



OUR LADY OF FATIMA, KINGSGROVE

Opening to the challenge of renewal

Living out the Eucharist & Gospel of Jesus Christ

Fostering communal compassion and service

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B, 24 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

Writing in the 12th century, St Bernard of Clairvaux offers a stirring drama of the annunciation to Mary. God seeks to enter the world anew after the error of Adam and Eve that shrouded the world to darkness. Now, God knocks at Mary's heart. He needs human freedom, a free 'yes' to his will. His power is tied to unenforceable 'yes' of a human being. St Bernard addresses Mary: "This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons and daughters of Adam, the whole of your race...Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desires of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow, you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving." Then came to sweetest 'Yes' ever said: " I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me."

God's Word 2023

Parish office will be closed for Christmas break, Monday, 26 to Friday, 29 Dec. Will resume on Tuesday, 2 Jan. 2024.



The Parish Team - Fr Casey, Fr Emmanuel, Monique Choueifati, Bernadette Bassil, Emma Williams, Frank Spiteri, and Imelda Dela Cruz extend to you all a very happy and holy Christmas. May the love of God, through the gift of His beloved Son, Jesus, be felt amongst your families, relatives and friends and inspire you to love one another as He loves us. Keep healthy and safe.

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

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Website: www.olfkingsgrove.org.au

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B Sunday 24 Dec 2023

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for

endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Creed is said.

GROWING IN FAITH

Scriptural readings and Saints for this week

YEAR B

DECEMBER 2023

Fourth week of Advent

25 Mon

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

Solemnity Holyday of Obligation

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 (13)

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 (14)

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 (15)

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16) Pss Prop

26 Tue

Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

Feast

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22 (696) Pss Prop

27 Wed

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

Feast

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 (697) Pss Prop

28 Thu

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Feast

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18 (698) Pss Prop

29 Fri

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35 (202) Pss Prop

30 Sat

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40 (203) Pss Prop

31 SUN

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Feast

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 or, in Year B, Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 (17)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES 2023 MASS SCHEDULE

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.

From Sacramental Coordinator: Sacrament of Confirmation—Information Afternoon

Dear families, I wanted to make a clarification for the Induction afternoon for information on the Sacrament of Confirmation. The present meeting will be on SUNDAY, 28th JULY at 4pm in the Clune Centre. After, there will be the Commitment Mass at 5pm in the church. Sorry about the confusion. I wish you a peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing the enrolments.

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, Dec. 23: Gina & Franco Giuffrida**

Living Water Catholic Charismatic Prayer

Group is now in Summer recess and we will recommence 6:30pm on Monday, 29 January 2024. Mark the date in your calendar and join us in the McGinley Room, upstairs in the Clune Centre. (entry via the stairs near the new toilets). **Enquiries - John Deacon 0418 77 88 56.**

Sacramental Corner: Advent edition — Part 4

Fourth Candle: Love - The Angel's Candle (purple)

The whole meaning for life and purpose of God's creation is LOVE. God wanted to create us. He fashioned creation in His image and likeness. We should show gratitude for this act of love; above all the Angels rejoice God's act of Love on the behalf of God's creation. The Catholic Church teaches that Angels are God's messengers. When we read the Bible, before Christ's birth, we see Angels at every aspect where God has intervened in human activity. This continues after Christ's birth. The good Angels praise everything that God has made, and it can be no surprise that as we anticipate the Birth of Our Lord, the Angels will also be cheering and singing on high. Their love is resounding that God will be born in the human world but still attain the Fulness of His divinity. This teaching is known as the *Hypostatic Union*. We can not be Angels, and Angels can not conceptualise Human form. We can both share the feeling of love and gratitude for God wanting to create us and be with us.

May you have a blessed Christmas. We hope you have a wonderful day, and the Season of Christmas will be safe and joyous. We look forward to a happy and good start to the 2024 New Year.





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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS NIGHT 16 DECEMBER 2023

Dear Parishioners and friends,

What a fantastic atmosphere and a beautiful evening of Christmas songs, talents, fun, laughter, food, raffles; families, children, parishioners and friends to come together to celebrate Christmas as one big family of Mary, Our Lady of Fatima. The success would not be possible for the efforts of Bernadette Bassil, Antonia Chan and volunteers. Kudos! Thank you to our valued sponsors. See you again next year for a better and bigger Christmas Carols! *Fr Casey*





Christ our Light Sunday School

Hi Parents, *Would you like to bring Jesus to your home for your children during the long school holiday?*

We encourage parents to revisit the Sunday School learning materials and walk the faith journey with your children at home.

The QR codes for the last 6 lessons can be found in the flyers under the Sunday School posters at the entrances of our church.

There are short videos, activities and worksheets in each lesson to keep your children occupied. This will bring them closer to Jesus.

We also included a survey form at the back of the flyers. Please complete and place it in the Sunday School box at the foyer of our church. This will guide us in planning for the 2024 year.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and joyeous New Year!

EXPECTANT PARENT BLESSING



The next Expectant Parent Blessing will be on Sunday 11 February at 10am mass,

There will be Morning Tea provided after mass.

Dear Parishioners,

The enrolment for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are now open. The enrolment packs are available in the foyer of the Church or in the Parish Office. Please return the completed documents by the 22nd of January 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact the Sacramental Co-ordinator: Phone (02) 9150 9665 or Email: olfsacramentalcoordinator@gmail.com



First week of Advent 2023 started 3rd December with new church decorations provided by the Italian ladies through their fund raising initiatives. Thank you and to all of you who supported them.

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 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

ADVENT NOVENA EVENING MASSES—15 to 22 December with different priests, choir and food sponsors each day





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 (Sorju) 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 Ravaiillon, 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:

Alegria Nelmidia, Noel Gacusan, Michael Spinks, 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.

Anniversaries: Maria La Spada Snr, Joshua Callaghan, Crisanta Maia, Maria Aleixo, Vittorio Stendardo, Vincent Camuglia.

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: Thanksgiving of Gener-Jasmin family; deceased Betty & Laurie Maguire, Joan and John Buckley, Ces, Myrtle Norris, Louie Pretti, Rita Naughton, Hizon-Consunji family 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 30/31 December 2023

	5:00pm	8.30am
Reader:	P Simon	Ormerods
Commentator:	K Doherty	Ormerods
Acolyte:	Emily	Leslie
	10:00am	5:00pm
Reader:	N Kevic	Youth
Commentator:	Therese Abela-King	
Acolyte	Michael	Kelvin

Altar Servers:

Sat Vigil	: G Floro, B Setiadji
Sun 8.30am	: C & N Badr
Sun 10.00am	: A & J Faddoul, S Sicari
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 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 give thanks and pray for all visitors and our faith family members who are celebrating the Christmastide with us at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Bless them, protect them and fulfil their needs. We also pray for protection over our parishioners who are travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: PARISH OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME TO 8:30AM TO 2:30AM IN JANUARY 2024, OPEN TUESDAY TO FRIDAY; MONDAY CLOSED.

**Our New email address:
kingsgroveolf@gmail.com**