

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18th December 2016, Year A/1



Fra. Angelico, Annunciation 1433-34

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: Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; He is the king of glory.

VIGIL SATURDAY

	6:00pm		Rosie O'Neill (in Thanksgiving)
SUNDAY	8:30am		Ashu D'Sousa (for Good Health)
	10:00am		For the Parish
Monday	8:00am	4 th Week of Advent	Fr Ephraem Chifley OP (Soul of)
Tuesday:	8:00am	4 th Week of Advent	Dominic D'Sousa (Dec. Ann.)
Wednesday	8:00am	4 th Week of Advent	Anthony Peter D'Sousa (Dec. Ann.)
Thursday	8:00am	4 th Week of Advent	Marina Panozzo (Birthday)
Friday	8:00am	4 th Week of Advent	Magda Rezk (Health & Healing)
Saturday	8:30am	4 th Week of Advent	Rosie O'Neill (in Thanksgiving)

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: 247 Offertory: 246
Communion: 242 Reflection: 82
Recessional: 248

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Ephraem Chifley OP

DECEASED ANNIVERSARY: Patrick Houlihan,
Dominic & Anthony Peter D'Sousa.

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 & Kathleen Angoves

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.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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: \$919.90

Loose: \$354.75

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:

Will resume in February. If you have any questions about these Groups please ring:

Aloma 4731 8102; Teresa – 4731 4222

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.

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

Courses at Penrith or Blacktown. Email Office of Worship on alobo2@parra.catholic.org.au or ring on 8838 3456, or collect an enrolment form from Aruna or Clare.

GIRLS' CAMP AT MT SCHOENSTATT

Three day camp for girls 10 to 12 years old.

Date: 4pm Wednesday 11th to 4pm Saturday 14th January. **Cost:** \$110 (includes food and accomm).

Inquiries: Sr M Luka at sr.m.luka@bigpond.com or 0439537 843.

LOWANA SUMMER CAMP

For girls Years 5-8 in 2017. From 24th to 26th January at Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre, 100 Crosslands Rd, Galston. Contact: Paula 0405 457 799. See brochure at back of Church.

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!

We are approaching Christmas, and the prophet Isaiah helps us once again to open ourselves to hope, receiving the Good News of the coming of salvation. Chapter 52 of Isaiah begins with the invitation addressed to Jerusalem to awake, to shake herself from the dust and loose the bonds, and to put on her beautiful garments, because the Lord has come to liberate His people (vv. 1-3). And he adds: "My people shall know my name, that it is I who speak; here am I" (v. 6).

To this "Here am I" said by God, which summarizing His whole will of salvation and of closeness to us, the song of joy of Jerusalem responds, in keeping with the prophet's invitation. It is a very important historical moment. It is the end of the exile of Babylon; it is the possibility for Israel to find God again and, in faith, to find itself again. The Lord makes Himself close, and the "little remnant," namely the few people that remained after the exile and that in exile endured in faith, that went through the crisis and continued to believe and to hope even in the midst of darkness, that "little remnant" will be able to see the wonders of God.

At this point the prophet inserts a song of exultance:

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the one bringing good news,
Announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, saying to Zion,
"Your God is King!"
...Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD has comforted his people,
has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
All the ends of the earth can see
the salvation of our God. (*Isaiah 52:7.9-10*).

These words of Isaiah, on which we wish to pause a little, make reference to the miracle of peace, and they do so in a very particular way, fixing the eyes not on the messenger but on his feet, which run swiftly: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger ..."

It is like the Bride of the Canticle of Canticles, who runs to her Beloved: "Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills" (*Canticle 2:8*). Thus runs also the messenger of peace, bringing the happy announcement of liberation, of salvation, and proclaiming that God reigns.

God has not abandoned His people and did not let Himself be defeated by evil, because He is faithful, and his grace is greater than sin. We must learn this, because we are obstinate and do not learn it. But I will ask a question: what is greater, God or sin? God! And who wins at the end, God or sin? God. He is able to overcome the greatest sin, the most shameful, the most terrible, the worst of sins. With what weapon does God overcome sin? With love! This means that "God reigns"; these

are the words of faith in a Lord whose power bends over humanity, abases Himself, to offer mercy and liberate man from what disfigures in him the beautiful image of God, because when we are in sin, God's image is disfigured. And the fulfilment of so much love will be in fact the Kingdom established by Jesus, that Kingdom of forgiveness and peace that we celebrate at Christmas and that is realized definitively at Easter. And the most beautiful joy of Christmas is this interior joy of peace: the Lord has cancelled my sins, the Lord has forgiven me, the Lord has had mercy on me, He came to save me. This is the joy of Christmas!

These are, brothers and sisters, the reasons for our hope. When everything seems finished, when, in face of so many negative realities, faith becomes difficult and the temptation comes to say that nothing has meaning anymore, see instead the Good News brought by those swift feet: God is coming to realize something new, to establish a kingdom of peace. God has "bared His arm" and is coming to bring freedom and consolation. Evil will not triumph forever, there is an end to pain. Despair is defeated because God is among us.

And we are also asked to awake somewhat, like Jerusalem, in keeping with the invitation addressed to her by the prophet. We are called to become men and women of hope, collaborating with the coming of this Kingdom made of light and destined to all, men and women of hope. How awful it is when we meet a Christian that has lost hope! "But I don't hope for anything, everything has ended for me": so says a Christian who is unable to look at horizons of hope and, before his eyes there is only a wall. But God destroys these walls with forgiveness! And we must pray for this, that God may give us hope every day, and that He may give it to everyone; that hope that is born when we see God in the crib in Bethlehem. The message of the Good News that has been entrusted to us is urgent. We must also run like the messenger on the mountains, because the world cannot wait; humanity has hunger and thirst for justice, for truth and for peace.

And seeing the little Babe of Bethlehem, the little ones of the world will know that the promise has been fulfilled, the message has been realized. Enclosed in a newly born child, needy of everything, wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger, is the whole power of the God that saves. Christmas is a day to open the heart: it is necessary to open one's heart to so much littleness, which is there in that Baby, and to so much wonder. It is the wonder of Christmas, for which we are preparing, with hope, in this Season of Advent. It is the surprise of a Child God, of a poor God, of a weak God, of a God who abandons His greatness to make himself close to each one of us.