

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA, KINGSGROVE

Opening to the challenge of renewal

Living out the Eucharist & Gospel of Jesus Christ

Fostering communal compassion and service

## Third Sunday of Advent Year B, 17 December 2023

### MASS TIMES

<b>Monday:</b>	Closed
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9:15am
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9:15am
<b>Thursday:</b>	9:15am
<b>Friday:</b>	12noon
<b>Saturday:</b>	9.15am & Vigil 5.00pm
<b>Sunday:</b>	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)

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](https://olfkingsgrove.syd.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/enrol-now)

Catholic families who are active members of the OLP  
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

### REFLECTION

Because John, the son of the priest Zechariah, baptizes  
people in the Jordan River, the moniker "Baptist" is  
attached to his name. But in the Fourth Gospel, he is  
primarily a 'witness,' the first and the witness par  
excellence to Jesus.

What testimony does John give to the delegation  
consisting of priests and Levites who launch a formal  
inquiry against him? They ask him who he is and why he  
baptizes. Rather than identifying himself, he formally  
states who he is not. "I am not the Christ". Asked if he is  
Elijah, he responds: "I am not" And asked if he is the  
prophet like Moses, he answers: "No". When pressed for  
his identity, he reveals himself as "a voice that cries in the  
wilderness".

The voice acknowledges only that he baptizes with water.  
But he goes to say: "There stands among you-unknown to  
you-the one coming after me, and I am not fit to undo his  
sandal strap". John's act of humility further enhances the  
honour of the one to whom he gives witness: Jesus of  
Nazareth. Here and in the following episodes, John  
testifies to Jesus as the Master, the Son of God, the Lamb  
of God, the Bridegroom. John does not only testify with  
words but also with deed. And he witnesses to the very  
end, to the shedding of his blood.

On this Gaudette Sunday, when we are invited to rejoice  
always, we are reminded that the 'works of Christmas'  
focus on the joyful witnessing to Christ, the Saviour of the  
world, the Lamb of God, who takes away our sins. Our  
witnessing may not reach the point of shedding blood in  
martyrdom, but we are invited to 'die to ourselves' so that  
the life of Jesus may be made manifest through us in our  
humility and acts of love and service.

*God's Word 2023*

**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](mailto:pastoralcareolf@gmail.com)

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Bernadette Bassil, email: [ofsacramentalcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:ofsacramentalcoordinator@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](mailto:kingsgroveolf@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.olfkingsgrove.org.au](http://www.olfkingsgrove.org.au)

**OLF Primary School Ph: 9502 3723 Email: [info@olfkingsgrove.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@olfkingsgrove.catholic.edu.au)**

# Third Sunday of Advent Year B 17 Dec 2023

## First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

## Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. **(R.)**
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

## Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

## **Gospel Acclamation** Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel** John 1:6-8. 19-28

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

## GROWING IN FAITH

### Scriptural readings and Saints for this week

YEAR B

DECEMBER 2023

Third week of Advent

#### 18 Mon

Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25 (194)

#### 19 Tue

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25 (195)

#### 20 Wed

Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38 (196)

#### 21 Thu

**Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45 (197)

#### 22 Fri

1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56 (198)

#### 23 Sat

**Saint John of Kanty, Priest**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66 (199)

#### 24 SUN FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38 (11) Pss IV



#### Sacramental Corner: Advent edition – Part 3

Third Candle: Joy – *Not purple, but a type of pink – because we all know that Jesus ROSE from the dead.* All jokes aside, it is a wonderful and happy occasion.

The colour rose/pink represents Joy. Another name for this event is '*Gaudete*' Sunday which means *rejoice*. We remember the Shepherds this week, as they rejoiced in the news that Christ is coming to our world. There are so many symbolic and meaningful archetype examples that come from the shepherds in relation to Jesus. The two most commonly known examples are that Jesus is our Shepherd and He is also the Sacrificial lamb that is offered on the Cross for our sins. The status of a Shepherd is extremely important as the gathering

of the sheep is symbolic for our community coming together in joy for the arrival of our Lord. There are no better leaders than the shepherds who give a great deal of care to their lambs. As the shepherds lead the flock to green pastures and clean water, we can almost see the priestly mission from our Mass where the gifts that are offered at each celebration will lead us directly to God.



We still have a few copies left of God's Word 2024 for sale. The book is a daily companion to pray, to share and to grow in God's love and be nourished by the word of God. It has Bible readings for each day with reflection. It would be a nice

gift to your family and friends for occasions especially Christmas. It's on sale at Parish Office during office hours at a discounted price of \$17.00 per copy. You can buy it also from Piety Store. It's \$21.95 at Catholic bookstores. Please call or send email if you can't come during office hours.

## 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.**

### 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, December 16: Mary Young**

### 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.**



Dear all,

I am overwhelmed by the love, prayers and wishes you have shown on my birthday. You brought so much joy on my special day. I will remember you in my prayers. Forever I am grateful! *Fr Casey*







## 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 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024  
**Session:** 1pm.  
**Tickets** \$71.00 per person.  
(seats are all in the stalls).  
**RSVP by:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
**Payment by:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 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

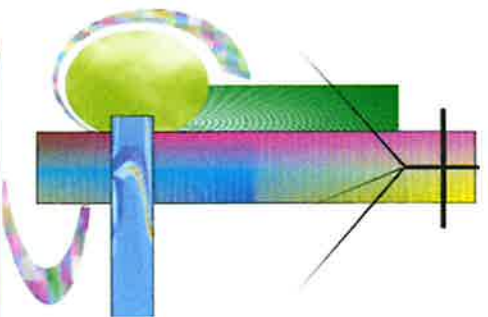
**Theatre:** Sydney Opera House,  
Joan Sutherland Theatre  
**Date:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2024  
**Session:** 2pm.  
**Tickets** Three different types of seats available for this Theatre Party. The seats are in stalls & Dress Circle.  
**Stalls:** \$183.00 per person (16 seats)  
**Dress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

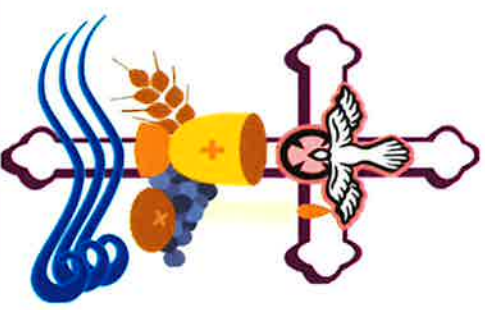
**RSVP by:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

**Payment by:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

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



# Enrolments are open for the 2024 Sacramental Programs.



**We are enrolling Candidates for:**

- **The Sacrament of First Reconciliation**
- **The Sacrament of First Holy Communion**
- **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

**Please RSVP: before 22nd January, 2024**

**Enrolment packages are available from the foyer of the Church or from the Parish Office.**

**Sacramental enquiries directed to the Sacramental Coordinator:**

**- Ph: 9554 5752 or  
- Email:**

**[ofsacramentalcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:ofsacramentalcoordinator@gmail.com)**

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Kingsgrove**

**89 Shaw St. Kingsgrove, 2208**





### 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:

Shiela Kovacs, 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, 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 Ravaillion, Steven Holman, Dhiren Boidya, Leonardo Pagano, Nelly Vanzyl, Paolo & Rhea Primavera, Tom De Michele, Rosemary Theodoris, James Crilto, Alida Banks, Peter Nair, Grazia Passeretti, Stephen Doyle, Renae Corban, Raigan Kerr, James Genco.

### Please pray for our Recently Deceased:

Gloria Tuazon Songco, 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 Lumapac 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 23/24 December 2023

	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>8.30am</b>
Reader:	L Corbett	E Russo
Commentator:	G Reskakis	Rana MN
Acolyte:	Christopher	Pak
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
Reader:	J Deacon	Youth
Commentator:	M Nigem	
Acolyte	Anthony	Christmas Roster

### Altar Servers:

Sat Vigil : H Choi, A Speranza, A Tsoi  
 Sun 8.30am : I Pollcarpio  
 Sun 10.00am : J & Z Yammine, O Repice  
 Sun 6:30pm : J Brown, A Chan, C Tan, S-R & T  
 Basil

Sun 9:00pm & 12 Midnight: volunteers needed



### 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](mailto: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/XuQFrsRsvq3BYtXqT9> or via Zoom by sending an email to [safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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 [safeguardingequities@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingequities@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 Jones Avenue and Karingal Street 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**