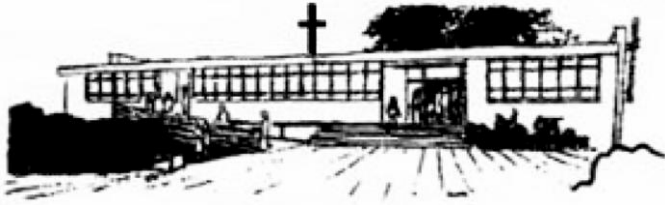


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP
Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP
Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148 (Calls Only)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14th December 2025, Year A/2



EYCK, Jan van, John the Baptist, The Ghent Altarpiece, 1425-29

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

During Morning Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
(Please let the Priest know.)

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Rochelle Borg – Principal

School Office Times

8:30am - 4:00pm - Monday to Friday

Address

94 Joseph Street
Kingswood, NSW 2747

Telephone: 4726 4200

www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 900am – 2:00pm and Friday: 9.00am – 1:00pm

Address: 12 Richmond Road, 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

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

VIGIL SATURDAY

	6:00pm		† Heloise Bartholomuez
SUNDAY	8:30am		John Mathew (Birthday Blessings)
	10:00am		For the Parish
Monday	8:00am	3 rd Week of Advent	Cynthia Azores (Birthday Blessings)
Tuesday	8:00am	3 rd Week of Advent	Anne & Martin (25 th Wedding Anniversary)
Wednesday	8.00am	3 rd Week of Advent	† Maureen van Hoogenvest
Thursday	8.00am	3 rd Week of Advent	Con & Annemarie Eyndhove (Health & Wellbeing)
Friday	8.00am	3 rd Week of Advent	† Soul of Zdzislav
Saturday	8.30am	3 rd Week of Advent	Joseph Schoemaker (Return to Church)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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 speak to the Priest.

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

Please speak to the Priest or ring the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

POPE'S DECEMBER INTENTIONS

For Christians in Areas of Conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Stephen Davies, Heloise Bartholomuez, Brian Frederickson,

DECEASED WE PRAY FOR:

F. P. Mohanadason, Maureen van Hoogenvest, Zdzislav

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2026

Our Sacramental Sessions for 2026 will begin 8th February with Reconciliation. Please watch our Bulletin for details.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday 24th December – 6pm

Thursday 25th December – Midnight (Carols begin at 11.30pm),
8.30am & 10am

Reconciliation: Monday 22nd December

9am to 12noon & 5pm to 7.30pm

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Sr Louisa, Carolina Q. Alvarez, Jonathon Ansell, Tony Bogdanovic, Margaret Colville, Andrew & Jason Isbitski, Tony Jacobs, David Jenkins, Carmel Kerr, Lidya, John McCahon, Krystona McWhinnie, Nympha Miller, Karen Morvan, Michael Muema, Gary O'Brien, Shayla, Garry Smith, Cameron Stevens, Roger Stevens, Margaret Taylor, David Wakeling, Mary Woodward.

SICK LIST: Due to privacy laws, if you have anyone for the sick list, please 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

SECOND COLLECTION: **Loose: \$415.60**
 Planned Giving: \$800.75
 Smart Facilities: \$580.10
 Project Donations: \$250

SMART DONATION FACILITIES

Donations from the two Smart terminals at the door go towards the 2nd Collection. Donations from the Smart terminal near the creche go towards Special Project Donations.

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 Wednesday 14th January at St. Mary's Band Club. All are welcome. If you need a lift, please ring the Parish Office by Tuesday 13th.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you are new to our Parish, have not registered or want to update your information, please use the QR Code.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS

We have five Calendars left. If you have not purchased yours yet, you can ring the Parish Office.

WORKING BEE

Our Parish Council is organising a Working Bee from 9.30am to 1pm on Saturday 20th December. Please come and assist us to have our Parish ready for Christmas.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA

Thank you to Ian, Kaitlin & Jim for your faithfulness in serving Morning Tea each Sunday. A special thank you to Ian who purchases most of the morning tea items himself. May God bless you abundantly.

These three will have a much-earned break from Christmas until 18th January.

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We received a total of \$1966.45. Our quota for this appeal is \$3068.95. If you would like to donate there are envelopes at the back of the Church or online at parracatholic.org/appeal Thank you for your generosity.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday 21st December at 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys. Celebrant is Fr John Puli. Mass will be followed by individual prayers for healing.

NEPEAN HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm call 4734 3150 and leave name, ward and bed number and the priest will visit the patient.

Between 5pm and 9am Monday to Friday and on Weekends there is a Priest on call for end-of-life anointing of the sick. To get a Priest in an emergency you can phone the switchboard and make the request on 4734 2000.

MT SCHOENSTATT

The Shrine at Mt Schoenstatt at Mulgoa is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year from 7.30am to 7.30pm.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION 2026

January 10-16 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Theme: "Soar" is run by the Disciples of Jesus Community and is a truly amazing experience to be part of. Come join about 200 young people and be open for a unique encounter with the Living God. Opportunities for making friends, prayer, Mass, sport, adoration, reflection, learning and relaxation. Go to the website for more details and to register www.summerschool.org.au

LOW-COST COUNSELLING SERVICES

Catholic Care Western Sydney provides low cost and affordable counselling services. Call Catholic Care on 8843 2500 for a friendly chat today.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding Mandatory Training.

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

Modules 1-3 – For all Volunteers.

Modules 4/5 – For those who completed Modules 1-3 two years previously.

For the direct link to training dates and to register:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/?series=safeguarding-training>

To complete the modules online go to

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

For any questions, please email Maria Kervin, at maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE LEO XIV GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Cycle of Catechesis - Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our hope. IV. The Resurrection of Christ and the challenges of the contemporary world.

7. The Pasch of Jesus Christ: the final answer to the question of our death.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning.

The mystery of death has always raised profound questions in human beings. Indeed, it seems to be the most natural and at the same time most unnatural event that exists. It is natural, because every living being on earth dies. It is unnatural, because the desire for life and eternity that we all feel for ourselves and for the people we love makes us see death as a sentence, as a “contradiction”.

Many ancient peoples developed rites and customs linked to the cult of the dead, to accompany and to recall those who journeyed towards the supreme mystery. Today, however, we see a different trend. Death seems to be a sort of taboo, an event to keep at a distance; something to be spoken of in hushed tones, to avoid disturbing our sensibilities and our tranquillity. This is often why we avoid visiting cemeteries, where those who have gone before us rest as they await resurrection.

So what is death? Is it truly the last word on our lives? Only human beings ask themselves this question, because only they know they must die. But being aware of this does not save them from death; on the contrary, in a certain sense it “burdens” them compared to other living creatures. Animals suffer, of course, and they realize that death is near, but they do not know that death is part of their destiny. They do not question the meaning, purpose and outcome of life.

Considering this aspect, one might then think that we are paradoxical, unhappy creatures, not only because we die, but also because we are certain that this event will happen, even though we do not know how or when. We find ourselves aware and at the same time powerless. This is probably where the frequent repressions and existential flights from the question of death originate.

Saint Alphonsus Maria de’ Liguori, in his famous work *Apparecchio alla morte* (Preparation for Death), reflects on the pedagogical value of death,

emphasizing that it can be a great teacher of life. To know that it exists, and above all to reflect on it, teaches us to choose what we really want to make of our existence. Praying, in order to understand what is beneficial in view of the kingdom of heaven, and letting go of the superfluous that instead binds us to ephemeral things, is the secret to living authentically, in the awareness that our passage on earth prepares us for eternity.

Yet many current anthropological views promise immanent immortality, theorize the prolongation of earthly life through technology. This is the transhuman scenario, which is making its way into the horizon of the challenges of our time. Could death really be defeated by science? But then, could science itself guarantee us that a life without death is also a happy life?

The event of the Resurrection of Christ reveals to us that death is not opposed to life, but rather is a constitutive part of it, as the passage to eternal life. The Pasch of Jesus gives us a foretaste, in this time still full of suffering and trials, of the fullness of what will happen after death.

The Evangelist Luke seems to grasp this harbinger of light in the dark when, at the end of that afternoon when darkness had shrouded Calvary, he writes: “It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning” (Lk 23:54). This light, which anticipates Easter morning, already shines in the darkness of the sky, which still appears overcast and mute. The lights of the Sabbath, for the first and only time, herald the dawn of the *day after the Sabbath*: the new light of the Resurrection. Only this event is capable of illuminating the mystery of death to its full extent. In this light, and only in this, what our heart desires and hopes becomes true: that death is not the end, but the passage towards full light, towards a happy eternity.

The Risen One has gone before us in the great trial of death, emerging victorious thanks to the power of divine Love. Thus, he has prepared for us the place of eternal rest, the home where we are awaited; he has given us the fullness of life in which there are no longer any shadows and contradictions.

Thanks to Him, who died and rose again for love, with Saint Francis we can call death our “sister”. Awaiting it with the sure hope of the Resurrection preserves us from the fear of disappearing forever and prepares us for the joy of life without end.