



OUR LADY OF FATIMA, KINGSGROVE

Opening to the challenge of renewal

Living out the Eucharist & Gospel of Jesus Christ

Fostering communal compassion and service

Second Week of Advent Year B, 10 December 2023

MASS TIMES

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 9:15am
Wednesday: 9:15am
Thursday: 9:15am
Friday: 12noon
Saturday: 9.15am & Vigil
 5.00pm
Sunday: 8:30am 10am &
 5.00pm

Exposition of the Blessed
 Sacrament: Friday:11.00am -12noon
 Rosary at 8:45am, Tuesday to
 Thursday and Saturday

Baptisms: Every 1st and 3rd
 Sunday of each month. (Please call
 Parish Office)

Weddings: By Appointment
 (Please call Parish Office)

REFLECTION

The Second Sunday of Advent marks the appearance of John, the son of the priest Zechariah, in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He then leads people to the Jordan river where there is plenty of water for the ritual of 'immersion' or baptism.

The people ask John the Baptist if he is the Messiah, the One who is to come. His reply is emphatic: he is not the Messiah. Rather, he is 'a voice that cries in the wilderness'. The desert of Judea, the historical setting of John's ministry, happily lends to the oracle of Isaiah (403). 'A voice in the wilderness' is part of an oracle of comfort, referring to the return of the exiled community in Babylon around 538 BC. As the Lord led the enslaved Hebrews by way of the desert into the Promised Land in the Exodus story, so the Lord is leading his people out of the Babylonian exile back to Jerusalem where they can rebuild the Temple and their lives.

Mark now describes John the Baptist as the 'voice in the wilderness' who prepares the way to Jesus, the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Indeed, he is kyrios-the Lord himself.

Pope Francis refers to the three-fold vocation of John the Baptist: 'First—to prepare the way of the Messiah. John did not give in to temptation to believe that he was important. He said that he was preparing the way of the Lord, preparing the hearts of the people for the encounter with the Lord. Second—to discern who the Lord was. The Spirit revealed this to him and he had the courage to say: "This is the one. This is the Lamb of God, he who takes away the sins of the world". Third—to diminish himself so that others would follow Jesus. For John to say, "He must increase, I must decrease", was the more difficult stage for John, because Jesus had a style that he had not imagined.' *God's Word 2023*

Dear Parishioners,
 OLF Catholic Primary School gives high priority to Catholic families seeking enrolment for their children. The enrolment process for Kindergarten 2025 officially begins early next year, however, parents can choose to lodge an enrolment form online beforehand at <https://olfkingsgrove.syd.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/enrol-now>

Catholic families who are active members of the OLF Parish need to include a Parish Priest Reference form which is added to your enrolment application. The Parish Priest Enrolment Form is available as part of the online enrolment form. Please make an appointment to meet with Fr Casey to have this form completed.

We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school!

Anthony Weir—School Principal

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are asked, to indicate their availability to assist with the distribution of Communion at the Christmas Masses. Please add your name in the spaces provided on the form, available in the foyer of the Church. Thank you. *Parish Liturgy Committee*

Parish Priest: Fr Hamilton (Casey) Ureta

Assistant Priest: Fr Emmanuel Lubega

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Monique Choueifati: pastoralcareolf@gmail.com

Sacramental Coordinator: Bernadette Bassil, email: olfsacramentalcoordinator@gmail.com

Secretaries: TBA – Tuesday, Wednesday; Imelda Dela Cruz - **Secretary/Accounts** Monday, Thursday, Friday;

Youth Coordinator: TBA

89 Shaw Street, Kingsgrove NSW 2208 Postal Address: PO Box 377
 Kingsgrove NSW 1480

Ph: 9150 9665; 9150 9663; Email: kingsgroveolf@gmail.com

Website: www.olfkingsgrove.org.au

OLF Primary School Ph: 9502 3723 Email: info@olfkingsgrove.catholic.edu.au

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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

GROWING IN FAITH

Scriptural readings and Saints for this week

YEAR B

DECEMBER 2023

11 Mon Advent Weekday

Saint Damasus I, Pope

Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26 (181)

12 Tue Advent Weekday

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Feast

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 (690A),

or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary (707-712) Pss Prop

13 Wed Advent Weekday

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Memorial

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30 (183)

14 Thu Advent Weekday

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Memorial

Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15 (184)

15 Fri Advent Weekday

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19 (185)

16 Sat Advent Weekday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (186)

17 SUN THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 (8) Pss III

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES 2023 MASS SCHEDULE

ADVENT NOVENA EVENING MASSES

15 to 22 December

7:30 pm Weekdays

(Please note that on the above dates, weekday morning and all weekend Masses will be as per usual schedule.) Each night, different sponsors or Parish groups will provide light refreshments; but on the last day, Friday, 22 December, all are requested to bring a plate of food to share at Clune Centre after mass.

Saturday, 16 December - Parish Working Bee after 9:15am mass.

Saturday, 16 December - OLF Parish' Christmas Carols Night after 5:00pm vigil mass - food trucks, singing, raffles and entertainment. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, 24 December

8:30am—regular Mass

10:00am— regular Mass

6:15pm - Christmas Carols

6:30pm - Christmas Family Mass

9:00pm - Christmas Eve Mass

11:30pm - Christmas Carols

12:00am - Christmas Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, 25 December

9:00am Christmas Mass

10:30am Christmas Mass

NO EVENING MASS

BOXING DAY

Tuesday, 26 December

No Mass

Saturday, 30 December

9:15am—Morning Mass

5:00pm Vigil Mass

NEW Year's Eve

Sunday, 31 December

Normal Sunday schedule.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, 1 January 2024 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00am - New Year's Day Mass

NO EVENING MASS

Please take home copy of 2023 Advent and Christmas Program provided at the foyer.

Sacramental Corner: Advent edition – Part 2

Second Candle: Peace – the Bethlehem Candle. (purple)

Last week, we read that the Messiah was prophesied to arrive in Bethlehem, and if you look at the history of this very tiny land, it was home to the diaspora, it also contained the division and unrest. Unfortunately, this isn't so different these days. What we can recall is that no matter the situation, Bethlehem is one of the most special places in history. God, who is all loving and all peace, choose to come into this world in such a humble and pinacle location. The Magi from different walks of life came peacefully together as they all knew the town's

significance. To make things more eventful, the star known as the *Bethlehem Star* directed the Magi and the shepherds to meet our Lord.

Last week, we were asked to meditate on God's Hope. Hope is always assisted when we faithfully leave our thoughts and concerns with God, this will ultimately give you Peace.

Anticipate that God knows what is best for us and accept what will come before us. *Fiat* – "Let your will be done unto me Lord". This short prayer was said by Our Lady (Luke 1:38) as a great way to meet Our Lord in Peace.



With my sincere thanks to Fr Casey, Fr Emmanuel, Parishioners and Friends for your prayersful support during my recent illness.

God has answered your prayers for my recovery. Praise the Lord, our God.

Your love and amazing kindness are very much appreciated. Thanks a million.

May God bless you all.

Love, Janice Quan

Rejoice, Stay awake for Jesus' coming.

Come spend time in joyful prayer and song, worshipping Our Saviour with the **Living Water Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group** this Monday, 6:30pm in the McGinley Room, upstairs in the Clune Centre

(entry via the stairs near the new toilets).
Enquiries - John Deacon 0418 77 88 56.

OLF PARISH PILGRIM STATUE

The home visits of Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue have resumed. Please contact the Parish Office on 9150 9665 if you wish to be included in the weekly roster. Name of host family will be published in the Bulletin. Host family from **Saturday, 9 December: Mimi and Cesar De Vega**



The Men's Circle

The Men's Circle is where men can gather regularly and grow in their faith with Catholic fellowship. The Men's Circle follows a process to create a space for men to share their thoughts, their feelings, what is difficult and what is joyful in their lives. The group is underpinned by a Catholic spirituality that will guide the group through prayer, sacrament and hospitality.

If you are over 18 and seeking fellowship with other Catholic men please consider coming to "The Men's Circle". We will meet, share and enjoy friendship.

Details:

When: 7:30pm Wednesday 13 December,

Where: The Clune Centre. (please enter via the side door via the St. Francis Garden)

Conclusion: 9:00pm Drinks at RSL optional

Please RSVP to John Finneran on 0430317826 by Monday 11th December. We hope to see you there.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA
PARISH KINGSGROVE PRESENTS
Christmas Carols Night 2023
JOIN US AFTER THE 5PM VIGIL MASS IN THE PARKING LOT.
BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS HATS AND PICNIC MATS.
SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2023
6PM-8:30PM
After the 5pm Vigil Mass
Food trucks, raffles and entertainment for all ages.
Prizes for the best Christmas costume. We can't
wait to see you there.
89 Shaw St. Kingsgrove, 2208

**Christmas Novena
Evening Masses 2023**
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Kingsgrove
89 Shaw St. Kingsgrove, 2208
Friday 15th - Friday 22nd December
Come celebrate Mass at 7:30pm each weeknight or
during the normal weekend scheduled Masses.
After the weekday evenings Masses, light
refreshments will be served in front of the Church.
On Friday 22nd December, we would like to invite
the whole parish to gather and celebrate the eve of
the last day of the Novena. Bring food to share.



AN INVITATION TO THE 2023 CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

Sunday 24TH DECEMBER

Carols commence at 6:15pm

Mass will start at 6:30pm



An invitation is extended to all families of Our Lady of Fatima Primary School and Parish to join with us in celebrating the birth of Jesus at the Christmas Vigil Mass. We encourage our children to play a special part in this Mass by joining in one of the following:

1. Angels, Shepherds and Special Roles

Younger children (from Kindy to Year 3) are invited to play the parts of angels & shepherds.

Older children (from Years 5 and 6) will be allocated the roles of Mary, Joseph, Archangel, Wise Men, and Innkeepers. Costumes will be provided.

Practice times will be:

Tuesday 12th December - 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

Thursday 21st December - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Costumes will be handed out on this day).

2. Readers

Older children (from Year 3 and OVER) are invited to take part in the readings or prayers of the faithful.

Practice times will be:

Thursday 21st December - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Once we have received your child's name, we will allocate him/her a role and send out a confirmation note. **They are expected to attend BOTH rehearsal dates listed above if they would like to participate in the Mass. A parent/guardian is also required to remain for the duration of the rehearsal.** Practices will be held in the church. **NO FOOD** allowed inside the church so please ensure your child eats a snack outside before practice.

Christmas Eve Mass: Please return slip to school office by **Friday 1st December 2023.**

Name of Child: _____ Class: _____

Interested in the part of: Reader Angel Shepherd Special Role

Name of Child: _____ Class: _____

Interested in the part of: Reader Angel Shepherd Special Role

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Parent volunteers are required to assist with the organisation of children in the rehearsals and at the Christmas Eve Mass. If you are available to assist please fill in the section below

I (name) _____, am available to assist during rehearsals and at the celebration of the Christmas Eve Family Mass. My contact number is (mobile) _____



Theatre Parties Organised by The Women's Social Support Group

The cast consists of Anthony Warlow (Billy Flynn) Zoe Ventura (Velma Kelly) Lucy Mauder (Roxie Hart) Peter Rowsthorn (Amos Hart) Asabi Goodman as Matron 'Mama' Morton.

Theatre: Capitol Theatre Sydney
Date: Wednesday 12th June, 2024
Session: 1pm.
Tickets \$71.00 per person.
(seats are all in the stalls).
RSVP by: Monday 25th March, 2024
Payment by: Monday 8th April, 2024

These Theatre Parties are open to all in the Parish.
If you wish to attend this Theatre Party please contact Veronica on mob 0412216166 or email vtierney37@optusnet.com.au



Theatre Parties Organised by The Women's Social Support Group

Sunset Blvd

Theatre: Sydney Opera House,
Joan Sutherland Theatre
Date: Saturday 28th September, 2024
Session: 2pm.
Tickets Three different types of seats available for this Theatre Party. The seats are in stalls & Dress Circle.
Stalls: \$183.00 per person (16 seats)
Dress Circle \$148.00 per person (12 seats)
Dress Circle \$105.00 per person (12 seats).

The Opera House only offers limited seats to Ticketmaster and the group concessions are the prices above. So if you want tickets for any of these seats, let me know as soon as possible.

RSVP by: Friday 12th July, 2024
Payment by: Friday 19th July, 2024

If you wish to attend this Theatre Party please contact Veronica on mob 0412216166 or email vtierney37@optusnet.com.au



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Parishioners living in retirement:
Mavis Armour, Bambina Canosa, Patricia North, Noelene Bennett, Enid Taylor; Nancy Dawson; Frances English, Anne Sheerin, Caterina Ancona, Justina De Bellis, Patricia Gray, Antonietta Roberto, Netta Donnelly, Mary Melville.

(Should you want to know the place of their retirement homes, please call Parish Office 9150 9665).

Parishioners/friends who are Sick:

Frank Brown, Geoff Buckley, Beatriz Nucum, Violet Bozic, Antoninette McGahan, Guy Cassar, Ben McNeill, Merci Valix, Antoinette Taza, Marie Toutounji, , Nicholas Reed, Agnes (Sonju) Lee Wong, Swastika Hawach, Fiapai To'oto'o, Michael Talbot, Frank Crimi, Chris Banks, Am Gonzales, Justin Bautista, Laura Smith, John Aleixo, Isaias Alaso, Lydia Arrogante, Annalisa Castagnone, Anna Glinatsis, Jeanette Affara, Colin Elliott, Samar Munoz, Luisa Maria Karin, Peter & Patricia Matt, Christine Ureta, Alvin Ureta, Jasmin Ghasan, George Chayeb, Pat McGuirk, Thelma Gribocck, Bill Taylor, Jun Letran, Diane Salem, Philip Maguire, Kamala Reddy, Maximino Ilaya, Maria (Thi Quyen) Lee, Carlos Munoz, Aileen Munoz, Peter Carter, Priscilla Watson, Aidan Ravallion, Steven Holman, Dhiren Boidya, Leonardo Pagano, Nelly Vanzyl, Paolo & Rhea Primavera, Tom De Michele, Rosemary Theodoris, James Crito, Alida Banks, Peter Nair, Grazia Passeretti, Stephen Doyle, Renae Corban, Raigan Kerr, James Genco.

Please pray for our Recently Deceased:

Cecilia Hadipraja, Therese Cardinali, Michelle Lewis, April Scibarras, Eileen Monaghan, Paolo Meduro (Maria La Spada's father), Kelvin Dark, Colin Chandler, Eddie Gallagher, Peg Denny, Norman Arena, Merle Kenna, Tony Redford..

Anniversaries: Maria La Spada Snr, Joshua Callaghan, Dominic Repice, Joko Kusgiono, Kevin Quintal, Vincent Camuglia, Maura & Pedro Lumapas Snr, Angelina De Fina, Michael Moloney, Ida Taranto,

We had started last May 2022, list of parishioners whose death anniversaries occur during the particular month will be included in Bulletin once at the beginning of each month and will be offered masses.

Also For: Prayers for intention for Godfrey Quintua Rapadas, John Goulding on his 80th birthday; deceased Giovanni Azara, Leslie Wallworh, Judy Fleming and prayers and intentions requested through the OLF Kingsgrove Intercessory Prayer Group, and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Please note: For mass requests to be put in Bulletin, please drop them in the Petitions Box, in the office, call or send email on or before 12:00 noon on Thursdays. Thank you.



NO BAPTISM PREPARATION IN JANUARY 2024

The first one for 2024 is on Thursday, 1st February 2024, 7:00pm. RSVP 28 Jan 2024

Coordinators: Imelda Dela Cruz, ph 0414 979 241; Myrna De La Pena, ph 0490 410 896

ROSTERS 16/17 December 2023

	5:00pm	8.30am
Reader:	J Henderson	Ormerods
Commentator:	M Millen	Ormerods
Acolyte:	Michelle	Leslie
	10:00am	5:00pm
Reader:	T Coorey	Youth
Commentator:	N Kevic	
Acolyte	Kelvin	Albert

Altar Servers:

Sat Vigil	: P Brunet, A Shen
Sun 8.30am	: J & A Shori
Sun 10.00am	: D Yazbeck, M Serraglio, A Liontos
Sun 5.00pm	: E Loho, A Nehme



Safeguarding in our Parish

It is my responsibility and your responsibility! Most of the members of our Children's Liturgy, Children's choir, Sacramental Programme educators, Youth Ministry, Acolyte or Minister of Holy Communion, Senior Altar Server, Reader, Warden or counters undertook

Safeguarding training in 2019. If you are new to these Ministries and have not attended a parish Safeguarding Induction Training session, please register for an on-line training course at <https://forms.gle/9ebT3voEAtfP7P8R9> or via Zoom by sending an email to safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org
The Safeguarding Office of our Archdiocese has decided that a 3 yearly **Refresher Training** is required for members of these ministries, i.e. those trained in 2019 or earlier. Volunteers can register for the new Refresher Training **on line** via this link <https://forms.gle/XuQFsRsvq3BYtXqT9> or via Zoom by sending an email to safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org Just a reminder that volunteers only need to complete the Refresher Training if they have completed the Induction Training prior to 2020. **A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney** Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding.equities@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



"As a caring faith community, we reach out in love and prayers to our brothers and sisters in Illawarra Pde and Irwin Cres praying for their needs and intentions. "

PLEASE NOTE: PARISH OFFICE HOURS DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023
OPEN FROM 9:00AM TO 1:00PM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY; WILL RESUME TO 8:30AM TO 2:30AM IN JANUARY 2024.

Our New email address:
kingsgroveolf@gmail.com