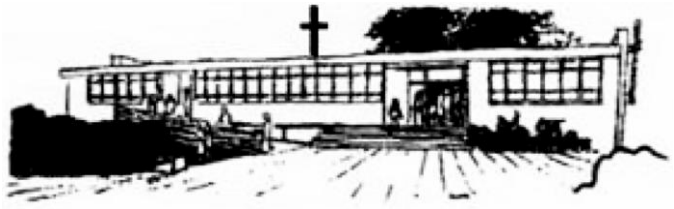
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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 LENT

23rd March 2025, Year C/1

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

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. Alan Eisenhuth – Acting 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

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

First Reading:	**Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**		
Responsorial Psalm:	**The Lord is kind and merciful.**		
Second Reading:	**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**		
Gospel:	**Luke 13:1-9**		
VIGIL SATURDAY			
	6:00pm		**† Calicidon Bugeja**
SUNDAY	**8:30am**		**Mary Ritter (For her Health)**
	10:00am		**For the Parish**
Monday	**8:00am**	**3rd Week of Lent**	**Luke Matthew (Birthday Blessings)**
Tuesday	**8:00am**	**ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**	**† Bishop Edward Kelly**
Wednesday	**8.00am**	**3rd Week of Lent**	**†† Living & Dec Mems of the McIlvenna, Dobranski, Colreavy, McCaffrey & Lahood Families**
Thursday	**8.00am**	**3rd Week of Lent**	**† Bishop Geoffrey Robinson**
Friday	**8.00am**	**3rd Week of Lent**	**†† Souls in Purgatory**
Saturday	**8.30am**	**3rd Week of Lent**	**Laura's Dad Jim (In Palliative Care)**

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.

MASS INTENTIONS
Please speak directly to one of the Priests.

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:
Please speak to the Priest or ring the Parish Office.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Larry Ritter

DECEASED WE PRAY FOR: Calicidon Bugeja, Bishop Edward Kelly, Dec Mems of McIlvenna, Dobranski, Colreavy, McCaffrey & Lahood Families, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Souls in Purgatory

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – 12th/13th April – Masses as usual

Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th April – Mass 8am

Reconciliation for Easter – Monday 14th April
9am to 12noon & 5pm to 7.30pm

Holy Thursday April 17th – 7pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday April 18th – Stations of the Cross – 11am
Passion of Christ – 3pm

Holy Saturday April 19th – Paschal Vigil – 6.30pm

Easter Sunday April 20th – Masses at 8.30am & 10am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday at 6pm during Lent.

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

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2025

Reconciliation: Thursday 10th April

First Communion: 22nd June

Registration & 1st Session: Sunday 27th April

Confirmation: Thursday 6th November

Registration & 1st Session: Sunday 20th July

All Sessions will be after 10am Mass at 11.30am

POPE FRANCIS' MARCH INTENTIONS

For Families in Crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: $1585**
Loose: $492.70
Smart Facility: $434.44
Carpet Donations: $7353

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.

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.

MEN'S BARBEQUE

Saturday 29th March after 6pm Mass. All men over 18 are invited to come and enjoy an evening together.

PARISH LUNCH

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon. Our next Lunch will be Wednesday 9th April 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.

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL

Next weekend, 29th/30th March, we will have our Good Samaritan Collection.

This Lent, your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal using the envelopes, at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code on the poster. Thank you.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD JUBILEE 2025

6pm Friday 28th March to 5pm Saturday 29th March at Mt Schoenstatt. Ring Ramani on 0424 955 859 or see flyer on noticeboard for more information.

OUR DIOCESE'S JUBILEE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Young people (18-35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from 19 July – 5 August 2025. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration. Express your interest today at parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025

ADULT JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

For adults 35 years and over from 7th to 25th September 2025. See the Poster at the back of the Church for dates of the Information Session, the Formation Nights and how to apply.

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.
The next session of face-to-face Training will be held on 3rd May at Holy Family Parish, Emerton

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 19th March 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025.
Jesus Christ our hope II. The life of Jesus.
The encounter *1. Nicodemus. "You must be born from above" (Jn 3:7b)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

With this catechesis we will begin to contemplate some of the encounters narrated in the Gospels, to understand the way Jesus gives hope. Indeed, they are encounters that enlighten life and bring hope. It can happen, for example, that someone helps us to see a difficulty or a problem we are experiencing from a different perspective; or it can happen the someone simply gives us a word that makes us feel that we are not alone in the pain we are going through. At times there can even be silent encounters, in which one does not say anything, and yet those moments help us to get back on track.

The first encounter I would like to look at is that of Jesus with Nicodemus, narrated in chapter 3 of the Gospel of John. I will start with this episode because Nicodemus is a man who, with his history, shows that it is possible to emerge from darkness and find the courage to follow Christ.

Nicodemus goes to Jesus at night: it is an unusual time for a meeting. In John's language, temporal references often have symbolic value: here the night probably refers to what is in the heart of Nicodemus. He is a man who finds himself in the darkness of doubt, in that darkness that we experience when we no longer understand what is happening in our lives and do not see clearly the way forward.

If you are in the dark, of course you seek the light. And John, at the beginning of his Gospel, writes: "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (1:9). Nicodemus therefore seeks Jesus because he has sensed that He can illuminate the darkness of his heart.

However, the Gospel tells us that Nicodemus does not immediately understand what Jesus is saying to him. And so we see that there are many misunderstandings in this dialogue, and also a lot of irony, which is a characteristic of the evangelist John. Nicodemus does not understand what Jesus is telling him because he continues to think with his own logic and categories. He is a man with a well-defined personality; he has a public role, he is one of the leaders of the Jews. But probably something no longer adds up for him. Nicodemus senses that something no longer works in his life. He feels the need to change, but he does not know where to begin.

This happens to all of us in some phases of life. If we do not accept to change, if we close ourselves up in inflexibility, in habits or our ways of thinking, we risk dying. Life resides in the capacity to change to find a new way to love. Indeed, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus of a *new birth*, which is not only possible, but even necessary at certain moments in our journey. To tell the truth, the expression used in the text is already ambivalent in itself, because *anōthen* (ἄνωθεν) can be translated as either "*from above*" or "*again*". Slowly, Nicodemus will understand that these two meanings go together: if we allow the Holy Spirit to generate new life in us, we will be born again. We will rediscover that life, which was perhaps fading in us.

I chose to begin with Nicodemus also because he is a man who, with his very life, shows that this change is possible. Nicodemus is able to do it: in the end he will be among those who go to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus (cf. *Jn* 19:39)! Nicodemus has finally *come to the light*, he is reborn, and he no longer needs to stay in the night.

Changes sometimes frighten us. On the one hand they attract us, at times we desire them, but on the other we would prefer to remain in comfort. Therefore, the Spirit encourages us to face these fears. Jesus reminds Nicodemus – who is a teacher in Israel – that even the Israelites were afraid when they were walking in the desert. And they focused so much on their worries that at a certain point those fears took the form of venomous snakes (cf. *Nm* 21:4-9). In order to be freed, they had to look at the copper serpent that Moses had placed on a pole, that is, they had to look up and stand before the object that represented their fears. Only by looking into the face of that which frightens us can we begin to be set free.

Nicodemus, like all of us, can look at the Crucified One: the One who defeated death, the root of all our fears. Let us also lift our gaze to the One they pierced, let us also be met by Jesus. In Him we find the hope to face the changes in our lives and be born again.