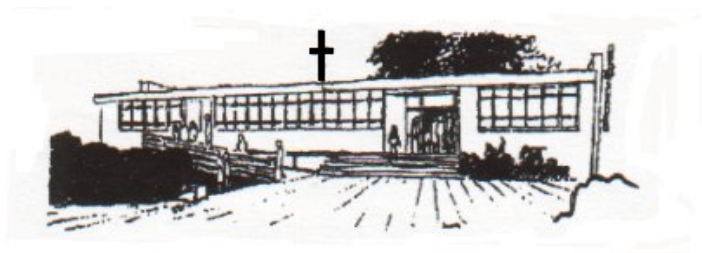


St. Joseph's Catholic Church



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Maciej Niedzielski OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 02 4721 8945

Please leave a detailed Message

The Feast Of The Holy Family 28th December 2014, Year B



BACKER, Jacob de The Nativity

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm (Mass in Polish)
6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am
10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Monday–Friday 8:00am
Saturday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday after 8:30am Mass

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs Franziska Jackson—Principal

School Office Times

8:30am—4:00pm Monday to Friday

Address

94 Joseph Street
Kingswood NSW 2747

Telephone 4732 3999; Fax 4731 1432

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 am – 2:00pm; Friday: 8:30am – 1:30pm

Address: 12-22 Richmond Rd, PO Box 39, Kingswood, NSW 2747; Telephone: 02 4721 4080; Fax: 02 4721 0089

Email: parish@stjosephskingswood.org; Web: www.stjosephskingswood.org; Facebook: [stjosephkingswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephkingswood)

SUNDAY:	10:00am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	Year B	For the Parish
	8:30am			Bronislaw Blazek

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Monday:	8:00am	5th Day in Octave of Christmas	No Mass Intention
Tuesday:	8:00am	6th Day in Octave of Christmas	No Mass Intention
Wednesday	8:00am	7th Day in Octave of Christmas	No Mass Intention
Thursday	8:00am	Mary, Mother of God	No Mass Intention
Friday	8:00am	Sts. Basil the Great/Gregory Nazianzen	Joseph Tonna
Saturday	8:30am	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	Dec. Members of St. Vincent de Paul

**The Rosary Statue will be at the home of
Jean & Margaret Cobden—28th December 2014
Charles & Joan Timmins—4th January 2015**

Poland

Christmas Eve is known as Wigilia (pronounced vee-GHEE-lee-uh). The house is also cleaned and everyone gets washed and puts on their festive clothes. The main Christmas meal is eaten in the evening and is called "Kolacja wigilijna" (Christmas Eve supper). It's traditional that no food is eaten until the first star is seen in the sky! So children look at the night sky to spot the first star!

On the table there are 12 dishes. The meal is traditionally meat free. Everyone has to eat or at least try some of each dish. For Catholics the 12 dishes symbolize Jesus's 12 disciples. Like in many Catholic countries, Christmas Eve is often a 'fasting day' meaning that some people don't eat anything until after sunset (when the Church day officially ends). So that's where the custom of the first star comes from. Some people in central Poland say that at midnight the animals can talk.

The Christmas tree is also often bought in and decorated on Christmas Eve. It is decorated with a star on the top (to represent the Star of Bethlehem), gingerbreads, lights (previously candles) and "bombki" which are baubles and glass ornaments in different shapes (though most often they are spheres). They are usually hand-made, painted or decorated in other way. Christmas Eve is finished by going to Church for a Midnight Mass.

Malta

The Churches are decorated with lights and **nativity** cribs, 'Presepu', built by the church-goers. The cribs are decorated with figurines, called 'pasturi' (representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Today some of the cribs are mechanical and the figures in them move! The figure of the baby Jesus is put on the main altar at midnight on Christmas night. At epiphany it is traditional to put the three figures of the Magi in the crib. There is a group on Malta called 'Friends of the Crib' who help to keep the Maltese crib tradition alive.

Maltese houses are often also decorated with cribs with 'pasturi' (which are small plastic or clay figures representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Large figures of the baby Jesus are sometimes put behind windows or in balconies and lit at night. Houses are also decorated with Christmas wreaths, **candles** and all sorts of other decorations. Every household also has a **Christmas Tree** decorated with light bulbs, tinsel and Christmas decorations.

It is traditional to sow wheat, grain and canary seed, 'gulbiena', on cotton buds in flat pans five weeks before Christmas. These are left in dark corners in the house until the seeds produce white grass-like shoots. The pans with the fully-grown shoots are then used to decorate the crib or the statue of Baby Jesus. encouraged to give their sermon a personal delivery which will touch the hearts of the church-goers.

One Maltese Christmas tradition is the 'Priedka tat-Tifel' which means 'the preaching of the child'. A boy or a girl, normally aged 7 to 10, does the preaching of the sermon at the sermon by heart and starts learning it four or five weeks before they preach on Christmas Eve.

The parents are also very excited and nervous about the performance, as they would have helped the children to learn the sermon.

The boy or girl tells the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and is encouraged to give their sermon a personal delivery which will touch the hearts of the church-goers.

Philippines

People in the Philippines like to celebrate Christmas for as long as possible! The playing of Christmas carols in shops can start in September! The formal Christmas celebrations start on 16th December when many people go to the first of nine pre-dawn or early morning masses. The last mass is on Christmas day. The Christmas celebrations continue to the First Sunday in January when **Epiphany** or the Feast of the Three Kings is celebrated.

In the Philippines the early masses held before Christmas are called the 'Misa de Gallo' or 'Simbang Gabi' in Filipino. Christmas customs in the Philippines are a mixture of western (USA and UK) and native Filipino traditions. So people in the Philippines have **Santa Claus** (or 'Santa Klaus'), **Christmas trees**, **Christmas cards** and **Christmas carols** from western countries!

They also have their own Christmas traditions such as the 'parol' which is a bamboo pole or frame with a lighted star lantern on it. It's traditionally made from bamboo strips and colored Japanese paper or cellophane paper and represents the star that guided the Wise Men. It is the most popular Christmas decoration in the Philippines.

Christmas Eve is very important in the Philippines. Many people stay awake all night into Christmas day! During Christmas Eve evening, Christians go to church to hear the last 'simbang gabi' or the Christmas Eve Mass. This is followed by a midnight feast, called Noche Buena.

Italy

One of the most important ways of celebrating Christmas in Italy is the **Nativity crib scene**. Using a crib to help tell the Christmas story was made very popular by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 (Assisi is in mid-Italy). The previous year he had visited Bethlehem and saw where the stable, where it was thought that Jesus was born. A lot of Italian families have a Nativity crib in their homes.

The city of Naples in Italy is world famous for its cribs and crib making. These are known as 'Presepe Napoletano' (meaning Neapolitan Cribs). The first crib scene in Naples is thought to go back to 1025 and was in the Church of S. Maria del presepe (Saint Mary of the Crib), this was even before St. Francis of Assisi had made cribs very popular!

Having cribs in your own home became popular in the 16th century and it's still popular today (before that only churches and monasteries had cribs). Cribs are traditionally put out on the 8th December. But the figure of the baby Jesus isn't put into the crib until the evening/night of December 24th!

One old Italian custom is that children go out Carol singing and playing songs on shepherds pipes, wearing shepherds sandals and hats.

On Christmas Eve, it's common that no meat (and also sometimes all dairy) is eaten. Often a light seafood meal is eaten. People go to the Midnight Mass service. The types of fish and how they are served vary between different regions in Italy.

Italy Contd

When people return from Mass, if it's cold, you might have a slice of Italian Christmas Cake called 'Panettone' which is like a dry fruity sponge cake and a cup of hot chocolate!

For many Italian-American families a big Christmas Eve meal of different fish dishes is now a very popular tradition! It's known as The Feast of the Seven Fishes ('Esta dei Sette Pesci' in Italian). The feast seems to have its root in southern Italy and was brought over to the USA by Italian immigrants in the 1800s. It now seems more popular in America than it is in Italy!

Common types of fish eaten in the feast include Baccala (salted Cod), Clams, Calamari, Sardines and Eel. When people return from Mass, if it's cold, you might have a slice of Italian Christmas Cake called 'Panettone' which is like a dry fruity sponge cake and a cup of hot chocolate!

For many Italian-American families a big Christmas Eve meal of different fish dishes is now a very popular tradition! It's known as The Feast of the Seven Fishes ('Esta dei Sette Pesci' in Italian). The feast seems to have its root in southern Italy and was brought over to the USA by Italian immigrants in the 1800s. It now seems more popular in America than it is in Italy!

Common types of fish eaten in the feast include Baccala (salted Cod), Clams, Calamari, Sardines and Eel.

India

Midnight mass is a very important service for Christians in India, especially Catholics. The whole family will walk to the Mass and this will be followed by a massive feast of different delicacies, (mostly curries) and the giving and receiving of presents. Churches in India are decorated with Poinsettia flowers and candles for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.

Instead of having traditional **Christmas Trees**, a banana or mango tree is decorated (or whatever tree people can find to decorate!). Sometimes people use mango leaves to decorate their homes.

In Southern India, Christians often put small oil burning clay lamps on the flat roofs of their homes to show their neighbors that Jesus is the light of the world.

In South West India, in the state of Kerala where, 22% of the state's 33 Million population are Christians and Christmas is an important festival. Traditional Catholics fast don't eat from 1st to 24th of December - until the Midnight Mass. Every house will be decorated with a Christmas star. During the start of the Christmas season, almost all the stationary shops will be filled with new and variety Christmas stars. People make cribs in their homes and Churches.