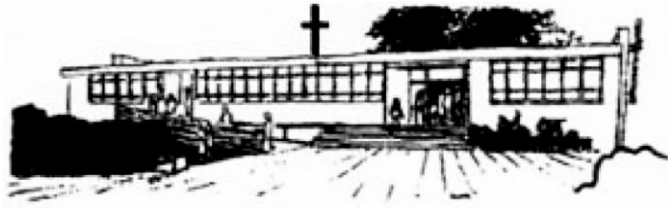


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 02 9673 5046

Please leave a detailed Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11th December 2016, Year A/1



ANGELICO, Fra, Annunciation, 1451-52

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

Mr John Laffan - Acting Principal

School Office Times

8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Monday to Friday

Address

94 Joseph Street
Kingswood, NSW 2747

Telephone: 4732 3999; **Fax:** 4731 1432

www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm and 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)

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

LITURGY

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

SUNDAY 8:30am

Julian Harne

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday 8:00am Our Lady of Guadalupe

Julian Harne

Tuesday: 8:00am St Lucy

Ralph Mahoney (Dec. Ann.)

Wednesday 8:00am St John of the Cross

Alexandrina Pimentel (Dec. Ann.)

Thursday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

Bronislaw & Stanislaw Blazek (Dec. Ann.)

Friday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

Gerard Portelli

Saturday 8:30am 3rd Week of Advent

ADORATION CHAPEL:

Open during office hours or speak to Fr Andrew to arrange another time.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Please contact the Parish Office or one of the priests. In the case of Emergency please call the emergency number at the front of this bulletin.

HYMNS FOR WEEKEND MASSES:

Processional: 244 Offertory: 246

Communion: 242 Reflection: 82

Recessional: 248

DECEASED ANNIVERSARY:

Ralph Mahoney, Alexandrina Pimentel, Bronislaw & Stanislaw Blazek, Gerard Portelli, Patrick Houlihan

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday 24th Vigil Mass – 6.00pm

Sunday 25th Midnight Mass

8.30am & 10.am Masses

12 noon Polish Mass

2.00pm Syro Malabar Mass

CONFESSIONS

Monday 19th December

9.00am to 12 noon and 5.30pm to 7.00pm

ROSARY IN OUR HOMES

Please fill in the form at the back of the Church if you are interested in having Our Lady's Statue and the Rosary in your home for a week at a time. The Statue will be delivered to you by the Legion of Mary. Our Priests will also be able to visit your home to bless it during this time.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kevin Collins, Alistair McArthur, Dianne Devitt, John McCahon, Kathryn Tuckwell, Carmel Kerr, Debbie O'Connor, Roger Stevens, Cameron Stevens, Shayla, Karen Morvan, Gisela Drobiszewski, Charles Timmins, Barbara Thompson, Zig Barglik, Valerie Davies, Janet Boreham, Raymond Waters, Francene Flannery, Jason Isbitski, Rosslyn Talbot, David Jenkins, Noeline Cruzado & Elaine D'Arcy.

SICK LIST: If you have anyone for the sick list, (Due to privacy laws) 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 PRAYER INTENTIONS

Universal: That the countries which take in a great number of displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.

Evangelization: That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

SECOND COLLECTION: Envelopes: \$742

Loose: \$299.70

First Collection contributions go to the Diocese to support the priests working in the Parish.

Second collection contributions go directly to the Parish to support day to day operation of the Parish.

LEGION OF MARY - 'Mary Seat of Wisdom'

Meetings are held every Tuesday from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the old office building. All persons interested in meeting and participating in Legion's activities are most welcome.



JUBILEE 800 1216 - 2016
ORDER OF PREACHERS

www.stjoseph800.org

GIFT OF THE PLENARY INDULGENCE

Pope Francis has granted a special Jubilee Plenary Indulgence, on usual conditions, for the faithful praying in a Dominican church. That is why every days' morning adoration we finish with special prayers.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER GROUPS:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays after Mass – 9am to 10am in Parish Hall. Aloma 4731 8102; Teresa – 4731 4222

2nd & 4th Thursday 7:00pm at 2/40 Single Road, South Penrith. Elaine – 4736 8162.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Available for purchase after all Masses at \$9 each.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY PARKING IN THE COURTYARD IS ONLY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABLED STICKERS. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE.

CLEANING THE LORD'S HOUSE

If you have an hour to spare on a Friday or Saturday morning please consider assisting with cleaning the Church. Ring Clare on 0432 668 724.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

From 8th to 25th December from dusk until midnight every night at St Mary's Cathedral you can enjoy the Lights of Christmas.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday 11th December at 2.00pm at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys. Celebrant Fr Paul Glynn.

CAROLS AT THE SCHOENSTATT SHRINE

Christmas Carols commence at 7.30pm Saturday 17th December at 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Children are encouraged to dress up as angels and shepherds. You are welcome to enjoy a picnic in the grounds before the carols commence.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Noel! Noel! Concert starts at 7.30pm on Monday 19th December in St Patrick's Cathedral at 1 Marist Place, Parramatta

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSES

Open to all seeking formation and training for serving at the altar. Courses at Penrith or Blacktown. Ring Office of Worship on 8838 3456, email alobo2@parra.catholic.org.au or collect an enrolment form from Aruna or Clare.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION

January 8th to 15th at Bathurst. Details and registration at www.summerschool.org.au

PARISH LUNCH:

All Parishioners are invited to our lunch every 2nd Wednesday of the Month at midday. For information on the venue please ring Denis & Anne on 4731 4618. All are most welcome.

Following proclamation of the Privacy Act 1988 at the end of 2001, a privacy policy has been developed in accordance with Diocesan norms and has been approved by the Parish Priest. A copy is available from the Parish Office.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today we begin a new series of catechesis, on the theme of *Christian hope*. It is very important, because hope does not disappoint. Optimism disappoints, but not hope! We are in such need of it, in these times that seem dark, in which sometimes we feel lost in face of the evil and violence that surround us, in face of the pain of so many of our brothers. We need hope! We feel lost and also somewhat discouraged, because we feel impotent and it seems that this darkness will never end.

However, we must not let hope abandon us, because God walks with us with His love. "I hope because God is by my side: all of us can say this. Each one of us can say: "I hope, I have hope, because God walks with me." He walks and leads me by the hand. God does not leave us alone. The Lord Jesus has overcome evil and opened to us the way of life.

And then, particularly in this Season of Advent, which is the time of expectation, in which we prepare ourselves to receive once again the consoling mystery of the Incarnation and the light of Christmas, it is important to reflect on hope. Let us allow ourselves to be taught by the Lord what it means to hope. Therefore, we listen to the words of Sacred Scripture, beginning with *the prophet Isaiah*, the great prophet of Advent, the great messenger of hope.

In the second part of his Book, Isaiah addresses the people with a *proclamation of consolation*: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service has ended, that her guilt is expiated, that she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low; The rugged land shall be a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

God the Father consoles by arousing consolers, to whom He asks to hearten the people, His children, proclaiming that the warfare is ended, sorrow is ended, and sin is pardoned. This is what heals the afflicted and fearful heart. Therefore, the prophet asks to *prepare the way of the Lord*, opening oneself to His gifts of salvation. For the people, consolation begins with the possibility to walk on the way of God, a new way, straightened and passable, a way to prepare *in the desert*, so that one can go across it and return to the homeland. Because the people the prophet was addressing was living the tragedy of the exile in Babylon, and now, instead, it hears it said that it will be able to return to its land, through a way made easy and wide, without valleys and mountains that make the way exhausting, a way levelled in the desert. Therefore, to prepare that way means to prepare *a way of salvation and of liberation* from every obstacle and hindrance.

The exile was a dramatic moment in the history of Israel, when the people had lost everything. The people had lost their homeland, freedom, dignity and even their trust in God. They felt abandoned and without hope. Instead, see the prophet's appeal, which reopens their heart to faith. *The desert* is a place

in which it is difficult to live, but precisely there is where they will be able to walk to *return, not only to their homeland but also to God, and to hope and to smile again*. When we are in darkness, in difficulties, we cannot smile and it is, in fact, hope that teaches us to smile to find that way that leads to God. One of the first things that happen to persons who are tired of God is that they are persons without a smile. Perhaps they are able to have a great laugh, they do so one after another, a beat, a laugh ... but a smile is lacking! Hope alone gives a smile: it is the smile of the hope of finding God.

Life is often a desert, it is difficult to walk in it, but if we entrust ourselves to God it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Suffice it never to lose hope, suffice it to continue to believe, always, despite all. When we find ourselves before a child, perhaps we might have many problems and many difficulties, but a smile comes to us from within, because we find ourselves before hope: a child is a hope! And so we must be able to see in life the way of hope, which leads us to find God, God who became a Child for us — and it will make us smile, it will give us all!

In fact, these words of Isaiah are later used by John the Baptist in his preaching, which invites to conversion. He said thus: "The voice of one crying in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord" (*Matthew* 3:3). It is a voice that cries where it seems that no one is able to hear — but who can hear in the desert? — that cries in the loss due to the crisis of faith. We cannot deny that today's world is in a crisis of faith. One says, "I believe in God, I am Christian" — "I am of that religion ..." But your life is very far from being Christian; it is very far from God! Religion, faith has fallen in an expression: "Do I believe?" — "Yes!" However, here it is about turning to God, converting the heart to God and of going on this way to find Him. He awaits us. This is John the Baptist's preaching: to prepare. To prepare the encounter with this Child who will give us back a smile. When the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus, for the Israelites it was as if they were still in exile, because they were under Roman domination, making them strangers in their own homeland, governed by powerful occupants who decided their life. However, the true history is not that made up of the powerful but rather that *made by God together with His little ones*. The true history — that which will remain in eternity — is that which God writes *with His little ones*: God with Mary, God with Jesus, God with Joseph, *God with the little ones*. Those little and simple ones that we find around Jesus about to be born: Zechariah and Elizabeth, elderly marked by sterility; Mary, young virgin girl betrothed bride of Joseph, the shepherds held in contempt, accounted as nothing. It is the little ones, made great by their faith, *the little ones who are able to continue to hope*. And hope is the virtue of *little ones*. The great, the satisfied do not know hope they do not know what it is.

It is the little ones with God, with Jesus that transform the desert of exile, of desperate loneliness, of suffering into a level way on which to walk to go to encounter the glory of the Lord. And we come, therefore, to allowing ourselves to be taught hope. Let us wait confidently for the coming of the Lord and no matter what the desert is of our lives — each one knows in what desert he walks — we become a flowering garden. Hope does not disappoint!