

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

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15th December 2019, Year A/2



ANGELICO, Fra Annunciation Cortona, 1433-1434

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

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)

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS / MASS INTENTIONS

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

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

Dec. Mems. of the Gosper Family

SUNDAY 8:30am

Herman Mulder (Rec. Dec.)

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

For Australian Farmers

Tuesday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

Virginia Mongale (Dec. Ann.)

Wednesday 8:00am 3rd Week of Advent

In Thanksgiving

Thursday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

For Students Sitting Their Exams

Friday 8.00am 3rd Week of Advent

For Australian Farmers

Saturday 8.30am 3rd Week of Advent

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Herman Mulder, Kevin Dunncliffe

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES: Deceased Mems.
of the Gosper Family, Virginia Mongale

BAPTISM OR MARRIAGE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS

To arrange for a Mass Intention please contact one
of the Priests in person.

YOUTH MASS

Our next Youth Mass is the Christmas Eve Mass on
Tuesday 24th December at 6pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday 24th - Vigil Mass at 6.00pm (Youth Mass)

**Wednesday 25th - Midnight (Carols from 11.30pm
Tuesday night)**

Wednesday 25th - 9.00am Mass

Reconciliation - Monday 23rd December

9.00am to 12.00 noon & 5.00pm to 7.30pm

Also Saturday mornings after Mass

NEW YEAR MASS

6pm Wednesday 1st January 2020 followed by Bingo.
More information to follow.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Zig Barglik, Kevin Collins, Margaret Colville, Valerie Davis, Katalin Domotor, Nora Hehir, Andrew Isbitski, Jason Isbitski, David Jenkins, Carmel Kerr, John McCahon, Karen Morvan, Ophelia Paraan, Shayla, Cameron Stevens, Roger Stevens, Barbara Thompson, Cecylia Tobera, Kelly Tonna, Kathryn Tuckwell, Geoffrey Waltis, Gill Waltisbuhl, Robert Waltisbuhl, Raymond Waters, Denis Woodward.

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

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This coming Wednesday 18th December Father will be Anointing our Sick and Housebound. If you know of anyone who would benefit from the anointing, please ring the Parish Office.

POPE FRANCIS' DECEMBER INTENTIONS

Universal – The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

SECOND COLLECTION: Envelopes: \$657
Loose: \$457.15
Visitor Contribution: \$5.70

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER GROUP:

Next Group is Monday 3rd February at 7pm in the Parish Office. All are welcome.

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 every Wednesday at 9.15am. All are welcome.

YOUTH GROUP

Thank you to U Turn for running our Youth Group, and all who supported them this past year by providing food for afternoon tea or donating their bottles and cans to assist with food. Our next Group is Wednesday 5th February 2020.

PARISH LUNCH:

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next Lunch will be Wednesday 8th January at Penrith Golf Club. All are most welcome.

NO EXIT VIA JOSEPH STREET

Please take care when entering or leaving via Richmond Road.

WORKING BEE

Please join us from 9am to 12noon next Saturday 21st December to prepare the Church and Grounds for Christmas. Any time you can spare on that morning will be appreciated.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This Weekend we have another collection to help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Our quota is \$3580 and so far we have received \$1614.05. Thank you for your generosity and please consider a further contribution at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or in the Envelopes.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

2pm this Sunday 15th December at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys. Celebrant is Fr Adam Crouch MGL.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSES

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar begin Monday 10th February at Blacktown and Thursday 13th February at Penrith. Please see Office for Form.

GIFTS OF FAITH

The Catholic charity "Aid to the Church in Need" has produced a **Gifts of Faith** Catalogue to support suffering and persecuted Christians. Copies can be found at the back of the Church. Order by 9th December to receive your **Gift of Faith Cards and Envelopes** in time for Christmas.

CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM

5th to 9th January 2020 for Youth aged 16 to 20 years old interested in history, literature, philosophy and theology. Spaces are limited. Find out more or register at www.campion.edu.au/summer-program

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR RAIN

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The impact of the drought is national – and so the response should be national. Access resources at www.catholic.org.au/drought

HOUSE OF WELCOME DONATIONS

If you would like to donate groceries for the refugees please leave them at the Parish Office.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Listen to the announcement from speaker and see information on the table at the back of the Church.

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

THE HOLY FATHER'S CATECHESIS

St Paul, Suffering Witness of the Risen One

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

In the reading of the Acts of the Apostles, the journey of the Gospel continues in the world, and the seal of suffering marks increasingly Paul's witness. However, this is something that grows over time in Paul's life. Paul isn't only the evangelizer full of ardour, the intrepid missionary among the pagans, who gives life to new Christian communities, but he is also the suffering witness of the Risen One (Cf. *Acts* 9:15-16).

The Apostle's arrival in Jerusalem, described in chapter 21 of the Acts, unleashes a ferocious hatred in his regard; they reprimand him: "But he was a persecutor! Don't trust him!" As it was for Jesus, for Paul also Jerusalem is the hostile city. Going to the Temple, he is recognized; he is led outside to be lynched and saved *in extremis* by the Roman soldiers. Accused of teaching against the Law and the Temple, he is arrested and begins his prisoner's pilgrimage, first before the Sanhedrin, then before the Roman Procurator in Caesarea and finally before King Agrippa. Luke shows the similarity between Paul and Jesus, both hated by their adversaries, accused publicly and acknowledged innocent by the imperial Authorities and so Paul is associated to his Master's Passion, and his passion becomes a living Gospel. I have come from Saint Peter's Basilica, where this morning I had an audience earlier with Ukrainian pilgrims from a Ukrainian diocese. How these people have been persecuted; how much they have suffered for the Gospel! However, they didn't negotiate the faith. They are an example. Today, many Christians in the world, in Europe, are persecuted and give their life for the faith, or are persecuted with white gloves, namely, left aside, marginalized . . . Martyrdom is the air of a Christian's life, of a Christian community. There will always be martyrs among us: this is the sign that we are following Jesus' way. It's a blessing of the Lord, that there be in the People of God, a man or a woman who gives this witness of martyrdom.

Paul is called to defend himself from the accusations and, in the end, in the presence of King Agrippa II, his apologia changes into an effective witness of faith (Cf. *Acts* 26:1-23). Then Paul recounts his own conversion: the Risen Christ has made him Christian and has entrusted to him the mission among the Gentiles, "that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of their sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith" in Christ (v. 18). Paul obeyed this charge and did nothing other than show how the prophets and Moses announced what he now proclaims: "that the Christ must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the people and to the Gentiles" (v. 23).

Paul's passionate witness touches the heart of King Agrippa, who is only lacking the decisive step. And the King says thus: "In a short time you think to make me a Christian!" (v. 28). Paul is declared innocent, but he cannot be released because he has appealed to Caesar. Thus, the unstoppable journey of the Word of God continues towards Rome. Paul, in chains, will end up here in Rome.

Henceforth, Paul's portrait is that of a prisoner whose chains are the sign of his fidelity to the Gospel and of the testimony rendered to the Risen One. The chains are certainly a humiliating test for the Apostle, who appears to the eyes of the world as a "criminal" (2 *Timothy* 2:9). However, his love for Christ is so strong that even these chains are read with the eyes of faith; faith that for Paul isn't "a theory, an opinion on God and on the world," but "the impact of the love of God on his heart, [. . .] it's love for Jesus Christ." (Benedict XVI, Homily on the Occasion of the Pauline Year, June 28, 2008).

Dear brothers and sisters, Paul teaches us perseverance in trials and the capacity to read all with the eyes of faith. Let us ask the Lord today, through the intercession of the Apostle, to revive our faith and to help us to be faithful to the end to our vocation of Christians, of disciples of the Lord, of missionaries.