



John the Baptist Parish

Bonnyrigg Heights

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



Mount Street,
BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS 2177

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Kelvin Lovegrove
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Assistant: Rev Fr Epeli Qimaqima
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Deacon Candidate: Mr Mervyn Francis
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Youth Ministry Co-ordinator: Tomasz Juszcak
Contact: The Parish Office on 9823 2572 Email: tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Pastoral Centre:
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Presbytery: 9823 2572

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Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Administration/Accountant: Michael O'Mara

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

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 1

'Prayer of the Church' prayed at John the Baptist 10 minutes before weekday Masses Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Francis Xavier, priest

Thursday - 9:10am

St John Damascene, priest, doctor

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

St Nicholas, bishop

SUNDAY 6/7 December

(Second Sunday of Advent)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Masses :

8:00am

10:00am

5:30pm

1st Sunday of Month:

5:30pm Youth Mass

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.15 - 5.00pm

Advent



2014

Reflection Questions.....

- ◆ Christ's Second Coming means to me..... I watch for it best when.....
- ◆ I find myself truly alert to Christ's Presence now when I.....
- ◆ What helps me recognise Christ's Presence in everyday encounters is.....

First Sunday of Advent (Year B) 29th & 30th November, 2014

Dear friends,

This Sunday begins the season of Advent, which is a time of waiting and expectation. The people of Israel waited centuries for the promised Saviour, who would save his people. During Advent we reflect this time of waiting by listening to the ancient prophets who told the people to prepare for the Saviour's coming by turning their lives around: abandoning sin, and welcoming new life in the birth of Jesus. The prophet Isaiah, St John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of God, all loom large during this time of waiting as they prepare for the Messiah to be born.

Our waiting now is also about waiting for the return of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. This second coming, not unlike the first, is about us turning our lives around so we will be ready when Jesus returns at the end of time as he promised. The gospel of Mark (which will be read during our Sunday Masses during 2015), reminds us to: 'Stay awake, because you do not know when the time will come'. This is our wake up call.

This first Sunday of Advent, is the Church's New Year. We are so used to celebrating the New year of the secular world on 1st January, that we forget to make our 'spiritual resolutions.' (Only 4% of people keep their New Year's resolutions). Let us start today, and as a guide you might like to go to the link on our parish website page xt3 Advent calendar to help you start your journey.

Let us turn from our lethargy and indifference, and make this Advent at time to prepare for welcoming the Christ child into hearts.

Fr Kelvin

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

I would ask that all who receive Holy Communion at Mass would ensure that when they receive the host, the host is consumed at the altar. If there is a special need for the sick, please approach Fr. Epeli or Fr. Kelvin and arrangements will be made to take Holy Communion to the sick or ill.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
And grant us your salvation*

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

YOUTH CORNER

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



Sick: Justin ZERAFA, Tony MITTIGA, Duska BASIC, 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: Danny GANDAH, Lilla PUNTURIERO, Anthony NGUYEN, Matt McPHEE, Heather GOODWIN, Therese JOLICOEUR, Anthony NGUYEN, Robyn MUSOLIN

Anniversary: David SMOLINSKI, John Paul VELLA, Lawrence VELLA, Stefano ARFI

Other: Iluminada MENDOZA, All the Deceased, Agostino and Maria CAVALLARO, John and Mimi ORTADO, Josephine VELLA, Very Special Intention



YOUTH FAMILY MASS

Attention all High School aged and older students and their families!

The next Youth Group Family Mass will be held at 5.30pm on Sunday 7th December, 2014.

All are welcome to attend!

For more information on the activities and Youth Groups below see the WYD/Youth Group bulletin board or Tomasz on 9823 2572 or email Tomasz at tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards a man’s progress, nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.”

(St Francis Xavier)

Christmas Hamper Raffle and Donations

The Antioch Youth group will soon be selling raffle tickets for specific Christmas hamper prizes in order to start their fundraising campaign for the upcoming World Youth Day to be held in Krakow, Poland! With the packages soon to be released, the youth of our parish will need all the help they can get to consider this incredible life-changing opportunity. Currently, the Antioch youth are asking for any donations (or ideas for donations) that people are willing to give for these hampers such as: vouchers, wine, chocolates, and anything else that may be appropriate or appealing. The final draw will be held on the night of the parish Christmas Carols. If you are able to assist in any way, please call Sharon on 0410 494 700 or if you would like to remain anonymous, simply leave the donation at the parish office. Thank you!

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

We are in need of new leaders and helpers particularly at the 10:00am Mass, if you are interested in joining our team please contact Angela (9606 8403 or 0410 964 196).

To all our Children’s Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2014.

The community of John the Baptist would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for the commitment and care you have given the children of our Parish. Thankyou for sharing your faith with our children and helping them in their journey of faith, to know and love God more.



May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your family. God bless you.

Please let Angela or your co-ordinator know (as soon as possible) whether you would like to continue being a Children’s Liturgy Leader in 2015.

After your final Children’s Liturgy for the year, please leave your folder and photocopies for 2014 in the Children’s Liturgy cupboard.

Thank you
Angela Galdas

I LEAD 15 presented by The Catholic Guy Team

In life, all of us are leaders. Some of us lead others, but we all must lead ourselves. Presented by The Catholic Guy Team. I LEAD 15 will provide young adults with practical and relevant leadership training in an exciting Catholic environment.

I LEAD 15 will give you the skills essential in leading other people to higher levels of achievement in their spiritual, personal and professional lives.

DATE: 4th - 7th January, 2015

VENUE: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

COST: \$159 (includes 4 nights accommodation, food and all activities/training)

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: ilead.thecatholicguy.com or phone 1300 734 8890

TEEN TALK GAVEL CLUB

(Public Speaking for Students in Years 5 - 12)

will meet again next Sunday 7th December at 11:30am in the Parish Hall.



Galilee and Jordan Christmas PARTY!



The final Galilee and Jordan youth groups for the year will be held on Friday 12th December as a joint CHRISTMAS PARTY! This is a huge thank you to all those who participated in the Jordan and Galilee youth groups throughout the year. If you have been one of the participants, you are more than welcome to join us! The Christmas party will run from 3:30pm - 6:30pm on Friday 12th December at JB Parish Hall. There will be plenty of food, entertainment, music, prizes and games, however, feel free to bring some extra nibbles if you like! We may even be having a visit from one of our favourite saints! ... (Nicholas??). We’d also like to offer a great thank you to all the parents who have helped out throughout the year, it’s greatly appreciated! We hope that all the youth have had an enjoyable and enlightening year thus far and we look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas party and beyond! God Bless!



You are invited to start the New Year with Christ! The Immaculate Mission School is a nine-day live-in formation experience, aimed at leading young people to a deeper encounter with Christ, discovering the gift of who they are, and being set on fire to be saints for the new millennium! For more information contact Tomasz or to register online visit www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims-2015



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 Holy hour as well as some time for fellowship with other youth. So please join us this Wednesday 3rd December at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **Friends and loved ones who have passed away.** If you would like to offer an intention one week, please contact Tomasz to do so.



Antioch meet every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30pm

at JB Parish Hall. Come and join us for some great talks, participate in sharing, music, prayer and more! All youth from 16-24yo are more than welcome to attend! Hope to catch you all there!

HELPING THE SOCIALLY ISOLATE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Sisters of Charity Outreach would like to appeal to your generosity to help those who are socially isolated this Christmas. They would like to give a small hamper to each of their clients; 4 men and 28 women ages ranging from 50 to 94. **A full list of items needed are on the Church noticeboard.** If you could please drop your items in the basket provided in the parish meeting room by Wednesday 10th December. Organiser: Susan Ives 0419 606 683. Thanks so much for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Reconciliation: Wednesday 17th December 6:00 - 7:00pm
(several priests available)

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm Children's Mass
8:00pm
Midnight

Christmas Day: 8:00am
10:00am



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



To help us prepare for the beautifully joyful event of Christmas, Fr Epeli will be running an Advent Bible study on the Sundays during Advent. This Bible study will help us to delve deeper into the mystery of Advent and the importance of how we prepare for Christmas using the beautiful Marian model of preparation. The first session will start on Sunday 30th November from 4pm-5:15pm. This will continue for all four Sundays of Advent. All are welcome and encouraged to attend so that we can really enter into the Christmas Preparation period more deeply.

As there are a number of parish celebrations and events coming up over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas, you might like to put the following dates in your diary:



5th DECEMBER - Christmas Carols: 6:30 - 7:30pm sausage sizzle, followed by Carols in the church. (A special guest will be making an appearance at the end of the night).



17th DECEMBER - Parish Reconciliation from 6:00pm to 7:00pm followed by a Remembrance Mass at 7:00pm, parishioners are invited to bring a photo of their deceased loved ones which will be placed near the altar.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Christmas Hamper boxes will be available after all Masses this weekend.

The members of John the Baptist Conference thank you on behalf of the people they assist for your generosity which is much appreciated.



The 'old white' house on the corner of the property is being demolished. The house is in poor condition and is uninhabitable. The demolition of the house has been discussed and agreed upon by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Church Feasibility Committee. The DA for the demolition has the full approval of Fairfield Council.

In the six days that God created the world he said: "Let there be light, and so it was." While our efforts to improve the lighting in the Church have come nowhere near the work of the Creator, we have replaced all the lighting both inside the Church and in the forecourt area to provide better lighting, as well as a cost saving measure. (The new lights will save money in the years to come). The cost of the new lighting and the replacement of the fans in the church, as well as, the repair of two lights in the car park, comes at a cost of around \$5,000. Thanks to Michael O'Mara and Ned Stulic for their work in this area.

Some of the microphone equipment and leads are also being up-dated. Unfortunately this will take longer than six days, but it is all a work in progress. Thank you all for your support and suggestions.

Fr Kelvin

ADVENT CHENNAI APPEAL

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. Over the next four weeks we are asked to think of others who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Last year we supported the Catholic Mission's Chennai Appeal raising over \$23,000 that was used to construct the new dormitory, Chapel and Help Centre.

The tree will be decorated with different envelopes of different amounts. If you wish to donate please take an envelope, complete the form inside and place in any collection at Masses or write your Envelope Number on the returning envelope and that will be added automatically to your account.



So let us prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus.

Enquiries: Nina Laureti

BIBLE STUDY: 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.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We would like to form a Social Committee to help with organising events for fundraising for our new Church. If you would like to join the Social Committee please contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or Nina Laureti on 0408 465 149.

Christmas Carols Junior Choir Wanted!!

Any primary school student who wishes to sing at the Christmas Carols Night - there will be a practise on Thursday 27th November and Thursday 4th December from 4 to 5:30pm in the Church. A special Nativity re-enactment song has been planned!!!

CHRISTMAS MASS HELPERS

We are in need of Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Wardens, Welcomers, Musicians, Setting up and Cleaning up Helpers. If you can assist please place your name and contact number on the sign up sheets on the Church noticeboard. Thank you.

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

WE NEED MORE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR ALL MASSES

If you are on a current roster and would like to stay or you would like to become a new Minister please place your names on the sign up sheets under the Mass in which you normally attend or contact Linda Barilla on 9607 4993.



What's new at the Piety Store?



The Piety Store has some beautiful Christmas items for purchase. Packs of Christmas cards at great prices, nativity sets, decorations and some gorgeous Christmas candles. All profits go to St Vincent de Paul to help those in need in our own community.

Ministries Next Week 6/7 Dec	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Pace J Abela	N Belen L Pavlovic	L Aulsebrook M Aulsebrook	J Sullivan C Sullivan
EUCHARIST MINISTERS:	L Tononcelli D Adam J Oliveri L Topic P Micali C Smith B Smith A Gorla B Gorla M Brito	F Foti N Vartuli B Vartuli J Gauchi	T Dunn G Dunn H Fenech M Lavorato C Goodyer Delicia Vella J Vella G Zangari M Velardi F Holden	

CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE



THANK You to everyone who assisted at the Christmas Working Bee this weekend. Your efforts were very much appreciated



PARISH HOUSIE: Every Saturday between 2:00pm and 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, please contact
Gambling Help 1800 858 858
www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au