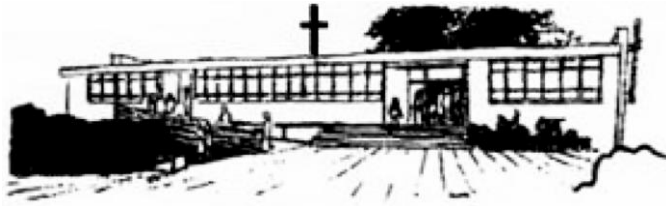


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

15th December 2024, Year C/1



ANGELICO, Fra, The Annunciation, 1440-42

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

Ms. Jennifer Crowley - Principal

School Office Times

8:30am - 4:00pm - 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 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: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

Cynthia Azores (Birthday Blessings)

SUNDAY 8:30am

Vanessa Jacobs (Good Health & Medical Support)

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

Donnel & Delia Nazal & Brenda Cadano (Recovery from Illness)

Tuesday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

†† Crispulo & Antonia Del Monte & Isaac Sr & Jr & Virgilio Nazal

Wednesday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

Jim Melville (Healing from Cancer)

Thursday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

For Good Colonoscopy Results

Friday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

Shirley & Grenville (60th Wedding Ann.)

Saturday 8.30am 3rd Week of Advent

Grenville (For Good Health)

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday 24th December – 6pm

Wednesday 25th December – Midnight,
8.30am & 10am

Reconciliation: Monday 23rd December – 9am to 12noon & 5pm to 7.30pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Garry Harker

DECEASED WE PRAY FOR:

Crispula & Antonia Del Monte, Isaac Sr & Jr & Virgilio Nazal

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES – 1st JANUARY

Tuesday, 31st December 8am Mass
Wednesday, 1st January 8am Mass and 6.00pm Mass followed by the Parish New Year's get-together.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Sr Louisa, Carolina Q. Alvarez, Jonathon Ansell, Tony Bogdanovic, Margaret Colville, Frances Gunn, Andrew & Jason Isbitski, David Jenkins, Carmel Kerr, John McCahon, Krystona McWhinnie, Nympha Miller, Karen Morvan, Ophelia Paraan, Benjamin Santiago, Shayla, Cameron Stevens, Roger Stevens, Maureen van Hoogenvest, 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.

PARISH AND THE DIOCESE

POPE FRANCIS' DECEMBER INTENTIONS

For Pilgrims of Hope

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year of 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: \$825**
 Loose: \$458.05
 Smart Facility: \$575
 Carpet Donations: \$3610.10

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.

SPECIAL PROJECT DONATIONS

Our Special Project Donations are now going towards Carpet for the Church. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

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 8th January at St. Mary's Band Club. All are most welcome.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

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



PARKING NOTICE

We ask that people attending 8.30am Mass would exit via Joseph Street allowing 10am Mass goers access to the Main Gate on Richmond Road. Please leave parking near the Church for the disabled.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

This Sunday 15th December at 2pm at Campion College Chapel, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Toongabbie. Celebrant is Fr Brian Steele.

MUSIC & READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm at St Finbars Church, Glenbrook. See flyer for more information.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This weekend we have another collection for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes, which helps homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives. You can also donate at <https://parracatholic.org/appeal>. We have already collected \$2001.55. Thank you for your generosity.

DISNEY MYSTERY CAMP WITH LOWANA

From 19th to 22nd January at Springwood for girls from five to eight years of age. See flyers at the back of the Church for more information.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE IN 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. To enrol contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org Registrations close 28th January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.

**POLAND & ITALY PILGRIMAGE
In the Footsteps of St John Paul II**

16th to 31st May 2025. See the flyer at the back of the Church for details.

VOLUNTEER WITH VINNIES

This is an opportunity to share your skills with your community. Search "Volunteer Vinnies NSW" or see the flyer at the back of the Church.

**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 – These Modules are for new Volunteers who have not completed any safeguarding Training.

Modules 4/5 – Renewal for those who completed Modules 1-3 two years ago.

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 FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday 11th December 2024

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope. 17. The Spirit and the Bride say: "Come!". The Holy Spirit and Christian Hope

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

We have arrived at the end of our catecheses on the Holy Spirit and the Church. We will devote this final reflection to the title we gave to the entire cycle, namely: "*The Holy Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the People of God towards Jesus our hope*". This title refers to one of the last verses of the Bible, in the Book of Revelation, which says: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come'" (Rev 22:17). Who is this invocation addressed to? It is addressed to the risen Christ. Indeed, both Saint Paul (cf. 1 Cor 16:22) and the *Didaché*, a text from apostolic times, attest that in the liturgical meetings of the first Christians there resounded the cry in Aramaic, "*Maràna tha!*", which indeed means "Come, Lord!". A prayer to Christ, for Him to come.

At that earliest time, the invocation had a background we would describe today as eschatological. Indeed, it expressed the ardent expectation of the glorious return of the Lord. And this cry, and the expectation it expresses, have never been extinguished in the Church. Still today, in the Mass, immediately after the consecration, she proclaims Christ's death and resurrection "*as we await the blessed hope and [His] coming*". The Church awaits the coming of the Lord. But this expectation of the *final* coming of Christ has not remained the one and only. It has also been joined by the expectation of his *continuous* coming in the present and pilgrim situation of the Church. And it is this coming that the Church thinks of above all, when, animated by the Holy Spirit, she cries out to Jesus: "Come!".

A change, or better, let's say, a development, full of meaning, has occurred with regard to the cry "Come", "Come, Lord!". It is not habitually addressed only to Christ, but also to the Holy Spirit Himself! He who cries out is now Him to whom we cry out. "Come!" is the invocation with which we begin almost all the hymns and prayers of the Church addressed to the Holy Spirit: "Come, Holy Spirit", we say in the *Veni Creator*, and "Come, Holy Spirit", "*Veni Sancte Spiritus*", in the sequence of Pentecost; and so on, in

many other prayers. It is right that it should be so, because, after the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit is Christ's true "*alter ego*", He who takes His place, who makes Him present and operative in the Church. It is He who "declare[s] ... the things that are coming" (cf. Jn 16:13) and makes them desired and expected. This is why Christ and the Spirit are inseparable, also in the economy of salvation.

The Holy Spirit is the ever-gushing source of Christian hope. Saint Paul left us these precious words, this is what Paul says: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rm 15:13). If the Church is a boat, the Holy Spirit is the sail that propels it and lets it advance on the sea of history, today as in the past!

Hope is not an empty word, or a vague desire of ours that things may turn out for the best; hope is a certainty, because it is founded on God's fidelity to His promises. And this is why it is called a theological virtue: because it is infused by God and has God as its guarantor. It is not a passive virtue, which merely waits for things to happen. It is a supremely active virtue that helps make them happen. Someone who fought for the liberation of the poor wrote these words: "The Holy Spirit is at the origin of the cry of the poor. He is the strength given to those who have no strength. He leads the struggle for the emancipation and full realization of the people of the oppressed".

The Christian cannot be satisfied with *having* hope; he or she must also *radiate* hope, be a sower of hope. It is the most beautiful gift that the Church can give to all of humanity, especially at times in which everything seems to be dragging down the sails.

The apostle Peter exhorted the first Christians with these words: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope". But he added a recommendation: "But do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pt 3:15-16). And this is because it is not so much the strength of the arguments that will convince people, but rather the love that we know how to put in them. This is the first and most effective form of evangelization. And it is open to everyone!

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Spirit always, always help us to "abound in hope by virtue of the Holy Spirit! Thank you.