



OUR LADY OF FATIMA, KINGSGROVE

Opening to the challenge of renewal

Living out the Eucharist & Gospel of Jesus Christ

Fostering communal compassion and service

First Week of Advent Year B, 3 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

'Advent' means 'coming' and this season reminds us of the 'already' and the 'not yet'. Jesus has 'already' come in his incarnation, and at Christmas, we recall the events of his historical coming among us as a babe at Bethlehem. But today's liturgy invites us to consider the 'not yet' which will happen at the Parousia or his second coming.

Jesus will come again to gather everything and present it to the heavenly Father. While waiting for that blessed time, we have to keep awake and attend to our duties as responsible servants of the Lord waiting for his return. Times will continue to be trying, but we are strengthened by our blessed hope and our conviction that the Messiah has come and will come again in glory.

At Jesus' first coming, the angels sang 'joy to the world'. This joy will be complete when Christ comes again in glory. At that time, God 'will wipe away every tear; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone (Apocalypse 21:4) *God's Word 2023*

Happy birthday Fr Casey on 7th December!
May God's love and peace be with you always.
May He shower immeasurable blessings on you.

We wish you a wonderful birthday. May God give you the power, courage, knowledge and wisdom to continue to propagate His words to mankind.



To celebrate Fr Casey's birthday, all are invited for lunch outside the church on Friday, 8th December after the 12:00 noon mass of Feast of Immaculate Conception.

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

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

Sacramental Corner: Sacred Images in the Church and in our Lives

By Bernadette Bassil

Have the Christmas decorations been placed out early or is Advent closer than I have calculated? We are all feeling the wave of emotions just from the sales. It always raises the questions amongst the Catholic Community: Why do we decorate?

The use of Sacred Art

Non-Catholics have been long-time accusers of our Church for Idol-worshiping. This is absolutely not the case. The Catholic Church will allow Churches, Catholic institutions and households to ornate or 'decorate' in order to show our **external expression of the inward feeling as praise to God**. This article will explain that the objective use of Sacred Art is for purpose and reverence.

As Catholics we have a year long praise to Our Lord. Changing the colour in the Church Calendar. The different vestments used by the clergy. The symbolism of eternity and heaven through the use of gold and silver in all types of sacred vessels. The various use of Sacred Art such as relics, statues, images and digital as well as the need to light candles. At every corner we look, we want to see images that praises God and His creation. If not; then what would you be looking at?

(In another article I can write about our Patron Saints and why some people would use their imagery.)

Kneeling, covering, kissing, raising and processions of Sacred Art are intended to praise God. We now reach a level of worship where the physical use of prostration, the sign of the cross and other movements to display our worship to God. These external expressions are a form of 'reverence'. We should be alert as we are then teaching the children and others in our community what is proper praise to God. These external expressions direct the inward feelings of peace, joy, relief; it delights our eyes and hearts and gives that feeling of unity with God. If we do not teach the children or next generation, we should be worried about other images they will be viewing. Furthermore, we must be concerned that God is not their focus and centre of their life.

How and why, we use Sacred Art:

The beautiful imagery of the Sacred Art will connect and unite us as Catholics. It is also a means of teaching. People who attend Mass frequently can also state that each visit presents a new learning curve in their spiritual journey. These images did not appear from our own devise, rather they are created from the descriptive imagery as foundation of the Holy Bible. Each Book frequently explore the use of external expressions to praise God.

We can see from the Nativity of Our Lord in the Gospel of Matthew, the multitude of imagery we use today for Christmas (and our daily use). One of my favourites is when the three Magi were asked to go to Mary, in order to see Our Lord as the Child Jesus (Matthew 2:8-11). In this short description, we see that Mary was the vessel to reach out to Christ. Christ is the person we look to in order to praise God. The prostration, bowing, kissing and presentation of gifts all incumbered in the one place as that external and inward praise of God we complete each day. To capture this movement all year round is precisely why our presence and awe in Mass is necessary; it all directs out praise to God.

When we prepare the arrival of any child, it will be enough to tip your life in hyperdrive, so it is not surprising that the arrival of Our Lord will make us decorate, change and prepare each aspect of our lives, and we will see and feel the joy of God being amongst us. Not only our community comes alive for Christ's birth, but it become a world-wide celebration.

The Teachings of the Catholic Church on Sacred Art:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Summa Theologica are clear that the Catholic Church supports the use of Sacred Art for more than aesthetical decoration. We can deduce the following summary:

- Worship only belongs to God.
- The use of images and statues are for the veneration and must be Holy and meaningful for worship that is only to God.
- The use of sacred art is for honour and veneration with Our Lady and the Saints and Angels.
- The respect we give to these Art is to show that we adore Christ and honour the Saints and Angels who bear witness to Him above all. Especially if the item has already been blessed.

What we can also understand is that in the Catholic Church it is forbidden to worship or pray to the statues, relics or images. They are not God. We only pray to God. If they do not help us praise God, then they are not used correctly, or we are doing the wrong thing. We must not hand out items that are Sacred to a person who will misuse it on purpose. Sacred Imagery is not decoration for the sake of your aesthetics, it is praise.

Closing Statement

As for the seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us, popular culture and other picturesque items that are not Holy or religious will be on display. Some have migrated Traditional meaning, and others find ways to present the outward expressions of joyful praise directly to God. Enjoy your time in this season, make the Christmas Tree as delightful as St. Boniface intended and the Nativity Scene as Holy and visually delighting.

Throughout the years to come, take out images of your family and place them on a mantel to give thanks for what God has given to us. Put out those beautiful statues of Our Lord or Our Lady and the Saints in public places. Hang a Crucifix in the central part of your house. Place a Holy Card in your wallet or create a screen of your patron on your Phone. May the next Art you create be Holy and meaningful. These outward expressions of the inward feelings of God can transcend to you and people around you a feeling that praises of Our Lord.

To Him we give glory forever!



GROWING IN FAITH

Scriptural readings and Saints for this week

YEAR B

DECEMBER 2023

4 Mon Advent Weekday

Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11 (175)

5 Tue Advent Weekday

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24 (176)

6 Wed Advent Weekday

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37 (177)

7 Thu Advent Weekday

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Memorial

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27 (178)

8 Fri Advent Weekday

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Solemnity (Holy day of obligation)

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ehh 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 (689) Pss Prop

9 Sat Advent Weekday

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180)

10 SUN SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8 (5) Pss II



Sacramental Corner: Advent edition – Part 1

First Candle: Hope – the Prophecy is here!

(purple)

Each week, I hope to give you a deeper understanding of the Advent Candles placed on our wreath. Their order, colour and placement all have a significant meaning, and it was creating with purpose and history. During the Season of Advent, the Catholic Church uses the colour purple to represent penance, fasting and abstinence as we anticipate the arrival of Our Lord. In the first week of Advent, we see that The Book of Isaiah (Chapter 9) foretold that the Messiah will be arriving in the and the book of Micha (Chapter 5) specifically states this Messiah. He will be born in Bethlehem. Our Catholic faith and the world history work remarkably well together as the foundations of the Bible. As the Old Testament will teach us about the foretelling of Christ and God's

Kingdom, the New Testament makes known and proves its revelation.

This week, remember that God has revealed many things to keep us in His Kingdom. Our Hope was gifted to us at Baptism and strengthened in at Confirmation. Give all things to God and have Hope in His plans.

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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

2023 MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, 2 Dec/ Sunday 3 Dec 1st Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, 5th Dec., 7pm Parish Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Thursday, 7th December - Fr Casey's Birthday

Friday, 8th December—Feast of the Immaculate

Conception 12:00noon mass only followed by lunch in Clune Centre to celebrate Fr Casey's birthday

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, 2 December : Patricia Conlon**



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) _____

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL; JESSIE TREE GIFTS; CARD & COLUMBAN CALENDAR SALES

If you missed the Vinnies annual Christmas appeal last week there are still appeal envelopes available in the foyer or for those who wish to donate online you can donate to via the link <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/vinnies-kingsgrove-conference>

or QR code below:



Also, there are gift-request cards for the children of needy families on Jessie tree. Please take a card and return it with your gift and place them under the tree **by Sunday December 3.**

Christmas Cards (\$10 per pack of 10) and Columban Calendars (\$10 each) are also available for purchase from the Pious Goods store.

Thank you for your ongoing generous assistance to the neediest in our community.



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



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



What if Romeo's ending, was Juliet's beginning. After premiering on the West End and earning a staggering 8 x Oliver Awards nominations, & JULIET has also been one of the most unexpected and spectacular theatrical triumphs on Broadway".

Theatre: Sydney Lyric Theatre
Date: Wednesday 27th March, 2024
Session: 1pm.
Tickets \$71.00 per person.
(seats are all in the stalls).

RSVP by: 12th January, 2024
Payment by: 19th January, 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



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:

Janice Quan, 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, Amanda Teer, Raigan Kerr, James Genco.

Please pray for our Recently Deceased:

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

Anniversaries: Maria La Spada Snr, Joshua Callaghan, Dominic Repice, Joko Kusgiono, Vincent Camuglia, 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 Cardinali family for them to cope with the loss of their mother and wife Therese; deceased Anthony Chong, 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.



BAPTISM PREPARATION NIGHT

Wednesday 6th December 2023

8:00pm. RSVP 4th December 2023

Coordinators: Paul & Clothilde
Elsibai, phone 0410 583 808

ROSTERS 9/10 December 2023

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | 5:00pm | 8.30am |
| Reader: | Deadys | T Spata |
| Commentator: | Deadys | P Frederick |
| Acolyte: | Alyssa | Anthony |
| | 10:00am | 5:00pm |
| Reader: | A Sicari | Youth |
| Commentator: | R Lansdown | |
| Acolyte | Michael | Tom |

Altar Servers:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Sat Vigil | : G Floro, B Setiadji |
| Sun 8.30am | : T & S-R Bassil |
| Sun 10.00am | : A & J Faddoul, S Sicari |
| Sun 5.00pm | : J Brown, A Chan, C Tan |



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@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 Hobbs & Homer Streets 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



**OLF PARISHIONERS'
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
MONTH OF DECEMBER**

1st December

Norma Bale

Rene Montano

Lawrence Stevens

2nd December

Keith Smith

Mary Frost

Patricia Nockles

Maurice Rogers

Vince Rugiero

3rd December

William Kadwell

Fernande Cantrell

4th December

Joseph Montano

John Long

5th December

Michael Conway

Calogera Roppolo

Constance Smith

7th December

Clarice Young

Filippo Caruso

Flora Watson

8th December

Earle Stabback

Mavis Egan

Phillip Ray

Pietro Modellino

9th December

Frederick Edwards

John McEldowney

10th December

John Myers

Alexander Burbidge

Glorine Ransom

Constance McInerney

11th December

Teresa Higgins

Annie Woods

Kevin Quintal

12th December

Amy Meier

Giuseppina Corke

James Harvey

Bjarne Johansen

Maureen Harcombe

Linda Davies

13th December

Francis Morris

Katherine Flanagan

Maria Cordi

Joshua Paul Callaghan

14th December

Richard Smith

Una Clyne

Maggie Duarte

15th December

Rachael Langley

Andrew Mosely

Judith Owen

Rita Popplewell

Patrick Nevin

Sheila Byrne

John Knight

16th December

Carmela Fischetti

Damiana Valdoria

Patricia Chan

17th December

Thelma Humphreys

Margaret McDermott

Vittorio Stendardo

18th December

Keith Trayburn

Benjamin Markham

Michele Rizzi

Maria Condello

19th December

*John Robertson
Stephen De Cataldo
Beryl Anthony
Veronica Aldea
Paul Schneider
Rita Layton*

20th December

*Jack Madden
Caterina Natoli
Eric Henry
Octavius De Souza
Phyllis Harte
Yin Bou*

21st December

*Josephine Sloodmaekers
Lawrence Denmeade
Ellen McClafferty
Vincent Jug*

John De Bellis

22ND December

*Lawrence Perfremment
Julie-Anne Sinclair
Alicia Simpson
Pasquale Cordi*

23RD December

James Champley

24TH December

*Joel Cooper
Annie Twite
Ambrose Foster
Michael Harrold
Mark Pernar*

Rachele Smigliani

25th December

*Ronald Aquilina
Laura Parmenter
Denise Fitzgerald*

26th December

*Margaret Brown
Charles Collins
Gladys Robinson
Vincent Gonzalez*

27th December

Vittorio Morone

28th December

Nellie Scott

Francis Osborne

Carmela Lazzaro

29th December

William McAlister

Beryl Gard

Josephine Bessio

30th December

Michael McCafferty

Ann McClennon

Warren McCormack

Sheryl Conley

31st December

Clara Holmes

Mervyn Barnes

Ann Ellison

Joan Nairn

Bik Chan

First Sunday of Advent Year B 03 Dec 2023

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said

First Reading *Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4*

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'