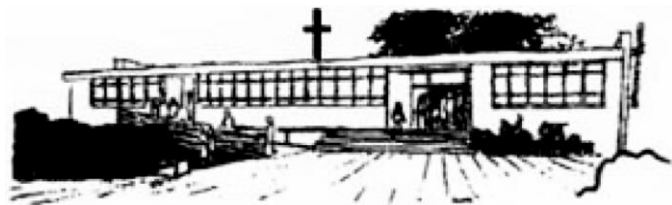


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

16th December 2018, Year C/1



ANGELICO, Fra, The 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

Mrs. Patricia Reilly - Principal

School Office Times

8:30 am - 4:00 pm - 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: 8:30am - 1:30pm

Address: 12 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)

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

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

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

Alfred Raymond Waltisbuhl

SUNDAY 8:30am

In Thanksgiving

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

In Thanksgiving

Tuesday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

Matilda Vanickova

Wednesday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

Deceased Members of the Holmes Family

Thursday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

Fr Victor Doyle

Friday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

Fr Peter Elias

Saturday 8.30am 3rd Week of Advent

Deceased Mem. of the Dressler Family

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.

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Ashford, Lucy Dias

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Victor Doyle, Matilda Vanickova, Fr Peter Elias, Alfred Raymond Waltisbuhl, Deceased Members of the Holmes and Dressler Families.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Monday 24th - Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Tuesday 25th - Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30pm Monday night)

9.00am Mass

11.00am Polish Mass

Reconciliation - Monday 17th December

9.00am to 12.00 noon & 5.00pm to 7.30pm

YOUTH MASS

Christmas Eve at 6.00pm and then 1st Saturday in February 2019. Thank you to all our young people who have contributed throughout the year. Also, thank you to the family who provided the pizzas all year for our young people. May the Lord bless you.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kevin Collins, John McCahon, Kathryn Tuckwell, Carmel Kerr, Roger Stevens, Cameron Stevens, Shayla, Karen Morvan, Katalin Domotor, Barbara Thompson, Zig Barglik, Valerie Davies, Raymond Waters, Jason Isbitski, Andrew Isbitski, David Jenkins, Margaret Colville, Gill Waltisbuhl, Robert Waltisbuhl, Cecylia Tobera.

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 INTENTIONS

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: \$710**
 Loose: \$301.35

LEGION OF MARY – 'Mary Seat of Wisdom'

Meeting every Thursday from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the old office building. All interested in participating in Legion's activities are most welcome.

CHILDREN'S LEGION OF MARY

Meeting every Wednesday from 6.00pm in the old office building. Children under 18 years old are most welcome.

ROSARY IN OUR HOMES:

Please fill in the form at the back of the Church if you would like 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.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER GROUP:

Will resume 1st Monday in February at 7pm in the Parish Office. Any questions please ring Jim on 0411 280 950.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month in the Church from 12.30pm to 3pm. All are most welcome. Please contact Delfin on 0478 784 885 with any questions.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study this Wednesday at 10.30am. There will be two weeks off (25th December and 2nd January). It will then resume Wednesday 9th January. All are most welcome. Please bring your Bibles with you.

PARISH LUNCH:

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our first Lunch for 2019 will be Wednesday 9th January at Penrith Golf Club. All are most welcome.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Calendars are now available for the price of \$9 each. Proceeds of sales go to the Parish. They are a great gift for Christmas.

PARISH WORKING BEE

Thank you to all who invested time and energy into our working bee. May the Lord bless you for your assistance in getting our Church and grounds ready for Christmas.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday 16th December at 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys.

CHOIR MEMBERS REQUIRED

If you enjoy singing, please consider joining our Choir for Christmas Carols and Midnight Mass. Please ring Rubina on 0405 043 865 for more information.

CLEANING THE LORD'S HOUSE

If anyone has a free hour on a Friday or Saturday morning we would appreciate some help cleaning the Church, polishing brass or arranging flowers. Please ring the Parish Office.

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We will be having a collection this weekend to make up our quota of \$3552. This will be the last collection for this Appeal. We have raised \$2542.45 so far; thanks to your generosity. You can visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal.

EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE

This is a 7 day, 110 km Catholic Pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains. It begins at Emu Plains on 2nd January 2019 and finishes at Bell on 8th January 2019. Please see www.epiphanypilgrimage.org for info.

HOUSE OF WELCOME DONATIONS

If you would like to donate groceries for the refugees please leave them at the Parish Office. They need olive oil, tinned tomatoes, Basmati rice, flour, UHT milk, washing and dishwashing liquid, cleaning products, chick peas, tea and coffee.

NSW PASTORAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Tuesday 26th February from 9.30am to 4.30pm at Dooleys Catholic Club Lidcombe. For information and registration nappa2019.wixsite.com/conference.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. Information at back of the Church or at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS

We continue the course of catechesis on the "Our Father," which we began last week. Jesus puts on the lips of His disciples a brief, daring prayer made up of seven questions — a number that isn't accidental in the Bible but that indicates fullness. I say daring because, if Christ hadn't suggested it, probably none of us — none of the most famous theologians — would dare to pray to God in this way. Jesus, in fact, invites His disciples to approach God and to make some requests with confidence: first of all regarding Him and then regarding us. There are no Preambles in the "Our Father." Jesus doesn't teach formulas to "ingratiate" the Lord, rather, He invites to pray to Him making the barriers fall of uneasiness and fear. He doesn't say to address God calling him the "Almighty," "Most High," "You who are so far from us; I am a miserable one." No, He doesn't say this, but simply "Father," with all simplicity, as children who turn to their father. And this word "Father" expresses filial confidence and trust.

The "Our Father" prayer sinks its roots in man's concrete reality. For instance, it makes us ask for bread, our daily bread, a simple but essential request, which says that faith isn't something "decorative," detached from life, which happens when all other needs have been satisfied. Rather, prayer begins with life itself. Prayer — Jesus teaches us — doesn't begin in human existence after the stomach is full, rather, it nests wherever there is a man, any man who is hungry, who weeps, who struggles, who suffers and wonders "why." In a certain sense, our first prayer was the cry that accompanied our first breath. Announced, in that newborn's cry, was the destiny of our whole life: our constant hunger, our constant thirst & our constant quest for happiness.

Jesus doesn't want to extinguish what is human in prayer; He doesn't want to anesthetize it. He doesn't want us to dampen our questions and requests, learning to endure all. Instead, He wants every suffering, every anxiety to leap towards Heaven and become a dialogue.

A person once said that to have faith is the habit to cry.

We should all be like Bartimaeus of the Gospel (Cf. *Mark* 10:46-52) — we recall that passage of the Gospel, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus —, that blind man that begged at the doors of Jericho. Around him were

so many good people that ordered him to be quiet. "But shut up! The Lord is passing. Shut up. Don't disturb. The Master has so much to do; don't disturb Him. You are annoying with your cries. Don't disturb." However, he didn't listen to that advice: with holy insistence, he hoped that his miserable condition would finally enable him to meet Jesus. And he cried louder! And the polite people <said>: "But no, He is the Teacher, we beg you! You make yourself look bad!" And he cried out because he wanted to see, he wanted to be healed.

"Jesus, have mercy on me!" (v. 47) Jesus gives him back his sight, and says to him: "your faith has made you well" (v. 52), almost as if explaining that the decisive thing for his healing was that prayer, that invocation cried out with faith, stronger than the "good sense" of so many people who wanted him to be quiet. Not only does prayer precede salvation but it already contains it in some way, because it frees one from the despair of one who doesn't believe in a way out of so many unbearable situations.

Then, believers certainly also feel the need to praise God. The Gospels report to us the joyful exclamation that bursts from Jesus' heart, full of grateful amazement to the Father (Cf. *Matthew* 11:25-27). The first Christians even felt the need to add a doxology to the text of the "Our Father": "For yours is the power and the glory forever" (Didache, 8, 2).

However, none of us is asked to embrace the theory that someone in the past advanced, that, namely, the prayer of request is a weak form of faith, whereas the most genuine prayer is pure praise, that which seeks God without the weight of a request. No, this isn't true. The prayer of request is genuine, is spontaneous, it's an act of faith in God who is the Father, who is good, who is Almighty. It's an act of faith within me, who am little, a sinner, needy. And, therefore, a prayer to ask for something is very noble. God is the Father who has immense compassion for us and wants His children to speak to Him without fear, directly, calling Him "Father," or, in difficulties, saying: "But Lord, what have you done to me?" Therefore, we can tell Him everything, also the things in our life that are distorted and incomprehensible. And He promised us that He would be with us always, until the last day we spend on this earth. Let us pray the Our Father, beginning simply thus: "Father" or "Daddy." And He understands us and loves us so much.+