing the difficulties that arise with renewed energy and fortitude. These are signs that you have made a good decision.

Another confirmation is remaining free with regard to what has been decided, being willing to question it, even to give it up in the face of possible denials, trying to find in them a possible teaching from the Lord. This is not because He wants to deprive us of what we hold dear, but in order to live it with freedom, without attachment. Only God knows what is truly good for us. Possessiveness is the enemy of goodness and kills affection. Be attentive to this: possessiveness is the enemy of good, it kills affection. The many cases of violence in the domestic sphere, of which we unfortunately have frequent news, almost always arise from the claim of possession of the affection of the other, from the search for absolute security that kills freedom and stifles life, making it hell.

We can only love in freedom, which is why the Lord created us free, free even to say no to Him. Offering Him what we hold most dear is in our best interest, enabling us to live it in the best possible way and in truth, as a gift He has given us, as a sign of His gratuitous goodness, knowing that our lives, as well as the whole of history, are in His benevolent hands. It is what the Bible calls the fear of God, that is, respect for God, an indispensable condition for accepting the gift of Wisdom (cf. Sir 1:1-18). It is the fear that casts out all other fears, because it is oriented to Him who is Lord of all things. In His presence, nothing can disquiet us. It is the wondrous experience of St. Paul, which he expressed in this way: "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:12-13). This is the free man, who blesses the Lord both when good things come and when not-so-good things come.

Recognizing this is critical to good decision-making, and it reassures us about what we cannot control or predict: health, the future, loved ones, our plans. What matters is that our trust is placed in the Lord of the universe, who loves us immensely and knows that we can build with Him something wonderful, something eternal. The lives of the saints show us this in the most beautiful way. Let us go forward, always trying to make decisions in this way, in prayer and feeling what's going on in our hearts and going forward slowly. Have courage!