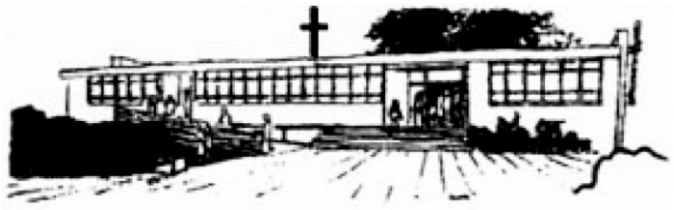
# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP
Parish Priest
Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP
Assistant Priest
Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148 (Calls Only)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd December 2024, Year C/1

ANGELICO, Fra, & FILIPPO LIPPI, Fra, Adoration of the Magi, 1440/1460

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

**LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS**

**First Reading:** **Micah 5:1-4**

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved.**

**Second Reading:** **Hebrews 10:5-10**

**Gospel:** **Luke 1:39-44**

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| **VIGIL SATURDAY** | | | |
| | **6:00pm** | | **† Orlando Surace** |
| **SUNDAY** | **8:30am** | | **†† Mems of the Woodward & Hewitt Fams.** |
| | **10:00am** | | **For the Parish** |
| **Monday** | **8:00am** | **4th Week of Advent** | **† Witold Blazek** |
| **Tuesday** | **8:00am** | **4th Week of Advent** | **†† Bronislaw & Witold Blazek** |
| | **6.00pm** | **Christmas Vigil** | |
| **Wednesday** | **12.00am** | **MIDNIGHT MASS** | |
| | **8.30am** | **CHRISTMAS DAY** | |
| | **10.00am** | **CHRISTMAS DAY** | **For the Parish** |
| **Thursday** | **8.00am** | **ST STEPHEN** | **† Charley Tonna** |
| **Friday** | **8.00am** | **ST JOHN** | **† Irena Rudzinska** |
| **Saturday** | **8.30am** | **THE HOLY INNOCENTS** | **Leanne Jacobs (Wellbeing & Guidance)** |

**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, with quiet Carols from 11.30pm
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:** Charley Tonna

**DECEASED WE PRAY FOR:** Orlando Surace, Deceased Members of the Woodward & Hewitt Families, Bronislaw & Witold Blazek, Irena Rudzinska

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES – 1st JANUARY**
Tuesday 31st December 8am Mass.
Wednesday 1st December 8am Mass and 6pm Mass followed by the Parish New Year's Get-together. Please bring a plate to share. Drinks will be provided.

**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

*Have a blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year A.D. 2025*
*Dominican Fathers*

**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: $1352**
**Loose: $687.10**
**Smart Facility: $620**
**Carpet Donations: $3850.10**

**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**
There will be no Bible study for the next two weeks.

**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.

**SUNDAY MORNING TEA**
Ian, Kaitlin & Jim are going to have a much-deserved break from serving us Morning Tea from Sunday 29th December until 26th January. They will resume on Sunday 2nd February. Thank you, Ian, Kaitlin & Jim; may God bless you for your faithfulness.

**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.

**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL**
Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes. We collected $2274.95. You can still donate at parracatholic.org/appeal

**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.

**EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTA**
From the 2nd to 9th January enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

**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.

**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 18th December 2024**

**Jesus Christ Our Hope. (For the upcoming Year of Jubilee).**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will begin the cycle of catechesis that will continue throughout the Jubilee Year. The theme is "Jesus Christ our Hope": for He is the goal of our pilgrimage, and He Himself is the way, the path to follow.

The first part will look at the childhood of Jesus, which is narrated to us by the Evangelists Matthew and Luke (cf. *Matthew* 1-2; *Luke* 1-2). The Infancy Gospels recount Jesus' virginal conception and His birth from Mary's womb; they recall the messianic prophecies fulfilled in Him and speak of the legal paternity of Joseph, who grafted the Son of God onto the "trunk" of the Davidic dynasty. We are presented with an infant, child and adolescent Jesus, submissive to his parents and, at the same time, aware that He is wholly devoted to the Father and His Kingdom. The difference between the two Evangelists is that while Luke recounts the events through Mary's eyes, Matthew does so through Joseph's, insisting on this unprecedented fatherhood.

Matthew begins His Gospel and the entire New Testament canon with the "genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (*Matthew* 1:1).

It is a list of names already present in the Hebrew Scriptures, to show the truth of history and the truth of human life. In fact, "the Lord's genealogy consists of the true story that includes a number of figures who are problematic to say the least, and the sin of King David is also emphasized (cf. *Matthew* 1:6). Yet, everything culminates with Mary and Christ (cf. *Matthew* 1:16)" (*Letter on the Renewal of the Study of Church History*, 21 November 2024). Then, there appears the truth of human life that passes from one generation to the next, bringing three things: a name that encompasses a unique identity and mission; belonging to a family and a people; and finally, the adherence of faith to the God of Israel.

Genealogy is a literary genre, that is, a form suitable for conveying a very important message: no one gives life to himself but receives it as a gift from others. In this case, it is the chosen people, and those who inherit the legacy of faith from their forefathers, in passing on life to their children, also pass on to them faith in God.

Unlike the genealogies of the Old Testament, however, where only male names appear, because in Israel it is the father who imposes the name on his son, in Matthew's list of Jesus' ancestors, women also appear. We find five of them: Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah who, left a widow, pretends to be a prostitute in order to ensure an offspring for her husband (cf. *Genesis* 38); Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho who allows the Jewish explorers to enter the promised land and conquer it (cf. *James* 2); Ruth, the Moabite who, in the book of the same name, remains faithful to her mother-in-law, takes care of her and will become King David's great-grandmother; Bathsheba, with whom David commits adultery and, after having her husband killed, begets Solomon (cf. *2 Samuel* 11); and finally Mary of Nazareth, wife of Joseph, of the house of David: from her the Messiah, Jesus, is born.

The first four women have in common not the fact that they are sinners, as is sometimes said, but by the fact that they are *foreign* to the people of Israel. What Matthew brings out is that, as Benedict XVI has written, "through them the world of the Gentiles enters ... into Jesus' genealogy - his mission to Jews and Gentiles becomes visible" (*The Infancy Narratives*, Milan-Vatican City 2012, 15).

While the four previous women are mentioned alongside the man who was born of them or the one who begot him, Mary, on the other hand, acquires particular prominence: she marks a new beginning. She herself is a new beginning, because in her story it is no longer the human creature who is the protagonist of generation, but God Himself. This is clearly seen from the verb "was born": "Jacob [was] the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born" (*Matthew* 1:16). Jesus is the son of David, grafted by Joseph into that dynasty and destined to be the Messiah of Israel, but He is also the son of Abraham and of foreign women, destined therefore to be the "*Light of the Gentiles*" (cf. *Luke* 2:32) and the "*Saviour of the world*" (*John* 4:42).

The Son of God, consecrated to the Father with the mission of revealing His face (cf. *John* 1:18; *John* 14:9), enters the world like all children of man, so much so that in Nazareth He will be called "son of Joseph" (*John* 6:42) or "son of the carpenter" (*Matthew* 13:55). True God and true man.

Brothers and sisters, let us awaken in ourselves the grateful memory of our ancestors. And above all, let us give thanks to God, who, through Mother Church, has generated us to eternal life, the life of Jesus, our hope.