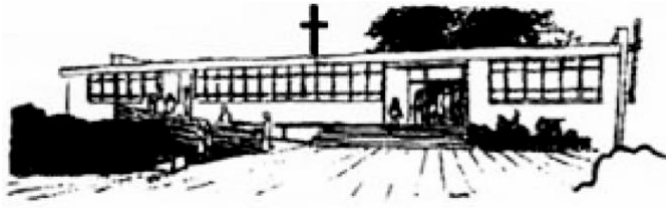


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24th December 2023, Year B/2



FREDI, Bartolo di, The Adoration of the Magi, ca. 1390

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 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

	6:00pm		†† Orlando, Frank, Melina, Guiseppe & Tony Surace
SUNDAY	8:30am		Christmas Blessings on Families
	10:00am		For the Parish
Monday	12:00am	CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT	For the Parish
	8.30am	CHRISTMAS DAY	Private Intention
	10.00am	CHRISTMAS DAY	Private Intention
Tuesday	8:00am	ST STEPHEN	Charley & Lily Tonna (Wedding Ann.)
Wednesday	8.00am	ST JOHN	† Witold Blazek
Thursday	8.00am	HOLY INNOCENTS	†† McIlvenna, Dobranski, Colreavy & McCaffrey Families (Living & Dead)
Friday	8.00am	5 th Day in Octave	† Bishop Edward Kelly
Saturday	8.30am	6 th Day in Octave	† Beato Justiniano Granadino Toledo

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.

DECEASED WE PRAY FOR:

Orlando, Frank, Melina, Guiseppe & Tony Surace, Witold Blazek, Deceased Members of the McIlvenna, Dobranski, Colreavy & McCaffrey Families, Bishop Edward Kelly, Beato Justiniano Granadino Toledo

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.

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.

*Have a blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year A.D. 2024
Dominican Fathers*

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES – 1ST JANUARY

Monday morning will be our usual 8am Mass.
Monday evening Mass is 6.00pm followed by
Supper. Please join us and bring a plate to share.

SECOND COLLECTION: Envelopes: \$840
 Loose: \$485.95
 Tap & Go: \$170
 Smart Facility: \$130
St Joseph Statue Donations Total: \$3845

TAP & GO & SMART DONATION FACILITIES

All contributions go to the 2nd 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

There will be no Bible Study this Wednesday 27th December. We will resume on Wednesday 3rd January and then continue every week 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, 19th March 2024. Thank you for your donations.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA

Morning Tea after 10am Mass will resume on Sunday 14th January. Thank you, Ian and Kaitlin for serving us throughout the year; may God bless you both.

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Go to <https://bit.ly/bvlchristmas> for the Bishop's Christmas message.

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are short of our quota by \$283. 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.

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 Parish Office for an Application Form.

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES IN 2024

Visit 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 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 5th February – 9.30am-2.30pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown

Cycle 2 Renewal Mandatory Modules 4-5

Thursday 22nd (4) & 29th (5) February – 7-8.30pm at St Nicholas of Myra, 326 High St, Penrith

Saturday 2nd 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

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday 20th December 2023

The Greccio Nativity, School of Simplicity and Joy.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Eight hundred years ago, at Christmas in 1223, Saint Francis organized the living Nativity scene in Greccio. While Nativity scenes are being prepared or completed in homes and other places, it is good for us to rediscover their origins.

How did the crib come about? What was St Francis' intention? He said: "I want to depict the Child born in Bethlehem, and in some way see with the eyes of the body the hardships in which He found Himself for want of the things necessary for an infant: how He was laid in a manger and how He lay on the straw between the ox and the ass" (Tommaso da Celano, *Vita prima*, XXX, 84: FF 468). Francis doesn't desire to create a beautiful work of art, but through the Nativity scene, to provoke amazement at the extreme humility of the Lord, at the hardships He suffered, for love of us, in the poor grotto of Bethlehem. In fact, the biographer of the Saint of Assisi notes, "In that moving scene, evangelical simplicity shines forth, poverty is praised, humility is related. And Greccio has become like a new Bethlehem" (ibid., 85).

If we Christians look at the crib as a beautiful thing, as something historical, even religious, and pray, this is not enough. Before the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word, before the birth of Jesus, we need this religious attitude of amazement. If I, in the face of the mysteries do not come to this amazement, my faith is simply superficial; a "computational faith."

One characteristic of the Nativity scene is that it was conceived as a school of sobriety. And this has a great deal to say to us. Today, in fact, the risk of losing sight of what counts in life is great and paradoxically increases precisely at Christmas—the mentality of Christmas is changed—immersed in a consumerism that corrodes its meaning. It's true, that you want to give presents, that's fine, but that frenzy to go shopping that draws attention elsewhere and there is not that sobriety of Christmas. Let us look at the crib: that awe before the crib. Sometimes there is no inner space for astonishment, but only to organise the parties, to have the parties.

And the Nativity scene was created to bring us back to what matters: to God Who comes to dwell among us. It is important to look at the Nativity scene,

because it helps us understand what matters and also the social relationships of Jesus in that moment, the family, Joseph and Mary, and loved ones, the shepherds. People before things. And often we put things ahead of people. This doesn't work.

But the Nativity scene of Greccio in addition to sobriety, which makes us see, speaks also of joy. Because joy is different from having fun. But having fun is not a bad thing; it is a human thing. But joy is deeper still. More human. And sometimes there is a temptation to have fun without joy; to have fun by making noise, but the joy is not there. It is a bit like the figure of the clown, who laughs and makes people laugh, but the heart is sad. Joy is the root of good Christmas fun.

And about sobriety, the chronicle from back in the day says, "And the day of gladness comes, the time of rejoicing! The people flocked and rejoiced with a joy they had never tasted before. Everyone returned home full of ineffable joy" (*Vita prima*, XXX, 85-86: FF 469-470). Sobriety, amazement, leads you to true joy, not artificial joy.

But where did this Christmas joy come from? Certainly not from having brought home presents or having experienced lavish celebrations. No, it was the joy that overflows from the heart when one tangibly touches the nearness of Jesus, the tenderness of God, who does not leave us alone, but consoles us. Closeness, tenderness, and compassion, such are the three attitudes of God. And looking at the Nativity scene, praying before the Nativity scene, we can experience these things of the Lord that help us in everyday life.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Nativity scene is like a small well from which to draw the nearness of God, the source of hope and joy. The Nativity scene is like a living Gospel, a domestic Gospel. Like the well in the Bible, it is the place of encounter where we bring to Jesus the expectations and worries of life, just as the shepherds of Bethlehem and the people of Greccio did. Bringing to Jesus the expectations and the worries of life.

If, before the Nativity scene, we entrust to Jesus all we hold dear, we too will experience "great joy" (*Mt 2:10*), a joy that comes precisely from contemplation, from the spirit of amazement with which I go to contemplate these mysteries.

Let us go before the Nativity scene with a spirit of amazement. Look, everyone, and allow your heart to feel something within, the great joy. Thank you. Please pray for me.