

# 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Year B/1



ANGELICO, Fra, The Annunciation, 1425-28. Predella depicting the Birth of the Christ Child, Prado Museum, Madrid, Spain

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](http://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](mailto:parish@stjosephskingswood.org) Web: [www.stjosephskingswood.org](http://www.stjosephskingswood.org) Facebook: [stjosephkingswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephkingswood)

# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

## 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.

**First Reading:** Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

**Responsorial Psalm:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Second Reading:** Romans 16: 25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

### VIGIL SATURDAY

6:00pm

**SUNDAY 8:30am**

10:00am

**For the Parish**

**Monday 8:00am 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent**

**Tuesday 8:00am 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent**  
**6.00pm Triduum Mass**

**David Blake (Thanks for Successful Op.)**

**Wednesday 8.00am 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent**  
**6.00pm Triduum Mass**

**Thursday 8.00am 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent**  
**6.00pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL**  
**8.00pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL**

**Friday 12.00am CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT Priests' Intentions**  
**9.00am CHRISTMAS DAY For the Parish**  
**11.00am CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Saturday 8.30am ST STEPHEN Witold Blazek (Deceased Anniversary)**

### 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](http://bit.ly/stJoe)

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** E.O. Johny

**DECEASED ANNIVERSARY:** Witold Blazek

### RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 9am to 12noon & 5-7.30pm

### 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.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY MASS AT 6.00PM

**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.

*Have a blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year A.D. 2021  
Dominican Fathers*

#### 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: \$735**  
   **Loose:      \$369.10**  
   **Tap & Go: \$190**  
   **Donations: \$100**

#### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection.

#### PARISH CELL GROUP

Will resume 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. Please ring Jim on 0478 027 210 with any questions.

#### PARISH BIBLE STUDY

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

#### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Will recommence in 2021. For more info watch this space or type [bit.ly/YASJK](http://bit.ly/YASJK) into your browser.

#### COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Available after all Masses at \$9 each.

#### CLEANING THE LORD'S HOUSE

If anyone has a free hour on a Friday or Saturday morning, we desperately need help once every 4 or 5 weeks to clean the Church or arrange flowers. Our next Roster will begin in January 2021. Please ring Clare on 0432 668 724 if you can assist us.

#### 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. To date we have collected \$1609.10. Thank you for your generosity.

#### AID TO THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Thank you to all who helped us support suffering and persecuted Catholic communities.

#### PRIVATE PRAYER AND MASS BOOKINGS

Following the 2 sq. metres per person, 150 people are allowed in our Church from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. 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 register please ring the Parish by calling 4721 4080 during Office hours or ring 0423 725 148 outside Office hours.

You will need to provide your name and contact details when registering. Your presence will be confirmed as you arrive at the Church. Walk-ins are permitted, subject to available vacancies up to the 150 capacity.

**Weekday Masses** - There is no registration for weekday Masses.

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 required so please take notice of the signs on the pews.**

#### When attending Mass, please keep these rules:

- There will be no procession of gifts, no passing of hymn books or collection plates.
- The sign of peace will be given without hand-to-hand contact.
- Holy communion may be received on the hand. **If receiving on the tongue you must approach the Priest and only after everyone else has received by hand.**
- Congregational Singing is allowed. Masks are recommended.

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

For details visit <http://stjosephskingswood.org/>

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE WORLD

**POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE**

**The Prayer of Intercession**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Those who pray never turn their backs on the world. If prayer does not gather the joys and sorrows, the hopes and the anxieties of humanity, it becomes a “decorative” activity, a superficial, theatrical, solitary way of behaving. We all need interiority: to retreat within a space and a time dedicated to our relationship with God. But this does not mean that we evade reality. In prayer, God “takes us, blesses us, then breaks us and gives us”, to satisfy everyone’s hunger. Every Christian is called to become in God’s hands bread, broken and shared. That is, it is concrete prayer, that is not an escape.

So, men and women of prayer seek solitude and silence, not so as not be disturbed, but so as to listen better to God’s voice. Sometimes they withdraw from the world altogether, in the secret of their own room, as Jesus recommended (see *Mt* 6:6). But wherever they are, they always keep the doors of their hearts wide open: an open door for those who pray without knowing how to pray; for those who do not pray at all but who carry within themselves a suffocating cry, a hidden invocation; for those who have erred and have lost the way... Whoever can knock on the door of someone who prays finds a compassionate heart that does not exclude anyone. Prayer comes from our hearts and our voices and gives heart and voice to so many people do not know how to pray or who do not want to pray or for whom it is impossible to pray: we are the heart and the voice of these people, rising to Jesus, rising to the Father as intercessors. In the solitude of those who pray, whether the solitude lasts a long time or only a half-hour, to pray, those who pray separate themselves from everything and from everyone to find everything and everyone in God. These people pray for the whole world, bearing its sorrows and sins on their shoulders. They pray for each and every person: they are like God’s “antennas” in this world. The one who prays sees the face of Christ in every poor person who knocks at the door, in every person who has lost the meaning of things. In the *Catechism* we read: “intercession – asking on behalf of another (...) has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God’s mercy”. When we pray we are in tune with God’s mercy; having mercy regarding our sins, being merciful with ourselves, but also merciful with all those who have asked to be prayed for, those for whom we want to pray in tune with God’s heart. This is true prayer: in tune with God’s mercy, with His merciful heart. “In the age of the Church, Christian intercession participates in Christ’s, as an expression of the communion of saints” (n. 2635). What does it mean to participate in Christ’s intercession?

When I intercede for someone or pray for someone: because Christ is before the Father He is the intercessor, He prays for us, He prays showing the Father the wounds of His hands because Jesus is physically present before the Father with His body. And Jesus is our intercessor and to pray is to be a bit like Jesus: to intercede in Jesus to the Father, for others. This is very beautiful.

The human heart tends toward prayer. Those who do not love their brother or sister do not pray seriously. Prayer is offered only in the spirit of love. Those who do not love pretend to pray, they believe they are praying, but they are not praying because they lack the proper spirit, which is love. In the Church, those who are familiar with the sadness and joy of others dig deeper than those who investigate the world’s “chief systems”. Human experience is present in every prayer, because no matter what mistakes people may have committed, they should never be rejected or set aside.

When believers, moved by the Holy Spirit, pray for sinners, no selection is made, no judgment or condemnation is uttered: they pray for everyone. And they pray for themselves. At that moment they know they are not that different from those for whom they pray. They realize they are sinners among sinners and they pray for everyone. We are not better than anyone, we are all brothers and sisters who bear suffering and are sinners in common. Therefore, a prayer that we can say to God is this: “Lord, no one is just in your sight” (see *Ps* 143:2. Lord, have mercy on us!” And with this spirit, prayer is fruitful because we go humbly before God and pray for everyone.

The world keeps going thanks to this chain of people who pray, who intercede, and who are unknown for the most part...but not unknown to God! There are many anonymous Christians who, in times of persecution, have repeated the words of our Lord: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (*Lk* 23:34).

The Good Shepherd remains faithful even when His children distance themselves and abandon Him. He perseveres in His service as shepherd even with those who have bloodied His hands; He does not close His heart to those who have even made Him suffer.

The Church, in all of her members, has the mission to practice the prayer of intercession: to intercede for others. This is especially so for those who exercise roles of responsibility: parents, teachers, ordained ministers, superiors of communities. We are talking about protecting them with God’s eyes and heart, with His same invincible compassion and tenderness.

Brothers and sisters we must be nourished in prayer, for one another. Let us pray for each other. It will do us good and do good for everyone. Thank you.