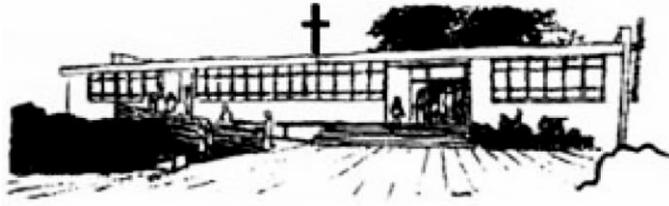


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18th December 2022, Year A/1



ANGELICO, Fra, The Annunciation, 1442-43

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: 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: Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

Thanksgiving

SUNDAY 8:30am

For the Souls in Purgatory

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday	8:00am	Mass of 19 th December	Souls of Longest Staying Nun & Priest in Purgatory
Tuesday	8:00am	Mass of 20 th December	Barbara Thompson (Recently Deceased)
Wednesday	8.00am	Mass of 21 st December	
Thursday	8.00am	Mass of 22 nd December	Rey Delfin (For Healing)
Friday	8.00am	Mass of 23 rd December	Joseph Zammit (Recently Deceased)
Saturday	8.30am	Mass of 24 th December	Krystal (For Family Reconciliation)

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:

Orlando Surace, Gina Koloc, Barbara Thompson, Joseph Zammit

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES:

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, 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: \$698.80

Loose: \$339

Tap & Go: \$190

Smart Facility: \$205

Donation: \$200

TAP & GO & SMART DONATION FACILITIES

All contributions go to the 2nd Collection.

QR CODE FOR DONATIONS ON PARISH WEBSITE



BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday at 9.15am in the Parish Hall. All are most welcome.

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY MORNING TEA

Please join us for Morning Tea after the 10am Mass and feel free to bring a plate to share.

LADIES' MORNING TEA

There will be no morning tea on Tuesday 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 Wednesday 11th January at St. Mary's Band Club. All are most welcome.

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.

PARISHIONERS' FUNERALS

Gina Koloc's Funeral is at 10am this Wednesday 21st December here at St Joseph's Church.

Barbara Thompson's Funeral is at 11am (please arrive at 10.30am) this Thursday 22nd December at St Nicholas of Myra Church at Penrith. Burial is at Pinegrove.

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.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We have collected \$2444.20 for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. We did not meet the quota of \$3204, so the balance will be paid out of Parish funds. The box is at the back of the Church for anyone who would like to contribute. Thank you for your generosity.

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

WYD23 PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATIONS OPEN!

Registration for WYD23 in Lisbon has now opened. Young people aged 16-35 can register and pay their \$800 deposit to secure their place. Limited spaces still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit www.parrawyd.org

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

Discernment – The Vigilance

14th December 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

We are now entering the final phase of this journey of catechesis on discernment. We started out from the example of Saint Ignatius of Loyola; we then considered the elements of discernment, namely, prayer, self-knowledge, desire and the “book of life”; we focused on desolation and consolation, which form its “matter”; and then we reached the confirmation of the choice made.

I consider it necessary to include at this point a reminder of an attitude essential if all the work done to discern for the best and take the good decision is not to be lost, and this would be the attitude of *vigilance*. We have done discernment, consolation and desolation; we have chosen something ... everything is going well, but now, vigilance: the attitude of vigilance. Because in effect there is a risk, and it is that the “spoilsport”, that is, the Evil One, can ruin everything, making us go back to the beginning, indeed, in an even worse condition. And this happens, so we must be attentive and vigilant. This is why it is indispensable to be vigilant. Therefore, today it seemed appropriate to emphasize this attitude, which we all need for the discernment process to be successful and stay that way.

In his preaching Jesus insists a great deal on the fact that the good disciple is vigilant, does not slumber, does not let himself become too self-assured when things go well, but remains alert and ready to do his duty.

Jesus says: “Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes” (Luke 12:35-37).

If vigilance is lacking, there is a very high risk that all will be lost. It is a danger not of a psychological order, no, but of a spiritual order, a real snare of the evil spirit. He awaits precisely the moment in which we are too sure of ourselves, and this is the danger: this is the moment he is waiting for, when everything is going well, when things are going “swimmingly” and we “have the wind in our sails”. In the Gospel parable it is said that the unclean spirit, when it returns to the house from where it left, “finds it empty, swept, and put in order” (Mt 12:44), he finds it nicely prepared, doesn't he? Everything is in its place, everything is in order, but where is the master of the house? He is not there. There is no-one keeping watch over it and guarding it. This is the problem. The master of the house is not home, he left, he was distracted, I don't know; or he is at home but has

fallen asleep, and therefore it is as though he were not there. He is not vigilant, he is not alert, because he is too sure of himself and has lost the humility to safeguard his own heart. We must always safeguard our home, our heart and not be distracted and go away... because the problem is here, like the Parable said.

The evil spirit can take advantage of this and return to that house. The Gospel says, however, that he does not return alone, but along with “seven other spirits more evil than himself” (v. 45). A company of evildoers, a gang of delinquents. But how is it possible, we wonder, for them to enter undisturbed? How come the master does not notice? Was he not so good at discerning and banishing them? Did he not receive compliments from his friends and neighbours for that house, so beautiful and elegant, so tidy and clean? The house of the heart, isn't it? Yes, but perhaps precisely because of this he had fallen too much in love with the house, that is, with himself, and had stopped waiting for the Lord, waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom. One thing is certain: here bad pride is involved, the presumption of being right, of being good, of being in order. Very often we hear someone say: “Yes, I was bad before, I converted and now, now my house is in order thanks to God, you can rest assured...”. When we trust too much in ourselves and not in God's grace, then the Evil One finds the door open. So, he organizes the expedition and takes possession of that house. And Jesus concludes: “The last state of that man becomes worse than the first” (v. 45).

Many times we are defeated in battles, because of this lack of vigilance. Very often, perhaps, the Lord has given so many graces, and in the end, we are unable to persevere in this grace and we lose everything, because we lack vigilance: we have not guarded the doors. And then we have been deceived by the devil. Anyone can also verify this by thinking back to their own personal history. It is not enough to carry out good discernment and to make a good choice. We must remain vigilant, safeguard this grace that God has given us, but keep watch, because you can say to me: “But when I see some disorder, I realize straight away that it is the devil, that it is temptation...”. Yes, but this time he comes disguised as an angel: the devil knows how to dress up as an angel, he enters with courteous words, and he convinces you, and in the end, it is worse than at the beginning... We need to stay vigilant, keep watch over the heart. If I were to ask each one of you today, and also myself, “What is happening in your heart?”, perhaps we would not know how to say everything; we would say one or two things, but not everything.

Keep watch over the heart, because vigilance is a sign of wisdom, it is above all a sign of humility, because we are afraid to fall, and humility is the high road of Christian life. Thank you.