



# John the Baptist Parish

Bonnyrigg Heights

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



## Christmas Eve, Midnight, Dawn and Christmas Day (Year B) 2014

Dear Friends,

We live in a world which struggles each day to alleviate poverty, war and terrorism, domestic violence, family breakdown and homelessness. We have recently experienced most of these tragic events on a local and world-wide scale. To be a person of moral standing, forgiving others who hurt us, loving our neighbour and recognising the rights of others is a struggle for us all. But it is in the struggle, that I think we find ourselves.

St. Athanasius, who lived in the second century wrote: "God became human, that we, might become like God." Christmas is our time to celebrate and rejoice that our Saviour came among us to lead us, show compassion and forgiveness, in the midst of our struggle. Jesus, himself knew only too well of the struggle to convince many that he was the Son of God.

Today, as we reflect upon the birth of Jesus, told for us in the gospel of Luke, we also experience the struggle for his parents to find a place of comfort and safety for his birth. It is not the powerful and nobility who are first to be invited to the manger, but poor, simple shepherds, who symbolise the future role of Jesus as the Good Shepherd caring for his vulnerable flock.

Whatever our standing, our doubts, or fears, we are *all* invited to the manger at Bethlehem this Christmas to worship the new-born King: Jesus Christ. Let this be a time of peace and love, where Christ who has entered into our world, can accompany us on our journey, until it finds its completion in Him.

I want to thank the parish community for their dedication and commitment to helping bring about the message of the gospel today by their own selflessness and generosity toward so many people and worthy cause this Christmas. Our witness to the birth of Jesus throughout this year has brought joy to so many people in our community, and our world, and has nourished and strengthened our parish family of John the Baptist, Bonnyrigg Heights.

On behalf of Fr Epeli and myself, I wish you all a very holy and peace-filled Christmas 2014.

Fr Kelvin.



 **Wishing everyone a  
Happy and Holy Christmas** 

Mount Street,  
BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS 2177

**Parish Priest: Rev Fr Kelvin Lovegrove**  
Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Assistant: Rev Fr Epeli Qimaqima**  
Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Deacon Candidate: Mr Mervyn Francis**  
Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Youth Ministry Co-ordinator:  
Tomasz Juszczak**  
Email: tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Parish Pastoral Centre:**  
45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

**Presbytery: 9823 2572**  
**Fax: 9822 9954**

**Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au**  
**website:**  
**www.johnthebaptist.org.au**

**Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang**

**Administration/Accountant:  
Michael O'Mara**

**Office Hours: 10:00am to 4:00pm**

### MASSES THIS WEEK

Friday 26th December: 9:10am  
Saturday 27th December: 9:10am

### SUNDAY 27th/28th December, 2014 (The Holy Family)

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm  
Sunday: 8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:15pm-5:00pm

Monday 29th December: No Mass  
Tuesday 30th December: 9:10am  
Wednesday 31st December: 7:00pm  
Thursday 1st January: 9:10am  
New Years Day (Mary Mother of God)  
Friday 2nd January: 9:10am  
Saturday 3rd January: 9:10am

### SUNDAY 3rd/4th January, 2015 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm  
Sunday: 8:00am 10:00am 5:30pm

## **MINISTRIES**

Ministries are the life-blood of the John Baptist Parish.

By participating in one or more ministries within the parish the parishioners take on a role of responsibility and service using their special talents to promote our community and celebrations as well as the good order and growth of our Parish.

The outline of ministries within the Parish is intended:

- To express appreciation to our many involved parishioners who contribute generously of their time and creativity to enable our parish to be welcoming, caring and to have a sense of belonging.
- To continue to form community at our Parish of John the Baptist, we invite parishioners to consider joining a particular ministry and contact the Parish Office 9823 2572 for further information.

Ministries are involved in all facets of the Parish life, ranging from Liturgical, Faith Development, Administration and Service together with Prayer Groups and Social Justice.

### **Liturgical Ministries**

Liturgical Ministries assist the Priests and the Community with the smooth running of the Mass. Some of these Ministries participate actively in the Mass and others assist behind the scenes.

If you would like to participate in one or more of these Ministries please contact the office on 9823 2572.

Below is a list of Liturgical Ministries

**Altar Linen Group** provides fresh, clean linen for use in our Church. This invaluable group attends to the washing of the linen and looking after the Altar. In effect, they literally are God's housekeepers. If you would like to assist this group contact Tina Orchard on 0408448700.

**Altar Servers** assist the priest at our liturgies and add an extra dimension to our celebrations. These young people do a training programme to enable them to participate in this very special role. If you would like to be part of this group contact Fr Epeli.

**Banner Group** links the liturgical seasons with colourful, eye-catching backdrops which enhance the liturgical space for our celebrations. The symbol and sign used in the banners make an instant impression on the theme of the celebration. If you have creative tendencies and a love of liturgy consider joining this group contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572.

**Children's Liturgy Group** brings the Liturgy of the Word alive at an appropriate level for the younger members of our community. This special liturgy takes place during Mass. The children and their leaders are sent forth from the Assembly after the Introductory Rites and return nourished by the Word in time for the Preparation of the Gifts. Programmes are available to develop the message of the Scripture of the day. If you have a special love of children and liturgy suitable for them you may like to join this group as a leader or and assistant contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403.

**Church Wardens** act as ushers, supervise the collections at Mass and aim to help others to participate in reasonable comfort. They are alert to emergencies and generally take responsibility for smooth order and so enhance the Assembly for worship. If you feel able to assist as a warden contact: Paul Bennet (5:30pm Mass) on 9822 1958, Errol O'Dwyer (8:00am Mass) on 9822 1256 and Serge Laureti (10:00am Mass) on 9823 3277.

**Eucharistic Ministers** assist with the distribution of Communion at Mass and/or take Communion to those sick or housebound. Their reverent participation enhances the Liturgy. There are up to nine or more Eucharistic Ministers at each Mass. There are up to nine or more Eucharistic Ministers at each Mass so if you wish to be involved in this special ministry contact Linda Barilla on 9607 4993.

**Flowers** This group adds splendour to the sanctuary using colourful flower arrangements. Arranging flowers requires a special artistic skill, time and much patience. As well as providing and arranging the flowers there needs to be follow up during the week to keep the flowers watered and removed when they are done. If you are interested in being part of this special work contact Frances Demasi on 9826 1409.

**Liturgy Group** meets regularly to prepare for the various seasons throughout the Church Year and to provide for other special celebrations that occur. The group aims to co-ordinate and enhance the liturgical celebrations as times of worship. The group use their creativity and love of liturgy to develop a sense of wonder and rhythm in our liturgies. They respond to new initiatives to promote a deeper sense of reverence and awe in our liturgy. New members are always welcome to be part of this group. New members are always welcome to be part of this group please contact: Fr Kelvin Lovegrove or Fr. Epeli Qimaqima on 9823 2572.

**Musicians and Singers** are Parishioners who provide music and help lead the Liturgy of the Church community in the worship of God. The groups share the responsibility of preparing and practising music for worship each Sunday and for special occasions in the life of the parish community e.g. feast days, First Holy Communion Masses, Confirmations and special occasions. St. Augustine is quoted as saying "those who sing the praise of God pray twice". Parishioners are invited to use their talent to help the community in our worship of God. You are invited to approach any of the musicians or singers for further information or contact the parish office. In the future we would like to develop children's and youth choirs to give opportunities for our young people. With our pipe organ installed in the Church, an opportunity is offered for those interested in learning to play.  
(The choir rehearse for a hour prior to the 10:00 am Mass commencing so you are welcome to join in then).

**Readers/Lectors** – To receive the Word of God and come to faith someone needs to proclaim the word of God to us. Parishioners prepare and train for this role of proclaiming the word by reflecting on the Word during the week and on Sunday and special occasions proclaim the Word to the assembly. In the celebration of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed from the Ambo (Lectern, Reading Stand). If you are gifted in this area and would like to be involved in serving your sisters and brothers in this way please contact Nina Laureti on 9823 3277.

The parish also has a **Bereavement Group** which assists people who have lost someone dear to them whether it has been recently or a while ago, to help them cope with their loss. The group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This group will be fairly informal but we will have resources to guide them through. They will commence again on a date to be advised.  
Contact: Josie Barilla 9607 3973.

## Faith Development

**Catechist Group** are the life-force sharing the Good News with the children in our parish who attend Government Schools. These dedicated catechists take weekly classes to provide the opportunity for these young people to become more aware of God's loving presence and action in their lives. Catechists have training sessions and are provided with materials to use in the classroom. Many remark about the development in their own spiritual journey being sparked off by their involvement in this demanding and rewarding work. If you would like to be part of this team as a catechist or a helper in the classroom contact Nina Laureti on 9823 3277.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA** – How do young people or adults become Catholics? People who express interest in our faith are invited to meet in small groups with parishioners who answer questions, share faith scripture and their lives with those interested in the Christian way of life. When people are ready to make a commitment to the Christian life they prepare for initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. For further information please contact Fr Kelvin Lovegrove or Fr. Epeli Qimaqima on 9823 2572.

### **Sacramental Preparation:**

**Baptism:** John the Baptist Parish celebrates Baptism regularly on Sundays. Families presenting children for Baptism attend preparation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday afternoon of each month at 4:00pm. Parents and sponsors (Godparents) are most welcome. Parishioners welcome and facilitate this preparation. For bookings and information contact the Parish Pastoral Centre on 9823 2572.

**Penance (Confession/Reconciliation), Confirmation and First Holy Communion:** Parishioners support each other in small groups to prepare their children for these sacraments of Initiation into the Church. Parents are initially involved in this process and attend preparation with their child and do follow up work with their child and present them at the celebrations. Registration, preparation and celebrations dates are advertised in our weekly Parish bulletin.

Penance (Confession/Reconciliation) is usually celebrated in November for Year 2 students.

First Communion is usually celebrated mid-year for students in Year 3.

Confirmation is usually celebrated during Term 3 of school for students in Year 6.

Preparation is very important and parents need to attend registration to be fully briefed and informed.

Contact: **Reconciliation** - Vicky Scutella 0447 310 204 or Pina Micali 0418 402 903;

**First Holy Communion** - Vicky Scutella 0447 310 204 or Pina Micali 0418 402 903

**Confirmation** - Linda Barilla on 9607 4993

**Adult Education Faith Formation:** The Parish provides publications "Australian Catholics", weekly scripture readings, sacramental preparation, homilies, visiting speakers and preachers, visiting confessors, Lenten Diocesan Groups and Bible Study Groups. Contact the Parish office for contacts for each group on 9823 2572.

### **Administration and Service**

**Counters** These teams count the collections that are taken up during the Mass. They also ensure that amounts for the Envelopes are recorded correctly to ensure the accurate issue of taxation receipts. The teams are usually allocated to a specific Sunday of each month, with a special team if there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Contact: Chris Smith on 0420 554 238.

**Finance Committee** provides advice and assistance in the financial administration of the Parish. This group assists the Parish Priest in planning for the future, in maintenance of the Parish and as it were has an overview of the financial affairs of the Parish. At times, people with special skills are needed for subcommittees or fund raising activities. If you have a financial bent and are interested in working for the development of the Parish contact: Serge Laureti on 9823 3277.

**Flowers** - This group adds splendour to the sanctuary using colourful flower arrangements. Arranging flowers requires a special artistic skill, time and much patience. As well as providing and arranging the flowers there needs to be follow up during the week to keep the flowers watered and removed when they are done

**Parish Working Bees:** Parishioners join together to clean up the Church and grounds before major feasts and special occasions. Young and old are welcome. Keep your eye on the Parish bulletin for times and days. Contact: Grant Dunn on 9823 4704.

**Parish Suppers and Morning Teas** On the last weekend of each month after all the Masses parishioners are invited to bring a plate of goodies to share and stay for a cup of tea or coffee. If you are interested in this ministry and would like to help set up, serve and tidy up afterwards please contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 and we can place your name on a roster.

**Parish Housie:** Held at Liverpool Catholic Club on Saturday afternoons from 12 noon till 4:00pm. If you are interested in helping this ministry please contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572.

**Pipe Organ Committee:** During 2007 a historic pipe organ was installed in the parish Church. Those who are interested in sponsoring a pipe please contact the Parish office on 9823 2572.

**Parish Pastoral Council** A Parish Pastoral Council has recently been elected. Should you wish to know more about the Parish Pastoral Council please contact Fr Kelvin Lovegrove on 9823 2572 or Nina Laureti on 9823 3277.

**Church Cleaning:** A group of approximately 5-6 ladies clean the Church each week on a five week roster. If you would like to help clean the Church please contact Ann Gorla on 0425 284 860.

### **Prayer Groups and Social Justice.**

**Bible Study Group** meet every Thursday 10:00am—11:00am 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.

**Piety Stall** – Parishioners support the work of the St. Vincent De Paul Society and give all parishioners the opportunity to purchase good quality religious books and pious objects for personal use and to adorn the home. These volunteers give their time to serve the needs of their brothers and sisters in the community. During the year they personally prepare homemade treats to celebrate important occasions e.g. Easter and Christmas. They also have available appropriate gifts for religious occasions e.g. Baptisms, Reconciliation (First Confession/Penance), First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage as well as condolence cards and many other items.

The Piety Stall is open before and after each Mass. For any enquiries please contact Virginia O'Connor on 0403 353 733.

**St. Vincent De Paul Society** strives to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of those suffering hardship in our community. They strive to assist all those in need. They meet regularly and do home visits upon request (these requests come through St. Vincent De Paul Centres). For information about the society and membership enquiries contact Col Purcell on 9607 8100.

### **Youth Groups**

**Jordan Youth Group:** A youth group for children in Years 5 & 6 that runs monthly on a Friday from 3:30-5:30pm during the school term. Please keep watching the "Youth Corner" in the bulletin or contact Tomasz on 9823 2572 or by email tomasz@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Galilee Youth Group:** For all youth in grades 7-10. We meet a monthly, on a Friday night during School term. It includes games, activities, talks, sports, prayer and nibbles, as well as a monthly outing. Keep watching "Youth Corner" in the Church bulletin or contact Tomasz on 9823 2572 or by email tomasz@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Antioch:** Is a parish-based ministry run by youth where teens and young adults are able to express their Catholic Faith in various ways. The Antioch Youth Group is continuing to flourish within the Parish and youth between the ages of 16-24 are more than welcome to join! Antioch runs every Sunday from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. For more information contact Tomasz our Youth Coordinator on 9823 2572 or tomasz@johnthebaptist.org.au.

**THE CREED**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**THE GLORIA**

**Gloria to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on  
us.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the  
Father.  
Amen.**

**Parish Website - [www.johnthebaptist.org.au](http://www.johnthebaptist.org.au)**

The Parish Bulletin is now available online under the "Publications" tab.  
The current bulletin will be made available on the weekend. Previous bulletins are also archived so that if you miss a week or need to refer back, these bulletins are now available.

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\* *Your Prayers are requested for the* \*  
\* *following, for whom Mass will be offered:* \*  
\*  \*  
\* **Sick:** Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAFA, \*  
\* Tony MITTIGA, Cherish ADINA (6 months), Carmen SPITERI, \*  
\* Audrey SPITERI, Sam CORDINA, Michael ARACO, Manina FOTI, \*  
\* Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Eugene KLEIBERT, Dora \*  
\* BADINO, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK, \*  
\* Kui LAI \*  
\* **Recently Deceased:** Marianna FOTI, Robyn DUNN, \*  
\* Fr James O'MEARA, Duska BASIC, Danny GANDAH \*  
\* **Anniversary:** Paulino and Primateva PUBLICO \*  
\* **Other:** Rita GATT, Emanel GATT, Mary VELLA, Joseph VELLA, \*  
\* Tony VELLA, Giovanna VELLA, Marlene VELLA, Very Special \*  
\* Intention \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**A PRAYER AT THE TABLE  
DURING CHRISTMAS TIME**

*A Christmas candle may be lighted as the leader says:*

**Glory to God in the highest.**

*All respond:*  
**And peace to his people on earth.**



*The leader prays:*

**Lord Jesus, in the peace of this season our spirits rejoice: With the beasts and angels, the shepherds and stars, with Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise.**

**By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may our table and home be blessed.**

**Glory to God in the highest.**

*All respond:* **And peace to his people on earth.**

**AFTER THE MEAL**

*The leader says:* **The Word became flesh, alleluia.**

*All respond:* **And dwelt among us, alleluia.**

"Christmas is a time of thanksgiving and celebration. Family life can however have it's unique ups and downs and many families experience challenges over the Christmas holiday period. Catholic Care manages a professional telephone counselling and support for parents (carers and grandparents) of children ages 0 to 18, who live in New South Wales. The service is available for the cost of a local call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including public holidays. If you would like to talk to a Parent Line counsellor please feel free to call 1300 1300 52 . Parent Line also has a website [www.parentline.org.au](http://www.parentline.org.au) with lots of parenting information available."

**PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION**

**Baptisms** are usually held on Sundays however, it is necessary to make a booking through the Parish office on 9823 2572 as occasional parish events require the need for changes to baptism dates and times.

Baptism preparation meetings are held on the first Sunday afternoon of each month commencing at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall. For further information please contact the presbytery on 9823 2572. The next Baptism Preparation Meeting is Sunday 4th January, 2015.

**Confirmation** September, 2015; Enrolments June, 2015 dates to be advised. Keep watching the Parish bulletins.

**2015 Dates for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion (Children in year 3 and above who have made their First Reconciliation)**

**Parent Meeting** – Tuesday 10/03/15 @ 7pm in church  
**All parents** enrolling children for First Holy Communion **must** attend  
**Group Leader Meeting** – Tuesday 24/03/15 @ 7pm in church  
**Preparation lessons begin week 1 of term 2**  
**First Holy Communion Masses** – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June @ 5.30pm, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June @ 12.30pm & 3pm  
**Please note:** only children in year 3 will receive letters via school/scripture. If your child is in year 4 or above enrolment forms will be available from the parish office.

**2015 Dates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Children in year 2 and up)**

**Parent Meeting** – Tuesday 04/08/15 @ 7pm in church. **All parents** enrolling children for Reconciliation **must** attend.  
**Enrolment dates** – 22/23 & 29/30 August 2015 after the 5.30pm, 8am & 10am Masses  
**Group Leader Meeting** – TBA  
**Preparation lessons begin week 1 of term 4**  
**Reconciliations** – 10/11/15-Friday 13/11/15  
**Please note:** only children in year 2 will receive enrolment forms via school/scripture. If your child is in year 3 or above enrolment forms will be available from the parish office.

**PLEASE CHECK WEEKLY MASS BULLETINS FOR ANY CHANGES OR UPDATES or call the Parish Pastoral Centre 9823 2572.**