



John the Baptist Parish

Bonnyrigg Heights

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



Mount Street,
BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS 2177

Parish Administrator: Rev Fr James McCarthy

Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au

Assistant: Rev Fr Phan Nguyen

Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis

Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator: Joe Sullivan

Contact: The Parish Office on 9823 2572 Email: josephs@johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Pastoral Centre:

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Presbytery: 9823 2572

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Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

Accountant: Michael O'Mara

Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 3

'Prayer of the Church'

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

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Bruno, priest

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Our Lady of the Rosary

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

St Denis, bishop, martyr, and companions

St John Leonardi, priest

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 10/11 OCTOBER

(28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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



Reflection Questions

- ♦ What helps me grow in healthy relationships is..... I struggle in my relationships with others when.....
- ♦ I am hard of heart when..... What softens my heart is.....
- ♦ I experience the tender embrace and blessing of Jesus when.....

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 3rd & 4th October, 2015

My dear friends,

It is a great honour for me to introduce myself as your new Parish Administrator, which is like a Parish Priest but only for a temporary period of time. Father Kelvin has now taken up his responsibilities as the Vicar for Clergy in the Archdiocese of Sydney. At this stage, I have been assigned to Bonnyrigg until the end of 2015. It is anticipated that the Archbishop will appointment a new parish priest in early 2016.

I was born and raised in the Inner West of Sydney, in Ashfield, the 4th of six children. My mother is a concert pianist and my father was a lawyer and is now a diplomat. After finishing high school and completing an Arts degree in History, Politics and Music at the University in Sydney, I commenced studies for the priesthood at the Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush. During my formation, I was transferred to complete studies for the priesthood at the Jesuit University in Rome and I lived at the Vatican in the Pontifical North American College for more than 5 years. I also completed a Licentiate Degree in Sacred Theology at the Dominican University in Rome, writing my thesis in Dogmatic Theology on the connections between Judaism and Christian Sacraments. I have worked in Parishes in Sydney (Cronulla, Sydney Harbour North, Liverpool and Fairfield) and have served for extended periods in parishes in Italy, England and the USA. I have also worked on behalf of the Church in Africa and the Middle East, serving as a Chaplain with humanitarian programs for people with disabilities. In addition to my assignment at Bonnyrigg, I am also currently the Catholic Chaplain for the Australian Army in Sydney. At 33, I am pretty sure I am the youngest Administrator in the Archdiocese of Sydney. October 4 marks 8 years since I was ordained as a deacon.

"All of the love that God has in Himself, all of the beauty that God has in Himself, all of the truth that God has in Himself, He gives to the family. And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of this love."

These words were proclaimed by Pope Francis last weekend at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Today's readings talk about marriage and the family. Families are meant to be places of love and places and God. All the debates about marriage in our nation need to be refocussed on marriage as a place of the love of God. Marriage is not simply a legal or political structure, but a loving covenant relationship with God.

In families, there are difficulties. Other than the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, there is no perfect family. Growing up around brothers and sisters I have experienced my share of family arguments. But families are not meant to be places of difficulties, hatred and division. Families should never be a place of violence, but families and marriages should be experiences of God, places of peace, encouragement, nourishment, forgiveness and love - families should be domestic churches. A church is the place of God, and like our parish, the family home should be a place of prayer, education, service, welcome and love.

Thank you for your kindness in welcoming me into your parish family.

Fr James McCarthy

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who receive Holy Communion at Mass should ensure that when they receive the host, the host is consumed immediately at the altar. If there is a special need for the sick, please approach Fr. James or Fr. Phan prior to Mass and arrangements can be made to take Holy Communion to the sick or ill.

Dear Parishioners

I would like to thank Fr. Phan and Michael Harvey for their kind words and presentation at the Vigil Mass last weekend.

As Michael stated, Barbara and I are one of the original parishioners although not the first.

In the early days when the Church started in the hall, Fr. John had the habit of tapping you on the shoulder. This week can you be a reader or can you be a minister of Holy Communion. This is how we first became involved in some ministries within the Parish. Involvement in other ministries evolved over time. Due to previous financial skills this has led to involvement in this side of Parish life.

One of these roles over the past two and half years has been organising the Parish Housie. Housie has raised nearly \$250,000 that has been set aside in the Church Building Fund. The plan is to use these funds towards the new Church. Even if for some reason a new Church was not to occur, these funds would be used for any renovation of the existing Church.

Without the commitment of the five teams that run the housie one Saturday each month, these funds would not have been raised for the Parish.

Due to other commitments and changing circumstances, some of the teams will be finishing up at the end of the year. Therefore we are looking for new volunteers to run the Housie.

If you are good at selling and/or numbers this is a role that you may be interested in to support the Parish one Saturday afternoon each month. Please feel free to contact me on 0420554238 or the Parish Office for more information.

For many of the people that play housie this is a social event for them for the 2½ hours that they actually play.

Lastly I would like to wish Fr. Kelvin all the best in his role in supporting the Priests of the Archdiocese.

Best Regards, Chris Smith

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms are usually held on Sundays at John the Baptist, Bonnyrigg Heights. It is necessary to make a booking through the parish office and attend a Baptism Preparation session with either Fr James, Fr Phan or Deacon Mervyn. The Baptism will be pencilled in, and will only be confirmed once you have attended a Baptism Preparation session.

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation/Confession will take place on 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th November, 2015.

Reconciliation Enrolments have now ceased.

Preparation Lessons begin Week 1 of Term 4.

First Holy Communion took place on Saturday 6th and 13th June, 2015 and Sunday 7th and 14th June, 2015.

Confirmation took place on 19th and 20th September, 2015.

Please keep watching this space for any changes or updates or call the Parish Office on 9823 2572.

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. 

'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD' CHRISTIAN MEDITATION
 Give 20 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel every Tuesday at 8:00pm. Duration time is approximately 30 minutes. For further information please contact Frances on 0438 213 313.

Bereavement Support Group:
 Our parish has a group to assist people who have lost someone dear to them whether it has been recently or a while ago to help them cope with their loss. We will meet fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre. This group will be fairly informal but we will have resources to guide us through. **The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 14th October.** If you need any information please do not hesitate to contact Josie on 9607 3973. You are able to join this group at anytime.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2015/2016 are now available for collection from the Parish Office.
If any Parishioner is interested in joining our Planned Giving Envelopes there will be clipboards available for you to place your names on the request forms. If you wish to have your contribution direct debited there will be yellow Standing Authority forms available also. Thank you.

Heart Women's Conference
 16-17 October, 2015 at Fairfield RSL
 A time to come together as women to be refreshed and renewed in our busy lives. Spoil yourself. Dream again. Feel loved, honoured and cared for.
 Register: TheCatholicGuy.tv/heart
 Email: heart@thecatholicguy.tv
 Phone: 1300 734 880

Susino Family Benefit Night

Friday 9th October
 6:30pm for 7:00pm

All monies raised to go to Lisa Susino and her children and a donation to Headspace

Dinner, Raffle, Silent Auction, Lucky Door Prize & Entertainment
 Tickets \$80.00 per person available from Freeman Catholic College Finance Office 9823 2073 till Wednesday 7th October

 **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE SOCIALLY ISOLATED**
 Christmas is almost upon us and there are many people without gifts this Christmas. The Sisters of Charity Outreach is asking for your help to provide some toiletries to 29 socially isolated women. A basket in the Parish meeting room will be available to place your donated items. Please email Susan sives7th@gmail.com or call 0419 606 683.
 Items are required before 4/12/15. Thank you for your support.

Ministries Next Week 10/11 Oct	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull M Camilleri	R Golubic S Davies	C Goodyer E Villegas	J Sullivan C Sullivan
EUCHARIST MINISTERS:	A Pace A Demasi A Watts C Araco D Vella M Camilleri E Vella	G Agostino R Morellini S Xuereb A Gibbs	G Buttell N Laureti M Bridges S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib A Vlahadamis D Cordina	

FRENCH MASS
 St. Anthony's Parish, Eleventh Avenue, Austral
 5pm on the Fourth Sunday of Every Month
Next Mass 25th October

 **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

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.*

Responsorial Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

4 October 2015

First Reading Gen 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127. R. v.5

(R.) *May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.*

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
- Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
- Indeed thus shall be blessed
he man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! (R.)

Second Reading Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified
have one origin.*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that

God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 4:12

*Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mk 10:2-16

or (shorter form Mk 10:2-12)

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse



statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

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