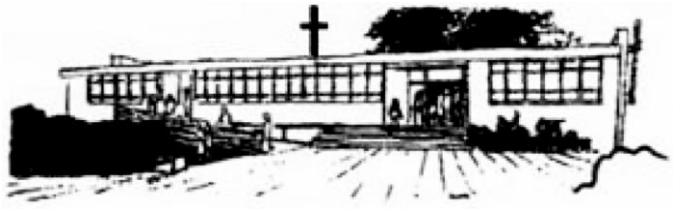
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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 LENT

30th March 2025, Year C/1

MURILLO, Bartolome Esteban, The Return of the Prodigal Son, 1667-70

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: **Joshua 5:9-12**

Responsorial Psalm: **Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Second Reading: **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Gospel: **Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

VIGIL SATURDAY			
	6:00pm		**†† Guiseppe & Tony Suraci**
SUNDAY	**8:30am**		**Anthony & Ernestina Almeida (Healing & God's Blessings)**
	10:00am		**For the Parish**
Monday	**8:00am**	**4th Week of Lent**	**† Larry Ritter**
Tuesday	**8:00am**	**4th Week of Lent**	**Grace Cross (Healing from Cancer)**
Wednesday	**8.00am**	**4th Week of Lent**	**Anthony & Ernestina Almeida (Healing & God's Blessings)**
Thursday	**8.00am**	**4th Week of Lent**	**† Piotr Zawadzki**
Friday	**8.00am**	**4th Week of Lent**	**†† For God's Precious Infants**
Saturday	**8.30am**	**4th Week of Lent**	**†† Dec. Members of St Vincent de Paul**

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: Guiseppe & Tony Suraci, Piotr Zawadzki, God's Precious Infants, Deceased Members of St Vincent de Paul Society, Giovanni Dimarti & Maria Sanmartino

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: $1020**
Loose: $506.95
Smart Facility: $540
Carpet Donations: $7433

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.

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.

YOUNG ADULTS' FAITH FORMATION

Sunday 6th April from 7.00-8-30pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 9 Ropes Creek Road, South Mt Druitt. Rev Dr Paschal Corby will speak on St Anthony of Padua, followed by games and pizza.

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL

This weekend we will have our Good Samaritan Collection.

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 using the envelopes, at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code on the poster. Thank you.

MEN AT THE SHRINE

An hour of adoration on Wednesday 9th April from 8-9pm at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa. Please see the Flyer for further information. For any questions contact Bernard on 0416 106 871.

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 26th March 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025.
Jesus Christ our hope II. The life of Jesus.
The encounters: 2. The Samaritan Woman. "Give me a drink!" (Jn 4:7)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will reflect on those moments in which it seems that Jesus is in fact waiting right there, at that crossroads in our life. They are encounters that surprise us, and at the beginning we are perhaps even a little diffident; we try to be prudent and to understand what is happening.

This was probably also the experience of the Samaritan woman, mentioned in chapter four of John's Gospel (cf. 4:5-26). She did not expect to find a man at the well at noon; indeed, she hoped to find no one at all. In fact, she goes to fetch water from the well at an unusual hour, when it is very hot. Perhaps this woman is ashamed of her life, perhaps she has felt judged, condemned, not understood, and for this reason she has isolated herself, she has broken off relations with everyone.

To go to Galilee from Judea, Jesus would have had to choose another road and not pass through Samaria. It would also have been safer, given the tense relations between the Jews and the Samaritans. Instead, He wants to pass through there, and stops at that very well, right at that time! Jesus waits for us and lets Himself be found precisely when we think that there is no hope left for us. The well, in the ancient Middle East, is a place of encounter, where at times marriages are arranged; it is a place of betrothal. Jesus wants to help this woman understand where to find the true answer to her desire to be loved.

The theme of desire is fundamental to understanding this encounter. Jesus is the first to express His desire: "Give me a drink!" (v. 10). For the sake of opening a dialogue, Jesus makes Himself appear weak, in order to put the other person at ease, making sure that she is not frightened. Thirst is often, even in the Bible, the image of desire. But Jesus here thirsts first of all for the woman's salvation. "He who was asking drink", says Saint Augustine, "was thirsting for the faith of the woman herself".

Whereas Nicodemus had gone to Jesus at night, here Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at midday, the time when there is most light. It is indeed a moment of revelation. Jesus makes Himself known to her as the Messiah and also sheds light on His life. He helps her to reread her history, which is complicated and painful: she has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband. The number six is not accidental but usually indicates imperfection. Perhaps it is an allusion to the seventh bridegroom, the one who will finally satiate this woman's desire to be truly loved. And that bridegroom can only be Jesus.

When she realizes that Jesus knows her life, the woman shifts the conversion to the religious question that divided Jews and Samaritans. This happens sometimes to us too when we pray: at the moment in which God is touching our life, with its problems, we lose ourselves at times in reflections that give us the illusion of a successful prayer. In reality, we have raised barriers of protection. However, the Lord is always greater, and to that Samaritan woman, to whom according to cultural precepts He should not even have spoken, He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth. And when she, once again surprised, observes that on these things it is better to wait for the Messiah, He tells her: "I am he, the one who is speaking with you" (v. 26). It is like a declaration of love: the One you are waiting for is Me; the One who can finally respond to your desire to be loved.

At that point the woman runs to call the people of the village, because mission springs precisely from the experience of feeling loved. And what proclamation could she have brought, if not her experience of being understood, welcomed, forgiven? It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize.

Just like a person in love, the Samaritan forgets her water jar, leaving it at Jesus' feet. The weight of that jar on her head, every time she returned home, reminded her of her condition, her troubled life. But now the jar is left at Jesus' feet. The past is no longer a burden; she is reconciled. And it is like this for us too: to go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to Him the weight of our past. Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel.

Dear brothers and dear sisters, let us not lose hope! Even if our history appears burdensome, complicated, perhaps even ruined to us, we always have the possibility of consigning it to God and setting out anew on our journey. God is merciful and awaits us always!