

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Andrew Fornal OP

Parish Priest

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

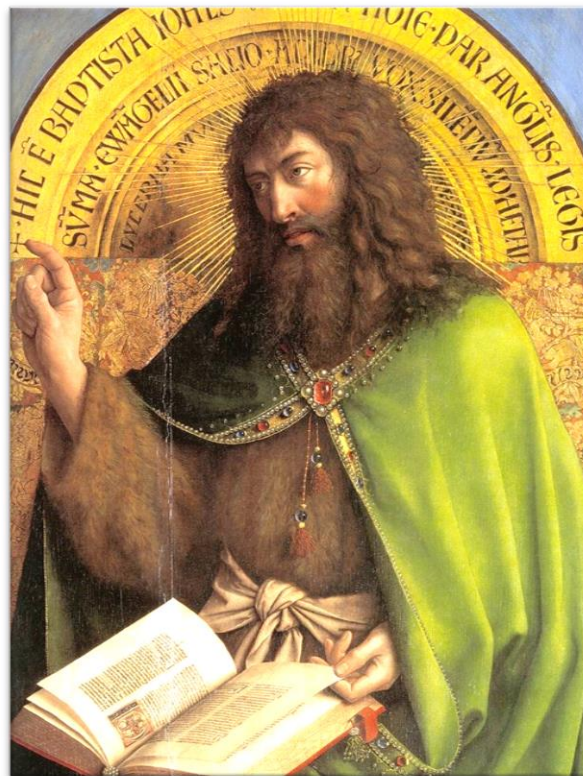
Assistant Priest

Fr. Piotr Kruk OP

EMERGENCY PHONE: 0423 725 148

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6th December 2020, Year B/1



EYCK, Jan van, John the Baptist, The Ghent Altarpiece, 1425-29

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm Live Stream
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: 9:00am - 1:00pm

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: O people of Sion, Behold, the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see Your kindness, and grant us Your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

SUNDAY 8:30am

Eileen Woodward (Rec. Dec.)

10:00am

For the Parish

Monday 8:00am St Ambrose

Thanks for Good Ultrasound Result

Tuesday 8:00am IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Peter & Danuta (25th Wedding Ann.)

Wednesday 8.00am 2nd Week of Advent

Thanks for Passing Medical Exam

Thursday 8.00am 2nd Week of Advent

Patrick Houlihan (Dec. Ann.)

Friday 8.00am 2nd Week of Advent

Saturday 8.30am Our Lady of Guadalupe

LIVE STREAM OF WEEKEND MASS AT 6PM

The 6pm Vigil on Saturday evening will continue to be livestreamed every Weekend and will be available online through to Sunday.

Please visit our website:

<http://stjosephskingswood.org/> or type in your browser: bit.ly/stJoe

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart
as though You have already come.

I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

CHRISTMAS TRIDUUM MASSES

6pm for Three evenings: Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th December. No Booking for 22nd & 23rd. The first 80 people will be admitted to the Church.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Thursday 24th 6pm & 8pm

Friday 25th 12 Midnight, 9am & 11am

Bookings are Essential for these Masses.

RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Monday 21st December 9am to 12noon & 5-7.30pm

RECENTLY DECEASED: Vivienne Almeida,
Eileen Woodward

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES: Patrick Houlihan

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

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 INTENTIONS

For A Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

SECOND COLLECTION: **Envelopes: \$926**
 Loose: \$362.75
 Tap & Go: \$180

PARKING NOTICE

We ask that people attending 8.30am Mass would exit via Joseph Street allowing 10am Mass goers access to the Main Gate on Richmond Road.

Please leave Parking near the Church for the Disabled.

TAP AND GO DONATION FACILITY

We have a new "Tap and Go" Donation device at the back of the church. Tap once to donate \$10; tap twice to donate \$20 etc. up to \$150. All contributions go to the 2nd Collection.

PARISH CELL GROUP

Our last Group for the year is this Monday night at 7pm in the Parish Centre. All are most welcome.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is every Wednesday at 9.15am. Please bring your Sunday Missal with you. All welcome.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Our next Young Adults meeting is this Friday 11th December at 6.45pm in the Parish Hall. For more information type bit.ly/YASJK into your browser.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SRE'S

The SRE Ministry would like to acknowledge the services of our SRE members and congratulate those on completion of the Level 1 Course.

We specially recognise the Years of Service of:

Dianne Nelson – 40 Yrs; Angela Bogdonavic – 20 Yrs;
Dawn Kingsford – 18 Yrs; Christine Kucera – 12 Yrs;
Lovine Devine – 5 Yrs; Josephine Elias – 5 Yrs.

Thank you for your commitment to bringing the Good News to our children in the State Schools.

Thank you to the Parishioners for your prayers and support.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This weekend we have another collection for Catholic Foundation. The Special Collection Box is at the back of the Church or you can also donate online through the link on our Parish website. We have collected \$885. Thank you for your generosity.

PRIVATE PRAYER AND MASS BOOKINGS

Following the 4 sq. metres per person, 80 people are allowed in our Church from Wednesday 1st July. Priest and Essential Workers are not included.

Private Prayer - Sign-in sheets are provided prior to entry to provide your contact details for Private Prayer.

Weekend Masses – Bookings are required to guarantee a place in the Church. To register please ring the Parish by calling 4721 4080 during Office hours or ring 0423 725 148 outside Office hours. If you do not register early in the week, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to attend the Mass of your choice, as we will have to limit the number of attendants to 80 (including children) for each Mass.

You will need to provide your name and contact details when registering. Your presence will be confirmed as you arrive at the Church.

Weekday Masses - There is no registration for weekday Masses; the first 80 people will be admitted to the Church.

Please provide your name and contact details on the sheet provided or you can use the QR Code and show the Usher that you have been CHECKED IN.

Social distancing is still essential, so you will be required to take notice of the signs on the pews.

If you decide to attend Mass, please adhere to these rules:

- There will be no procession of gifts, no passing of hymn books or collection plates.
- The sign of peace will be omitted or given without hand-to-hand contact.
- Holy communion will only be distributed and received on the hand.
- There is no Congregational Singing at present and it is highly recommended that Masks be worn at Church and in the Grounds.

Hand Sanitisers are available in the Church. Door handles, pens and surfaces are sanitised regularly.

Further details are available on the parish website <http://stjosephskingswood.org/>

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR 2020

When the restrictions are lifted, we will celebrate and extend our celebration into next year.

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

The Blessing

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today we will reflect on an essential dimension of prayer: *blessing*. In the creation accounts God continually blesses life, always. He blesses the animals, He blesses the man and the woman and He blesses the Sabbath, the day of rest and the enjoyment of all of creation. On the first pages of the Bible, there is a continual repetition of blessings. God blesses, but men give blessings as well, and soon they discover that the blessing possesses a special power that accompanies the person who receives it throughout his or her entire life, and disposes the person's heart to allow God to change it.

At the world's beginning, therefore, there is a God who "speaks well", who blesses. He sees that every work of His hands is good and beautiful, and when He creates man, and creation is complete, He recognizes that he is "very good". Shortly thereafter, the beauty that God had imprinted within His work will be altered, and the human being will become a degenerate creature, capable of spreading evil and death in the world; but nothing will ever take away God's original imprint of goodness that God placed in the world, in human nature, in all of us: the capacity of blessing and of being blessed. God did not make a mistake with creation nor with the creation of man. The *hope of the world* lies entirely in *God's blessing*: He continues to *desire our good*.

God's greatest blessing is Jesus Christ; His Son is God's greatest. He is a blessing for all of humanity, He is the blessing that saved us all. He is the eternal Word with which the Father blessed us "while we were yet sinners" (Rm 5:8), St Paul says: the Word made flesh and offered for us on the cross.

St Paul proclaims with emotion God's plan of love. And he says it this way: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved" (Eph 1:3-6). There is no sin that can completely erase the image of Christ present in each one of us. No sin can erase that image that God has given us – the image of Christ. Sin can disfigure it, but not remove it from God's mercy. A sinner can remain in error for a long time, but God is patient till the end, hoping that the sinner's heart will eventually open and change. God is like a good father, He is a Father, and like a good mother, He is a good mother as well: they never stop loving their

child, no matter what he or she may have done wrong, always. We are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit. Because He is a Father, He is a Mother, He is pure love, He has blessed us forever. And He will never cease blessing us.

What an impressive experience it is to read these biblical texts of blessing in a prison, or in a rehabilitation group. To allow these people to hear that they are still blessed, notwithstanding their grave errors, that the heavenly Father continues to desire their good and to hope that they will open themselves in the end to the good. Even if their closest relatives have abandoned they are always children to God. God cannot erase in us the image of sons and daughters, each one of us is His son, His daughter. At times we see miracles happen: men and women who are reborn because they find this blessing that has anointed them as children. For God's grace changes lives: He takes us as we are, but He never leaves us as we are.

Let us think about what Jesus did with Zacchaeus (see Lk 19:1-10), for example. Everyone saw evil in him; instead, Jesus spots a glimmer of good, and from that – from his curiosity to see Jesus – He allows the mercy that saves to pass through. Thus, first Zacchaeus's heart was changed, and then his life. Jesus sees the indelible blessing of the Father in the people who are rejected and repudiated. He was a public sinner, he had done so many awful things, but Jesus saw that indelible sign of the Father's blessing and because of that, He had compassion. That phrase that is repeated often in the Gospel, "He was moved with compassion", and that compassion leads Him to help him and to change his heart. What's more, Jesus came to identify Himself with every person in need (see Mt 25:31-46). In the passage about the final protocol on which all of us will be judged, Matthew 25, Jesus says: "I was there, I was hungry, I was naked, I was in prison, I was in hospital, I was there".

To the God who blesses we, too, respond by *blessing* – God has taught us how to bless and we must bless – through the prayer of *praise*, of *adoration*, of *thanksgiving*. Prayer is joy and thanksgiving. God did not wait for us to convert ourselves before beginning to love us, but He loved us a long time before, when we were still in sin.

We cannot but bless this God who blesses us; we must bless everyone in Him, all people, to bless God and to bless our brothers and sisters, to bless the world – and this is the root of Christian meekness, the ability of feeling blessed and the ability to bless.

If all of us were to do this, wars would surely not exist. This world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings.

The Father loves us. The only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing Him, and the joy of thanking Him, and of learning from Him not to curse, but to bless.