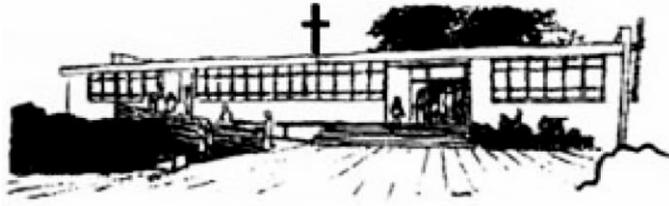


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7th January 2024, Year B/2



ANGELICO, Fra, Adoration of the Magi, 1423-24

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: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come,
and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

VIGIL SATURDAY

	6:00pm		Mathew (For his Health)
SUNDAY	8:30am		† Pat & Ken Fleming
	10:00am		For the Parish
Monday	8.00am	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	† Thomas Houlihan
Tuesday	8:00am	1 st Week in Ordinary Time	† Feliza Perfecto Daton
Wednesday	8.00am	1 st Week in Ordinary Time	† Michael Corcoran
Thursday	8.00am	1 st Week in Ordinary Time	† Marie Ward
Friday	8.00am	1 st Week in Ordinary Time	†† For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday	8.30am	Mass of the Virgin Mary	Lejan James (Birthday Blessings)

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

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

DECEASED WE PRAY FOR: Pat & Ken Fleming, Thomas Houlihan, Feliza Perfecto Daton, Michael Corcoran, Marie Ward, Flora Toledo, Souls in Purgatory

MASS INTENTIONS

Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2024

Reconciliation: Thursday 21st March

Registration & 1st Session: 11th February

First Communion: Sunday 2nd June

Registration & 1st Session: 7th April

Confirmation: Sunday 3rd November

Registration & 1st Session: 21st July

All sessions follow 10.00am Mass at 11.30am in the Parish Hall

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.

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' JANUARY INTENTIONS

For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: \$475**
 Loose: \$546.40
 Tap & Go: \$210
 Smart Facility: \$280
St Joseph Statue Donations Total: \$3935

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

Bible Study every Wednesday at 9.15am in the Parish Hall. All are most welcome.

PARISH LUNCH

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon. Our next Lunch will be this Wednesday 10th January at St. Marys Band Club. All are most welcome.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA

Morning Tea will resume next Sunday 14th January after 10am Mass.

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.

PARRAMATTA MENS' ROSARY

'Witness and Pray' with us every 1st Saturday of the Month at 10.30am in front of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in Liturgical Ministry. If you are interested in attending contact the Parish Office for an Application Form.

MT SCHOENSTATT RETREATS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

My Little Piece of Heaven – For Young Women 17+
Friday 12th January at 6.30pm until Sunday 14th January at 4pm. Cost \$75.

Girls Summer Camp – 12 to 16 Year Olds

Starts 15th January at 4pm until 17th January at 2pm. Cost \$85.

Both Retreats are at Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Ring Sr M. Rita Baysari on 0493 026 628 or email rrita@schoenstatt.org.au

See Noticeboard for more details.

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 3rd January 2024

Cycle of Catechesis: Vices and Virtues

2. The Spiritual Striving

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Last week we introduced the theme of vices and virtues. It refers to the spiritual struggle of the Christian. Indeed, the spiritual life of the Christian is not peaceful, linear and without challenges; on the contrary, Christian life demands constant striving: the Christian striving to preserve the faith, to enrich the gifts of faith in us. It is no coincidence that the first anointing that every Christian receives in the sacrament of Baptism - the catechumenal anointing symbolically announces that life is a struggle. The anointing of catechumens immediately makes it clear that the Christian is not spared the struggle, that the Christian must strive: his existence, like everyone else's, will have to descend into the arena, because life is a succession of trials and temptations.

A famous saying attributed to Abba Anthony the Great, the first great father of monasticism, goes like this: "Remove temptations and no-one will be saved". The saints are not men who have been spared temptation, but rather people well aware of the fact that in life the seductions of evil appear repeatedly, to be unmasked and rejected. We all have experience of this, all of us: that a bad thought comes to you, that you feel a desire to do this, or to speak badly of others... All of us, all of us are tempted, and we must strive not to give in to these temptations. We all have temptations, and we all have to learn how to behave in these situations.

There are many people who absolve themselves, who declare they are "just fine". But none of us are "alright"; if someone feels they are alright, they are dreaming; every one of us has many things to adjust and must also be vigilant. And at times it happens that we go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and we say, sincerely, "Father, I don't remember, I don't know if I have any sins...". But this is a lack of awareness of what is happening in the heart. We are all sinners. A little examination of the conscience will be good for us. Otherwise, we risk living in the dark, because we have become accustomed to darkness and no longer know how to distinguish good from evil. Isaac of Nineveh said that, in the Church, he who knows his sins and mourns them is greater than he who raises a dead man. We must all ask God for the grace to recognize ourselves as poor sinners, in need of conversion, keeping in our hearts the confidence that no sin is too great for the infinite mercy of God the Father. This is the inaugural lesson Jesus gives us.

We see the baptism of the Messiah in the waters of the river Jordan. Why does Jesus submit to such a rite of purification? He is God, He is perfect! Of what sin must Jesus ever repent? None! Even the Baptist is shocked, to the point that the text says: "John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'" (Mt 3:15). But Jesus is a very different Messiah from the way John had presented Him and the people imagined Him: He does not embody the wrathful God and does not summon for judgement, but, on the contrary, queues up with sinners. How come? Jesus accompanies all us sinners. He is not a sinner, but He is among us. Jesus is with you: talk about your sins, He will help you come out of it. Jesus never leaves us alone, never! Jesus understands you and He accompanies you: He understands your sin and He forgives you. In the worst moments, when we slip into sin, Jesus is by our side to help lift us up. This brings consolation. We must not lose this certainty: Jesus is by our side to help us, to protect us, even to lift us up again after sin. Jesus came to forgive, to save. Jesus never forgets to forgive: it is we who lose the capacity to ask for forgiveness. Let us regain this capacity to ask for forgiveness. Every one of us has many things to ask forgiveness for: let each one of us think about it, inwardly, and speak about it with Jesus today. Speak with Jesus about this: "Lord, I do not know if this is true or not, but I am sure that You will not turn away from me. I am sure that You forgive me. Lord, I am a sinner, but please do not turn away from me". This would be a beautiful prayer to Jesus today: "Lord, do not turn away from me".

Straight after his baptism, Jesus retreated into the desert, where He is tempted by Satan. What must the Son of God know of temptation? Jesus shows Himself to be in solidarity with our frail human nature and becomes our great example: the temptations He faces and overcomes among the arid stones of the desert are the first instruction He gives to our life as disciples. He experienced what we too must prepare ourselves to confront: life is made up of challenges, tests, crossroads, opposing views, hidden seductions, contradictory voices. Some voices are even persuasive, so much so that Satan tempts Jesus by resorting to the words of the Scripture. We must preserve our inner clarity in order to choose the path that truly leads to happiness.

We are always torn between opposite extremes: arrogance challenges humility; hatred opposes charity; sadness hinders the true joy of the Spirit; the hardening of the heart rejects mercy. Christians continually walk along these dividing lines.

The spiritual struggle, then, leads us to look closely at those vices that shackle us and to walk, with the grace of God, towards those virtues that can flourish in us, bringing the springtime of the Spirit into our lives.