

# 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

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

25<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Year A/1



CARAVAGGIO, Michelangelo, Rest on the Flight into Egypt, 1597

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](http://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](mailto:parish@stjosephskingswood.org) Web: [www.stjosephskingswood.org](http://www.stjosephskingswood.org) Facebook: [stjosephkingswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephkingswood)

# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

## LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

**First Reading:** Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; **Midnight:** Isaiah 9:1-7; **Day:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Vigil: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.  
**Midnight:** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
**Day:** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**Second Reading:** Vigil: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; **Midnight:** Titus 2:11-14; **Day:** Hebrews 1:1-6

**Gospel:** Vigil: Matthew 1:1-25; **Midnight:** Luke 2:1-14; **Day:** John 1:1-18

### VIGIL SATURDAY

	6:00pm		For the Parish
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Midnight</b>		For the Parish
	8:30am		For the Parish
	10:00am		For the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	8:00am	<b>ST STEPHEN</b>	Witold Blazek (Deceased Ann.)
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00am	<b>ST JOHN</b>	Charley & Lily (Wedding Ann.)
<b>Wednesday</b>	8.00am	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	Agnes Delfin (For Healing)
<b>Thursday</b>	8.00am	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Day Octave of Christmas</b>	Joseph & Jeena Johny (Wedding Ann.)
<b>Friday</b>	8.00am	<b>HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b>	Souls of Longest Staying Priest & Nun in Purgatory
<b>Saturday</b>	8.30am	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Day Octave of Christmas</b>	

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

### BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Orlando Surace

### CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2023

**Reconciliation: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Registration & 1<sup>st</sup> Session: 19<sup>th</sup> February

**First Communion: 11<sup>th</sup> June**  
 Registration & 1<sup>st</sup> Session: 16<sup>th</sup> April

**Confirmation: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
 Registration & 1<sup>st</sup> Session: 30<sup>th</sup> July

**DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES:** Witold Blazek

### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Masses for New Year will be the same as the normal weekend Masses:  
 Saturday: 6pm Vigil  
 Sunday: 8.30am and 10am (Morning Tea will follow 10am Mass).

**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.

*Have a blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year A.D. 2023  
Dominican Fathers*

**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: \$832**  
   **Loose:     \$354.45**  
   **Tap & Go: \$180**  
   **Smart Facility: \$205**  
   **Donation: \$**

**TAP & GO & SMART DONATION FACILITIES**

All contributions go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection.

**QR CODE FOR DONATIONS ON PARISH WEBSITE**



**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY MORNING TEA**

Please join us to Celebrate the New Year at Morning Tea after the 10am Mass and feel free to bring a plate to share.

Ian and Kaitlin are having a well-earned couple of weeks off in January. Morning teas will resume later in the month. Please thank them for their faithfulness.

**LADIES' MORNING TEA**

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

**PARISH LUNCH**

Our next Lunch will be Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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**

10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Open to ages 16 to 20. Attendance is fully funded but spaces are limited. Register at [www.campion.edu.au/summer-program](http://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 are still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit [www.parrawyd.org](http://www.parrawyd.org)



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

Discernment – Conclusion

21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

We are concluding the catechesis on discernment. What a complicated practice discernment is!

During our first meeting, we saw that every day we always perform acts of discernment concerning what we eat, read, at work, in our relationships, everything. Life always presents choices to us, and if we do not make conscious choices, in the end it is life that chooses for us, taking us where we do not want to go.

One of the first indispensable aids is evaluating with the Word of God and the doctrine of the Church. They help us read what is stirring in our hearts, learning to recognize God's voice and to distinguish it from other voices that seem to vie for our attention, but leave us confused in the end. The Bible warns us that God's voice resounds in stillness, in attention, in silence. Let us recall the experience of the Prophet Elijah: the Lord does not speak to him in the wind that smashes the rocks, nor in the fire or the earthquake, but He speaks to him in a light breeze (cf. *1 Kings* 19:11-12). This is a very beautiful image that helps us understand how God speaks. God's voice does not impose itself; God's voice is discreet, respectful – allow me to say, God's voice is humble – and, for that reason, produces peace. And it is only in peace that we can enter profoundly into ourselves and recognize the authentic desires the Lord has placed in our hearts. It is not easy to enter into that peace of heart because we are so busy the entire day. Please stop for two minutes to witness what your heart is feeling. When we allow ourselves to be calm, God's voice comes immediately. He is waiting for us to do this.

For the believer, the Word of God is not simply a text to read. The Word of God is a living presence, it is a work of the Holy Spirit that comforts, instructs, gives light, strength, refreshment, and a zest for life. To read the Bible, to read a piece, one or two passages of the Bible, is like a short telegram from God that immediately goes to the heart. The Word of God is a bit – and I am not exaggerating here – it is a little, real foretaste of heaven.

This affective relationship with the Bible, with Scripture, with the Gospel, leads us to experience an affective relationship with the Lord Jesus. Heart speaks to heart. We can often have a distorted idea about God, thinking of him as a sullen judge, a harsh judge, ready to catch us in the act. On the contrary, Jesus reveals a God who is full of compassion and tenderness for us, ready to sacrifice himself so he can come to us, just like the father in the parable of the prodigal son (cf. *Lk* 15:11-32). The Word of God touches the heart and changes your life. God wants us to be stronger, better, every day.

Anyone who remains in front of the Crucifix senses newfound peace, learns not to be afraid of God because on the cross, Jesus does not frighten anyone. It is the image of complete weakness, and, at the same time, of total love, capable of facing any trial for us. The saints always gravitated toward Jesus Crucified. The account of Jesus' Passion is the surest way to face evil without being overwhelmed by it. There is no judgement there, not even resignation, because it is shot through with the greatest light, the light of Easter, that allows us to see in those terrible deeds a greater plan that no impediment, obstacle or failure can thwart. The Word of God always makes us look at another side – that is, the cross is here, this is awful, but there is something else, hope, resurrection. The Word of God opens every door because He is the door, He is the Lord. Let us take the Bible in our hands – 5 minutes a day, no more. Allow the Word of God to draw near to your heart. Do this and you will see how your lives will change, with the proximity of the Word of God.

It is very beautiful to think of our life with the Lord as a relationship with a friend which grows day by day. God loves us, He wants us to be his friends. Friendship with God is able to change the heart. Piety is one of the great gifts of the Holy Spirit, which gives us the ability to recognize God's fatherhood. We have a tender, affectionate Father who has always loved us. When we experience this, our hearts melt and doubts, fears, feelings of unworthiness are dissolved. Nothing can hinder this love that comes from being in contact with the Lord.

And this love reminds us of another great help, the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is present in us and who instructs us, makes the Word of God that we read come alive, suggests new meanings, opens doors that seem closed, indicates paths in life where there seem to be only darkness and confusion. Do you pray to the Holy Spirit? We pray to the Father with the Our Father. We pray to Jesus. But we forget the Spirit! The Holy Spirit is the one who gives life to the soul! Let him enter. Speak with the Holy Spirit just like you speak with the Father or the Son. He is the one who will lead you forward. The Holy Spirit is discernment in action, the presence of God in us. He is the greatest gift the Father assures to those who ask (cf. *Lk* 11:13). It is interesting to live our lives in friendship with the Holy Spirit. He changes you. He makes you grow.

The goal of discernment is to recognize the salvation God is working in my life. It reminds me that I am never alone and that, if I am struggling, it is because the stakes of the game are high. The Holy Spirit is always with us. Never abandon this dialogue with the Holy Spirit. Keep going forward, courageously and joyfully!