



John the Baptist Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg

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



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:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Presbytery: 9823 2572

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website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

Accountant: Michael O'Mara

Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 10am to 4pm

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 2

'Prayer of the Church'

prayed at John the Baptist

10 minutes before weekday Masses

Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

For the Soul of Tarcisius Zammit

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Sts Simon and Jude, apostles

Thursday - 9:10am

For the Soul of Margaret O'Mara

Friday - 9:10am

For the Soul of Denice Frances Garard

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 31 OCT/1 NOV

(31st 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

SPECIAL MASSES

Monday November 2

All Souls Day - 9.10am, 7pm



Reflection Questions

- ◆ I was like Bartimaeus when.....
- ◆ When I cry out in prayer, I ask for.....
- ◆ Jesus answers me by.....
- ◆ Faith is the insight and cause of my actions when...

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

24th & 25th October, 2015

Dear Parishioners,

Today we continue reading from Mark's Gospel. In this Gospel, we find evidence of Jesus' fame in the sizeable crowd that accompanies him as he journeys to Jerusalem. Jesus' reputation as a healer has preceded him. When the blind man, Bartimaeus, hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he calls out to him, asking for his pity.

When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, the crowd around him tries to silence him. Yet Bartimaeus persists, calling out more loudly and with greater urgency. He will not be silenced or deterred from getting Jesus' attention. What is different though is that unlike many of Jesus' other followers this blind beggar 'sees' Jesus' true identity, calling out to him 'Son of David', a direct reference to the expectant Messiah found in references in the Old Testament.

Once his sight has been restored, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. In Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is the last disciple called by Jesus before he enters Jerusalem. Bartimaeus's words prepare us for the final episodes of Mark's Gospel, which begin with Jesus' preparation for the Passover and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Mark has shown us in our readings over the past few Sundays, however, Jesus will be the Messiah in a way that will be difficult for many to accept. Jesus will show himself to be the Messiah through his suffering and death.

Mark contrasts the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees and Sadducees and other Jewish leaders of Jesus time with the great faith of this beggar. It reminds us of that verse in psalm 115: "There are none so blind as those who will not see."

In some ways we can be blind to Jesus and his message of love too. Jesus gave his life for humanity as a true act of love and yet we often fall into spiritual blindness when we don't show this love for God and our fellow brothers and sisters. Do we reach out to others, particularly the poor, the lonely, the sick, or the refugee? Are we prepared to give our time to help our parish and the wider community and to offer our gifts and talents to build up the community? Do we give our time lovingly to God by praying each day, attending Mass and reconciliation regularly, praying with our family? Whenever we don't do such things there may a spiritual blindness that we need to address and such inaction often arises out of sinfulness and selfishness.

Like Bartimaeus we too should turn to Jesus when we recognise our spiritual blindness or when we find life is full of challenges, whether these be through sickness or challenges at work or school or within our relationships, confident that his loving mercy and compassion will help us, even in the most difficult of times. Like Bartimaeus, our faith will save us.

God bless each of you this week,
Michael Toohey

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



Sick: Jose BRITTO, Ray CLARKE, Maila CORKILL, Fahed JREISAT, Emmanuel ARAPA, Jose BRITO, Donna CORDINA, Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Facunda MARTINO (7 years), Luis MARTINO, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAFKA, Cherish ADINA (1 year), Carmen SPITERI, Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Eugene KLEIBERT, Dora BADINO, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK

Recently Deceased: Rosina LETTIERI, Giuseppe PETRULLA

Death Anniversary: Denice Frances GARARD, Desiree BEVES, Tarcisius ZAMMIT, Tsi Sing LAY (Joseph), Margaret O'MARA

Other: Very Special Intention

YOUTH CORNER



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 1st November, 2015.

All are welcome to attend!

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”

(St John Paul II)

Wednesday 28th October, 2015, the Nostra Aetate 50th anniversary commemorative event for the Catholic and Jewish community is being held in Sydney. Please see church noticeboard for further details.

To register please contact ydele@nswjbd.com or for enquiries email interfaith.asst@sydneycatholic.org

Saturday 7th November Day retreat - 10:00am – 4:00pm

Luke's Portrait of Jesus - Presenter: Fr Gerard Moran

Cost: \$20

A day to understand and savour the Gospel for 2016.

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th November Weekend retreat

Deadly Sins

Presenters: Fr Greg Homeming, OCD and Mr Geoff Stumbles

Cost: \$220 (discounts apply)

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville

Phone: 02 8795 3400

Email: retreats@carmelite.com

Web: www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 November Marriage Encounter



Let your love blossom this spring with a weekend together. A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the

distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Give the greatest gift, that of your time alone - invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

Venue for Weekends: Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

To apply contact: Ardell & Bill Sharpe Tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

www.wwme.org.au www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit

THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY OF ALMA will be holding

a series of Days of Discernment (3 days over 3 months) for women in regards to religious life and marriage: **28 Nov, 19 Dec and 16 Jan**. It is a series, but each day is complete in itself so someone could come to one day or all three, or even part of a day. The event will be held at our convent in Camperdown which is adjacent to the University of Sydney.

We would like to keep each Day to a small group size so **RSVP's** would be appreciated to **9557 2398** or

stjoseph@rsmofalma.org.

MENTION MY NAME. Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria and Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust have come together to form a suicide 'postvention' support program. The Mention My Name Group offers a safe, nonjudgmental place where people can share their grieving in the spirit of comfort and hope. These groups provide ongoing support to those bereaved from suicide long after the initial loss. Please direct all your enquiries to **Patricia Thomas** on **02 9649 6423**

Email: patriciat@catholiccemeteries.com.au.



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

“Do not be afraid to give your all. Christ will never disappoint you.”

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

ACYF is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops



Conference. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. The first Festival was held in Melbourne, December 2013. From 3rd-5th December, 2015, young people are invited to attend the Festival hosted by the Archdiocese of Adelaide. I will get round to the schools and speaking at Masses in the very near future regarding this fantastic occasion. Please contact me if there is anything you'd like to find out. God bless all.



Jordan and Galilee



Our next Jordan night will be held on Friday 30th October at JB parish hall/

Freeman Room! All year 5-6 students are invited to Jordan youth group which will run from 3:30-5:30pm and will meet outside the church after school. Jordan youth group includes DVD's, fun activities, talks, prayer, sharing, and food! If children could remember to bring a gold coin donation that would be greatly appreciated. Then, **on Saturday, 7th November**, from 6-8pm all students in years 7-10 are welcome to our Galilee night which will involve time for having fun, activities, presentations, discussion, prayer, and also plenty of food! The Galilee youth are also invited to help out with Jordan earlier in the afternoon and will receive a FREE PIZZA dinner for their great effort. Also **NET** are coming! The National Evangelization Team from CYS, Homebush will be running this night. They are perhaps, the six wittiest, fun, loving and engaging individuals that you'll ever meet and they will host what will be an undoubtedly awesome night! So come along to what will surely be an awesome night! **Next time, remember to try to bring along another friend! Even if they go to a different school, it'd be great to see some new faces, but more importantly, to share the joy of the JB youth group with them.**



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 28th October at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **That the Holy Spirit will continue to guide Pope Francis in his papal ministry.** If you would like to offer an intention one week, please contact Joe to do so. Come along all you young people for a chance to pray the rosary, celebrate Mass, worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. On the second Wednesday of the month (next one is 11th November), we would like to make our way to Mounties for a meal and a bit of 'chill 'n' chat.' All are welcome and it would be great to see you there!



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!

Stability at John the Baptist Parish

There has been some concern expressed among parishioners that priests are coming and going very quickly at John the Baptist. Typically a Parish Priest will serve in a Parish for 6 years or more, as was the case when Fr John, Fr Bill and Fr Michael served as Parish Priests at Bonnyrigg. Occasionally the 6 year term is not possible because the wider Church might need the assistance of a priest in another ministry, as in the case of Fr Kelvin. This decision was not taken lightly by our Archbishop.

Fr James is appointed (at this stage) as a temporary administrator until the end of 2015. In December, the Archbishop hopes to appoint a new Parish Priest for a 6 year term, to begin in January 2016. Any priest in the Archdiocese is welcome to apply to become the new Parish Priest of John the Baptist.

Assistant Priests usually serve in a parish for 2 or 3 years, and then they are assigned to another parish. Fr Phan arrived earlier this year, so there should be an expectation that he will remain at Bonnyrigg for at least the next 18 months.

Please support your priests and pray that the Archbishop and the Archdiocese will find the best Parish Priest for John the Baptist.

Mass Intentions and Offerings

If you would like a Mass offered for a specific intention, please fill in a Mass Intention envelope and submit it with the collection, to the Parish Office or to the priest. Specific days of the week can be requested for Mass intentions, although only one intention can be designated per Mass. The intention will be noted on the front page of the bulletin.

The Month of November & All Souls Day

November is a special month to remember and to pray for the deceased. All Masses in November are offered for the faithful departed. There is a Catholic tradition of families making a November Mass Offering for their deceased relatives and friends. November Mass Offering Envelopes are in the church. These can be placed on any of the collections over the coming weeks.

On Monday November 2, the Church commemorates All Souls Day. There is ancient tradition of attending Mass on this day. There will be special Masses at 9.10am and 7pm offered on this day.

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms are usually held on Sundays. 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 First Penance/Reconciliation/Confession: This will take place on November 10, 11, 12 and 13. Enrolments have now ceased. Week 3 of preparation lessons have now begun.

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 changes or updates or call the Parish Office.

Ministries Next Week 31 Oct/1Nov	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	M Tomic S Correa	M Lavorato M Jebrail	L Aulsebrook M Aulsebrook	J Sullivan C Sullivan
EUCARIST MINISTERS:	P Grana M Abela J Abela D Rotondo B Empeigne G Lupino A Pace	A Liberatore J Gauchi B Vartuli N Vartuli	N Laureti M Bridges S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib A Vlahadamis D Cordina E Villegas	

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS

Volunteering in our Parish

Australian law and Church law requires any person over the age of 18 who volunteers or works with children to have a Working with Children Check. These details are to be registered at the place of ministry or work. Thank you to all those who have done this over the last 2 years or more. In our parish, any adult who volunteers as a Catechist, in Children's Liturgy, as Acolytes, or assists with any of the youth groups or youth initiatives are required to have a working with children check. If you are leading or hosting a sacramental program small group and your child is not in the small group, then you also need to get a Working with Children Check. Leanne at the Parish Office can assist in this process. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring the safety of all children and families in our parish.



'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.

Bereavement Support Group: Wednesday 18 November

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. The group meets monthly 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 Wednesday 18th November.** If you need any information please do not hesitate to contact Josie on 9607 3973. You are able to join this group at anytime.

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.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE SOCIALLY ISOLATED



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

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 are also yellow Standing Authority forms available. Thank you for your support.

FRENCH MASS - 5pm - 4th Sunday of every Month

St. Anthony's Parish, Eleventh Avenue, Austral
Next Mass: 25th October



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: *Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.*

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Our saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

25 October 2015

First Reading Jer 31:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob!
Hail the chief of nations!
Proclaim! Praise! Shout:
The Lord has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel!
See, I will bring them back
from the land of the North
and gather them from the far ends
of earth;
all of them: the blind and the lame,
women with child, women in labour:
a great company returning here.
They had left in tears,
I will comfort them as I lead them back;
I will guide them to streams of water,
by a smooth path where they will
not stumble.
For I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

**(R.) The Lord has done great things
for us;
we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion
from bondage,
It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled
with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What
marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back,
full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 5:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See 2 Tim 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away
with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mk 10:46-52

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark**

Master, grant that I may see.

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This passage from the Gospel of Mark draws to a close a significant section of the gospel. It stretches from 8:22 to this passage, 10:52. Like other examples in the Gospel of Mark, the stories at the beginning and end of the section are related and shed light on what they surround. Like this passage, the event at the beginning of the section is an account of the healing of a blind man. Contained within the two healings of blindness, as we have seen over the last six weeks, is an extended lesson on discipleship. Within this section, Jesus speaks about his upcoming death on three occasions and each time the disciples display their own form of blindness when they fail to understand what Jesus is trying to tell them quite explicitly. In this section, we have heard that discipleship involves suffering and hardship; it means placing one's own needs last and the needs of others first; and that discipleship is all about faith.

In this healing of blind Bartimaeus, we see all the hallmarks of what Jesus has been trying to teach the disciples in the preceding episodes. As a blind man, Bartimaeus would be regarded as 'imperfect' – incomplete – and consequently in a permanent state of uncleanness. He would not be allowed to live within the bounds of normal society, nor have contact with people. So it is that Jesus encounters Bartimaeus on the side of the road, outside the city walls as he is leaving Jericho. Learning that it is Jesus passing by, Bartimaeus calls on Jesus to help him and the crowd tries to shut him up and remind him of his status. But Jesus calls Bartimaeus to him and, placing the needs of the other first, asks 'What do you want me to do for you?' When Bartimaeus makes his request, Jesus announces that it is his faith that has saved him and his sight is restored. Bartimaeus, like a good disciple, then follows Jesus on the road.

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