

# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Jacek Buda OP

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148 (Calls Only)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Year B/2



ANGELICO, Fra, 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](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

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

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

**Responsorial Psalm:** My Soul rejoices in my God.

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

### VIGIL SATURDAY

	<b>6:00pm</b>		<b>† Peter Andary</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>8:30am</b>		<b>† Antonia Cordel</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>		<b>For the Parish</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>3rd Week of Advent</b>	<b>McIlvenna, Dobranski, McCaffrey &amp; Colreavy Families (Living &amp; †† Deceased)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>3rd Week of Advent</b>	<b>† Patricia Goodman</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>3rd Week of Advent</b>	<b>† E. O. Johny</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>3rd Week of Advent</b>	<b>† Antoinette Ancilleri</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>3rd Week of Advent</b>	<b>Anthony &amp; Ernestina Almeida (Good Health &amp; God's Blessings)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>3rd Week of Advent</b>	

### BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There is an opportunity to spend time with the Lord for an hour before the 8am Masses during the week and before the 8.30am Masses at the weekend. Confessions are also available during Adoration. Please let the Priest know.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 6pm Vigil Mass  
 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 8.30am & 10am

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Midnight (Carols from 11.30pm), 8.30am & 10am**

**Reconciliation: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
 9am to 12noon & 5pm to 7.30pm**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Antonia Cordel, Patricia Goodman, Antoinette Ancilleri

### DECEASED WE PRAY FOR:

Deceased Members of the McIlvenna, Dobranski, McCaffrey & La-Hood Families, E. O. Johny

**WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Sr Louisa, Jonathon Ansell, Tony Bogdanovic, Marianne Callaghan, Margaret Colville, Frances Gunn, Andrew & Jason Isbitski, David Jenkins, Carmel Kerr, John McCahon, Krystona McWhinnie, Karen Morvan, Ophelia Paraan, Danny Patos, Shayla, Benjamin Santiago, Cameron Stevens, Roger Stevens, Cynthia Sulvita, Charley 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

#### For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

**SECOND COLLECTION:**      **Envelopes: \$730**  
   **Loose:      \$546.05**  
   **Tap & Go: \$230**  
   **Smart Facility: \$285**  
**St Joseph Statue Donations Total: \$3820**

### TAP & GO & SMART DONATION FACILITIES

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

First Collection contributions go to the Diocese to support our Priests.

Second Collection contributions go directly to the Parish to support day to day operation of the Parish.

### BIBLE STUDY

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

### ST JOSEPH STATUE

Donations can be placed in the silver "Donation Box" at the back of the Church. We are planning to have the new Statue blessed on the Feast of St Joseph, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Thank you for your donations.

### SUNDAY MORNING TEA

Ian and Kaitlin are going to have a much-deserved break from serving us morning tea on the Sundays of 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January. They will resume on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you, Ian and Kaitlin; may God bless you for your faithfulness.

### BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you for enabling our Chaplains to give comfort, faith and hope to distraught people this Christmas. We are short of our quota by \$533. You can place your donation in the box at the back of the Church if you have not yet had a chance to donate. Thank you for your generosity.

### CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary St Marys. Fr Brian Steele MGL is the Celebrant. All are welcome.

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in Liturgical Ministry either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested contact the Office for Worship at [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or on 0460 037 795. For an Application Form see Aruna at the Parish Office.

### DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from October 13-15, 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: [www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources)

### MISSION ENHANCEMENT TEAM SOUL FOOD

Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: <https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES IN 2024

Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

#### Safeguarding Mandatory Training.

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the NSW Child Safe Standards **all** volunteers in parish ministry are Mandatory Reporters and are required to have completed their Safeguarding Training.

**Cycle 1 Mandatory Modules 1-3 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – 9.30am-2.30pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown

**Cycle 2 Renewal Mandatory Modules 4-5 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> (4) & 29<sup>th</sup> (5) February** – 7-8.30pm at St Nicholas of Myra, 326 High St, Penrith  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** – 10am-1.30pm at Holy Spirit Parish, Corner of Todd Road & Moore Street, St Clair

If you would like to complete your 6 points online go to at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>  
For any questions please email Maria Kervin, at [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org)

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

**POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**The Passion for Evangelisation:**

**30. Ephphatha, Be Open!**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will conclude the series dedicated to apostolic zeal, in which we have allowed the Word of God to inspire us, to help nurture a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel. And this involves every Christian. Let us consider the fact that in Baptism, the celebrant, touching the ears and the lips of the baptized, says: "May the Lord Jesus, who made the deaf hear and the mute speak, grant that you may soon receive his word and profess the faith". (cf. *Mk* 7:31-35).

And we have heard about the miracle of Jesus. The evangelist Mark goes to great lengths to describe where this took place: toward "the Sea of Galilee" (*Mk* 7:31). What do these two regions have in common? The fact that they were predominantly inhabited by pagans. They were not areas inhabited by Jews, but mostly by pagans. The disciples went out with Jesus, who can open the ears and the mouth, thus, the phenomenon of mutism, of deafness, which is also metaphorical in the Bible, signifying being closed to God's calls. There is a physical deafness, but in the Bible, the one who is deaf to the Word of God is mute and does not communicate the Word of God.

There is another indicative sign: the Gospel reports Jesus' decisive word in Aramaic. Ephphatha which means "be open", may the ears be open, may the tongue be open. And it is an invitation that is addressed not so much to the deaf man, who could not hear him, but precisely to the disciples of that time and of every age. We too, who have received the ephphatha of the Spirit in Baptism, are called to be open. "Be open", Jesus says to every believer and to his Church: be open because the Gospel message needs you to witness it and proclaim it! And this also makes us think about the attitude of Christians: Christians should be open to the Word of God and to service to others. Christians who are closed always end up badly because they are not Christians. They are ideologists of closure. A

Christian should be open to the proclamation of the Word, and to welcoming brothers and sisters. And this is why ephphatha, this "be open", is an invitation to us all to open ourselves.

Even at the end of the Gospel, Jesus entrusts us with his missionary desire: go beyond, go and tend, go and preach the Gospel.

Brothers, sisters, let us all feel called, as baptized people, to witness and proclaim Jesus. And let us ask for the grace, as Church, to bring about a pastoral and missionary conversion. On the banks of the Sea of Galilee, the Lord asked Peter if he loved him and then asked him to tend his sheep (cf. vv. 15-17). Let us too ask ourselves. Let each one of us ask ourselves this question, let us ask ourselves: Do I truly love the Lord to the point of wanting to proclaim him? Do I want to become his witness or am I content to be his disciple? Do I take to heart the people I meet, bringing them to Jesus in prayer? Do I want to do something so that the joy of the Gospel, which has transformed my life, may make their lives more beautiful? Let us think about this, let us think about these questions and go forward with our witness.

**Appeal**

I am continuing to follow the war in Israel and in Palestine, with great concern.

I renew my appeal for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. There is much suffering there. I encourage all the parties involved to resume negotiations, and I ask everyone to make an urgent commitment to ensure that humanitarian aid will reach the people of Gaza, who are at the end of their tether and in great need of it.

May all the hostages be freed. They had seen some hope in the recent truce. May the enormous suffering of the Israelis and the Palestinians end.

Please: no to weapons, yes to peace!