



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights



(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)

Parish Administrator: Rev Fr James McCarthy

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 10am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 3

'Prayer of the Church'

Morning Prayer is prayed at
St John the Baptist
10 minutes prior to
weekday morning Masses

Monday - No Mass

St Joseph the Worker

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Athanasius, bishop, doctor

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Sts Philip and James, apostles

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 6/7 MAY

(Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Masses:

8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliations:

Saturdays – 4:15–5:00pm



Reflection Questions

- ♦ I find myself "conversing and debating" about these mysteries.....
- ♦ Jesus opens me to his risen Presence in the Scriptures or in the breaking of the bread when I.....
- ♦ What enables me to journey deeper into the mystery of Jesus' risen Presence to me is.....

Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

29th and 30th April, 2017

Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35

The Road to Emmaus may feel like any other post-Resurrection appearances, but its impact is far-reaching. That walk to Emmaus is a metaphor for our own life journey of faith, when the Lord catches up with us too. It stands as a symbol for the whole Christian life. Life, as depicted in the Scriptures, is a journey. We are called a 'pilgrim people,' always on the march to our heavenly home. Our journey of faith is a journey of learning and entering deeper into the mystery of the Risen Christ.

Gospels come to life as we imagine ourselves taking part in them. In this Gospel, with the two disciples walking on the road, we might picture ourselves represented, on our life's journey. We need, however, to realize that we are never alone in our life's journey. He is with us all the time and in all situations. But, as happened with the two disciples, we at times feel he has abandoned us, he has let us down, he no longer cares. We need to be ready to recognize him entering our lives so that we can respond appropriately to him.

There is a practical therapy to be found and used in Emmaus. It begins by facing what we fear and escape from, even by telling ourselves or others the joyful ending. Christian reality has no need of refuge. We need not fear. His word taught them the meaning of his life and gave hope in their disappointment. Our lives may be crowded with duties and customs and routines; our minds, full of disappointments; our consciences, depressed, with sins. There seems little room for hope in all this. What can we do?

The Gospel goes on to tell of the next great step the two disciples took. They invited the stranger into their home. As he walked along with them he entered their lives where they were, namely, in their distress. That is the point where we too should go to meet Jesus. We can have him as a guest in our homes. Jesus always wants to meet us where we are, not where we would like to be or where we think we ought to be. He comes to us in ordinary life situations, but he never forces himself on us.

When we read the Emmaus story what strikes us as amazing is not that the two disciples finally recognize Jesus, but that they fail to do so in the first place. We know the end of the story and wonder how the two disciples could fail to recognize such an obvious conclusion. Yet how often in our lives do we fail to recognize the presence of Christ?

Jesus wants to communicate with us and he speaks to us and is truly present in the Scriptures. More specifically, Jesus is present among us in all our sacramental celebrations but especially in the Eucharist. Jesus as Word and Eucharist is our food for our pilgrimage to our true home. In the breaking of bread, he unites the Christian community into his Body and also keeps his promise to be with us till the end of time.

The disappearance of the Risen Jesus at the moment of the breaking of the bread with the two disciples can be seen as sacramental education. He intended to live on in the world through his disciples and therefore he transforms us as his messengers in the world of today.

Finally, "The Emmaus Journey" begins in blindness, gloom, disillusionment and despair. It ends with the warming of the disciples' hearts, the opening of their eyes, and their return to Jerusalem. Their encounter with the Risen Jesus had made them see the events in Jerusalem from a new perspective. Instead of looking at Jesus' death as the end of their aspirations, they now view it as the beginning of a new life in the Risen Christ.

Deacon Mervyn Francis

YOUTH CORNER

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:



Sick: Fr John LANGTRY, Archbishop Anthony FISHER, Sebastian AGUIAR, Maria KONTREC, Bishop George PHIMPISAN, Fr John CHIANG, Maila CORKILL, Fahed JREISAT, Emmanuel ARAPA, Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAF, Carmen SPITERI, Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK, Ciro PUNZO, Valerie McCARTHY, Pamela LEVERS, Lily TANTIYA, Brindley & Virginia CAVALLARO, Sarah CANCERI, Darren OWM, Joe SAMMUT, Giannino MORASSUT, Diana VUKOV, Florence JIANG, Isabel TANTIYA, Nancy THAI-PHAM, John CODNER, Robin ISHAC, Nancy VARTULI, Tan LE, Bibeth BUENCAMINO, Rhea Mae ABRAHAMS, Felicitas VALENCIA, Presley PETILLA, Bruno BORSATO, John RAPPAL, Emilia Petilla DOTONG, Veronica MARIC, David SNOOK, Frank VELLA, Inez BUGEJA, Nicolina La FERRARA, Doug ANDERSON

Recently Deceased: Yvonne VANJOUR (Errol O'Dwyer's Sister), Lola WHITE, Paul HENG

Death Anniversary: Joan PURCELL, Stephanie NOEL, Salvatore La FERRARA

Other: Special Intention

Condolences Our condolences are extended Errol O'Dwyer and family on the loss of his dear Sister Yvonne Vanjour. Please keep the family and extended family in your prayers.



We congratulate the family of Spencer VARTULI who will be baptised here this weekend.



JOHN THE BAPTIST ENROLMENTS
Enrolment Application packages for the 2018 school year are available from the school office. For more information please contact the school on 9823 5042.

MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE MAY RETREATS
247 St Andrews Road, Varroville
Ph: 8795 3400 Email: retreats@carmelite.com
www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Please see Church noticeboard for more information



CENTRE OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY RETREAT
The Ways to Pray the Gospels with Sally Longley
Date: Saturday 6 May, 9:30am - 4:00pm
Location: Peter Canisius House
102 Mono Vale Road, Pymble, NSW, 2073
Cost: \$105 including lunch and refreshments
Ph: 9488 4524 Email: bookings@pch.org.au



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CatholicCare have employment opportunities to work with our ageing clients and those with a disability. To find out more call 13 18 19, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org.



Youth Prayer Intentions and Mass

All the youth and young adults of JB Parish are invited to the weekly Wednesday night Mass to pray for specific intentions (which will change each week). There will be a chance to celebrate Mass, pray for the intention during the Holy Hour as well as some time for fellowship with other youth. So please join us this Wednesday 3rd May at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For an increase of courage in our hearts, that we may not be afraid to give ourselves to the Lord.** If you would like to offer an intention one week, please contact Joe to do so. Come along for a chance to pray the rosary, celebrate Mass and worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.



Youth Alpha - Every 2nd Wednesday evening at 7.30pm— 8.30pm. Next gathering Wednesday 10 May

Youth Alpha is designed for those who are in years 10, 11 & 12 and anyone who has recently finished school. It is a chance to come together, to share a meal, to discuss Jesus and feel connected with God for just one hour every two weeks.

After 7pm Mass on Wednesdays we gather in the **Meeting Room at 7:30pm**. If you're keen, please bring \$5 to help cover pizza and drink cost.

Please keep this in mind if you are trying to make more room for God in your life but are struggling to do so. This is something suitable for young people and is always fun and engaging. Hope to see you there! 😊

LISMORE FLOOD APPEAL

Archbishop Fisher is supporting the Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal that was launched by Bishop Gregory Homering to help those who have suffered in the recent floods on the North Coast of NSW. To donate to the Appeal see www.dioceseoflismorefloodappeal.org

EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS & CATHERINE OF SIENNA

with Bishop David Walker DD Emeritus Bishop of Broken Bay

Epistle to the Romans - This letter has affected later Christian theology than any other book in the New Testament. It reveals Paul's inestimable contribution to our understanding of the Christian mystery. Written about 57-58AD, it is preparing the Christian community in Rome for a visit from Paul.

DATES: Tuesday Nights - 2nd, 9th and 16th May
TIME: 7:00pm
COURSE COST: \$10.00 per night

Catherine of Sienna: The Dialogue: Catherine is one of the first women to become Doctor of the Church. This book is a major source for the study of the journey of God. It has been described as "not much a treatise to be read as a conversation to be entered into with earnest leisure and leisurely earnest". The theme running through the work is that the truth fostering love, fully developed under the image of Christ-the-bridge.

DATES: Wednesday Nights - 10th, 24th and 31st May
TIME: 7:00pm
COURSE COST: \$10.00 per night

Venue: 14 Frances St, Randwick (cnr Cook & Frances Streets)
To Register call or email: Sally 9398 2211 or sally@thecentre.com.au

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms are usually held during weekend Masses. It is necessary to book through the parish office and attend a Baptism Preparation session. The date for Baptism will be confirmed once you have attended a session.

Sacrament of First Penance/Reconciliation/Confession (for Yr 2 and older): Will take place in Term 4 (28 November - 1 December, 2017).

First Holy Communion (for Yr 3 and older): Will take place on 11th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 25th June, 2017.

Confirmation (for Yr 6 and older): Will take place on Sunday 24th September, 2017.

Contact the Parish Office for more information.



CWF PASTORAL APPEAL: Our parish will ask you to support the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal next weekend. Your donations go directly towards the charitable and pastoral works of the Sydney Archdiocese for the benefit of this community so we ask you to kindly consider your support. Thank you.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES

If you have not already handed in your Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes, could you please bring them into the Parish office or to Mass next weekend. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THEM IN THE CHURCH UNATTENDED. Thank you for your support and contributions.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PIETY STORE FUND RAISER

The SVDP Piety Store is holding a plant sale next weekend (6th and 7th May).

The plants would make a lovely Mother's Day gift. All proceeds go to support the disadvantaged in our community through the St Vincent de Paul Society.



The St Vincent de Paul Society provides the following services:

- Advocacy
- Aged Care Facilities
- Budget Counselling
- Care and Support Centres
- Childcare Centres
- Children's activities and Holiday Programs
- Disability Services
- Disaster Recovery
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centres
- Emergency Accommodation
- Employment Support Services
- Friendship Programs for people with mental illness
- Home and Hospital Visitation
- Homeless accommodation and support services
- Low cost food outlets
- Migrant and refugee support services
- Mobile Food services
- Overseas support programs
- Prison visitation
- Refugee accommodation for women and children
- School-based mentoring programs
- Self-care aged units
- Subsidised accommodation for tertiary students
- Support employment for people with physical or mental illness
- Tutoring program for refugees
- Vinnies Centres
- Volunteer Programs
- Youth drop-in centres
- Youth programs

Ministries Next Week 6/7 MAY	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Dionysatos E Vella	J Poljak T Simpson	G Zangari N Laureti	C Sullivan
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS:	J Burxg V Petrovic M Chun A Gorja B Gorja M Harvey D Rotondo	D Cordina M Borgia S Ives T Simpson	S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib A Vlahadamis T Vartuli E Villegas G Dunn H Fenech	
COUNTERS:	P McLenaghan	M Davies		
CHURCH CLEANERS:	Family Thang Vu	F Camacho	A Froio	N Leyland

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS/ NEWS

Is there more to life than this

Alpha

ALPHA IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT - Every Thursday between 7pm and 9pm in the Parish Hall. The Alpha Program will run every Thursday from 16 March until 1st June at the conclusion of the Easter Season.

Meal → TALK → Small Group Discussion

Alpha is a tool for evangelisation and faith-enrichment that is used by thousands of Catholic parishes in over 70 countries around the world. It includes a meal, a talk (or video) followed by discussion.

Come along and experience one evening!

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Pastoral care to the sick has been a long and strong tradition of the Church in general and our parish in particular. We usually bring Holy Communion to the sick on the weekend. If your family members are unable to come to Mass due to their sickness, we strongly encourage you to provide their details to our parish pastoral centre. We then will organize people to bring Holy Communion to them. Would you please ring our parish line on **02 9823 2572** during working hours or you can email Fr Phan at curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

SPECIAL YEAR ONE GRADE MASS

This Sunday 30th April at 10:00am

Please stay for morning tea afterwards



LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MORNING TEA

Please stay after Mass this weekend and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with your community.

Christianity across the Ages - A Journey of Faith through the Evolution of Christian liturgy and its Music. This is a presentation of amazingly unique slides combined with related story-telling by Marie Therese Levey rsj - music teacher, author, specialist in medieval plainchant, collector of digital copies of manuscripts from across the centuries.

Where: St Joseph's Regional Centre 5 Alexandra Ave, Croydon
When: 9am-12midday Friday June 2

Entry by voluntary donation. Bookings essential:
RSVP by May 26 Email marie.levy@sosj.org.au



BIBLE STUDY: Every Thursday 10am - 11am

Gathers in the **Church Meeting Room** (after the 9:10am Mass and Rosary). For further information please contact Meding on 9823 7121 or 0410 177 673.



'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD' CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Every Tuesday at 8pm. Give 20 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel. Duration time is approximately 30 minutes. For further information, contact Frances on 0438 213 313.



PARISH HOUSIE: Every Saturday

2pm - 4:30pm at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

Think about your choices. Gambling More, enjoying less? For free and confidential information and advice about problem gambling, contact **Gambling Help 1800 858 858**

www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon: *The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.*

First reading Acts 2:14, 22-33
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: ‘Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

‘Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God’s right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

Lord you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: ‘You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.’

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Second reading 1 Peter 1:17-21
A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless

way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke: 24:13-35

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth’ they answered ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.’

Then he said to them, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’ Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening’ they said ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

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