



John the Baptist Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

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



Parish Administrator: Rev Fr James McCarthy

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Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

Accountant: Michael O'Mara

Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 10am to 4pm

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 1

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

All Masses in November are for all the
dearly departed especially all those
mentioned in our Parish Book of
Remembrance (located near the
Baptismal Font)

Monday - No Mass

St Margaret of Scotland

St Gertrude, virgin

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

Wednesday - 7:00pm

*Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and
Paul, apostles*

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary

SUNDAY 21/22 NOV

(Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the
Universe)

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

- ◆ I think about the end of the world when.....
- ◆ I ought to think about the end of the world when.....
- ◆ The darkness that Jesus' coming dispels in my life is.....
- ◆ I need the Light to shine on.....
- ◆ The words of Jesus that speak to me most clearly now are...

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 14th & 15th November, 2015

For today's Mass the Gospel passage from St. Mark and the first reading from the Book of Daniel are both written in the literary genre of 'apocalyptic' giving images about an impending disaster and the end of the world. When people read through such texts they often try to interpret them literally, whereas our Catholic understanding of such texts gives a much deeper understanding that God is speaking to us through this scripture today and highlighting areas in our lives that must be addressed.

Scripture scholars suggest that the message about Christ's second coming in Mark's Gospel was written to inspire and comfort the early Christians who were being persecuted and in fact martyred for their Catholic faith. The day of distress referred to was this time of persecution and particularly under the evil Emperor Nero who was taking great pleasure in torturing Christians and in fact in one terrible evening he is said to have arrested Christians placed them on spikes all along the road into Rome and as evening fell they were set alight to light the road into Rome.

It is good in fact that a reading from Daniel appears today as the first reading, since the Book of Daniel really inspired the later biblical literature cast in this mode of apocalyptic— especially Revelation (the Apocalypse). The important thing to grasp is that such religious writing usually arises out of a situation of oppression and great difficulty for the faithful. It aims to interpret what is happening and give an assurance. The basic message to the faithful is 'Hang in there'! Despite all that is happening to you – painful though it may be – the world remains in the hands of God, who will not let evil and oppression triumph for ever.

The brief extract from Daniel that we have as first reading refers to this moment of judgment and the great upheaval that will precede it. The text is very significant because here for the first time explicitly in the Bible we have a clear reference to the resurrection of the dead. This belief allows for final justice to be done. Those who have lost their lives in the cause of right or who have simply died before the time of reckoning will not lack vindication and reward. They will be raised to everlasting life. Those who have not been faithful and have profited from their cooperation with evil will rise to 'shame and everlasting disgrace'.

Jesus foresees the destruction of the Temple and the City of Jerusalem, wars and turmoil on an international scale, the persecution of his followers and even betrayal and deceit within the community. When all this happens many will be tempted to give up in despair. Why, granted all this upheaval and suffering, has he not returned as Son of Man to vindicate the faithful and bring in the final Rule (Kingdom) of God? Jesus foresees such sentiment and counters it in advance with a double message: 'Firstly, Hang in there! the Son of Man will come back. Secondly, Don't think you can calculate or know when that will be. The time of his coming is known to God alone'.

The victory promised for the faithful is realized in the sacrifice of Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews recognizes that the self-offering of Jesus is the fulfillment of all the sacrifices that were previously offered by the Jewish priests in the Temple. Now, with the perfect sacrifice of Christ, no other sacrifice is needed. This one perfect sacrifice accomplishes the reconciliation of man to God and with each other. Our participation in this sacrifice through the Eucharist provides grace for us as we await the hour when "his enemies are made his footstool."

The "end time" language can cause much harm and damage if it is misinterpreted. So many times this type of literature has been used to create false expectations of the "end." The message remains focused on the present not the future. While our confidence comes in our hope for Christ's return and final victory, it is our faithfulness to God and his Church that prepares us for that reality.

The Question we must ask ourselves is "Have I been truly faithful to God and his Church by going regularly to mass, saying my daily prayers, loving others and reaching out to the poor and outcast in our community in some way.

May God bless each of you in your efforts 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 ZERAFA, Cherish ADINA (1 year), Carmen SPITERI, Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Eugene KLEIBERT, Dora BADINO, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK

Recently Deceased: Ray TRYHUBA, Vittoria BONALDI

Death Anniversary: Heather GOODWIN, Leah FERNANDEZ

Other: Very Special Intention



We congratulate the families of Caiden JOHN, Isaac YOUNAN and Xavier LUNDBERG who will be Baptised here this Sunday 15th November.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015

Over the past month, the SVDP Conference home visits have levelled off in our local area as well as in Bossley Park, Smithfield and Horsley Park. The money raised during October in support of the work of the society was as follows:

Poor Boxes \$104.70

Piety Store \$890.00

Donations \$68.00

A special thank you to Giovis Agostino and AVCI steel fabricators, who organised the making and installing of the new secure poor boxes inside the doors of the church. Very much appreciated by all.

A special thanks to Virginia and the 20 generous ladies who donate their time to manning the Piety Store on a regular basis. Beautiful Christmas cards, books, House Blessings, Christmas wreaths and angels will soon be available at the store at very reasonable prices.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many. Again the generosity of families is called upon to help with Christmas hampers. John the Baptist Primary School, through the efforts of R.E.C. Steve Gissane and the teachers will assist with donations of toys as will the Parishes of Horsley Park, Bossley Park and local Pre-Schools. Your efforts are appreciated.

As we rapidly move towards the season of Christmas, we pray that we may live, not by our fears, but by our hopes; not by our words, but by our deeds.

Michael, Simon, Rosie, Tony, Errol, Grant, Col & Jim (SVDP Conference members)

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2015

THE ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS

The Order of Malta invites all parishioners to Lourdes Day Mass 2015 to be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, 5th December at 10.15am. The principal celebrant will be Most Reverend Bishop Terry Brady.

A Blessing of the sick will take place during the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. Those receiving the Blessing will, also be provided with a bottle of Lourdes Water for their personal use.

RSVP ASAP: WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH THE SISTERS OF LIFE.

On **Tuesday, 8 December** from 9am-4pm, all women are invited to spend a day listening to inspiring talks by the Sisters of Life from New York. There will be Mass and opportunities for Confession. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. It is taking place at the Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia. No cost (entirely free). **RSVP is essential:**

02 9307 8433 or online: www.vocationcentre.org.au

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 6th December, 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

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."
(Pope Francis)

Bonnyrigg-Liverpool Antioch Weekend 2015

Hi everyone. For those that are unaware, the Bonnyrigg and Liverpool Antioch communities are running an outreach weekend for young people between the ages of 15 and 24. This is such a wonderful opportunity for young people to encounter their faith on a brand new level and feel the loving presence of Jesus in their lives. So many fantastic experiences have emerged from Antioch weekends, including the best of life-lasting friendships, times of pure happiness and joy and vocations to married and religious life. If you're keen, come along and give it a go. You won't regret it and you will fit in perfectly with the eager and bubbly team that we already have here in our parish community. The weekend promises to deliver an extensive range of games, prayer, discussion, skits and food time also. Feel free to contact me at any time if you would like to find out more, or have a look at whose going and what will (potentially) be happening on our facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1626961594228452/>

The weekend will be held at **All Saints Casula Senior College, from 7.00pm on Friday 20th November to 9.00pm Sunday 22nd November.** Hope to see some new faces there! God bless all, looking forward to it.



Jordan and Galilee



Hey guys, **Our next Jordan and Galilee night is on Friday 11th December** at JB parish hall. This is our CHRISTMAS party and will be the final meeting of the year! Get excited guys! 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 DVDs, fun activities, talks, prayer, sharing and food. Then 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. So come along to what will surely be an awesome night.

LUNA PARK - We will be going to Luna Park on the **28th November** to finish the year! We will be gone from 6:30-11:30pm. Meeting place is outside the church right after the vigil Mass. Freeman Bus will be the main mode of transport. Please remember to bring money for the night, but more importantly, your buzzing and positive personalities! See you there guys ☺



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 18th November at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **That the people participating in the Bonnyrigg-Liverpool Antioch Weekend discover a love for God and hear His calling.** 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.



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!

The Month of November

November is a special month to remember and to pray for the deceased. All Masses in November are offered for the faithful departed especially those mentioned in the Parish Book of Remembrance. If you would like a Mass offered for a specific anniversary intention, please fill in a Mass Intention envelope and submit it with the collection, to the Parish Office or to the priest.



CWF - This weekend is Charitable Works Fund Sunday. The quota for our parish at this time is \$7,000. All proceeds go toward the education of students for the priesthood, Aboriginal and University Chaplaincies, the Ministry of the Deaf, and many other works of the Archdiocese. Any amount over \$2.00 is tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

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: Took place on November 10, 11, 12 and 13.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – THANK YOU FOR 2015

To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2015. *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. Thank you for sharing your faith with our children and helping them in their journey of faith, to know and love God more.*



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 2016. If anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403. After your final Children's Liturgy for the year, please leave your folder and photocopies for 2015 in the Children's Liturgy cupboard.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH - WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!

John the Baptist relies on volunteers to help our parish live out the message of Jesus Christ. As well as assisting fellow parishioners, volunteering connects you with other people within the community. If you can spare any time at all, please be sure to have a chat with a representative of the Parish council this weekend after Mass. We currently need help with Housie, letter box distribution and working bees to prepare for Christmas. If you need any further information please call Grant Dunn on 9823 4704 or contact the parish office.



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

"As Christians, we are called to imitate the Good Shepherd and to help families experiencing difficulties."

Ministries Next Week 21/22 Nov	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Oliveri G Turnbull	R Golubic M Jebraill	C Goodyer J Habib	A Watts G Colusso
EUCHARIST MINISTERS:	A Gorla B Gorla M Harvey T Grana P Grana M Abela J Abela	S Xuereb A Gibbs M Borgia S Ives	N Laureti D Oliveri S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib A Vlahadamis D Cordina E Villegas	

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS



FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER - THANK YOU CELEBRATION FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

A parish cannot survive without the ongoing service that volunteers provide to the Church and the community. As a way of saying thank you for your continued service to John the Baptist, Fr James and Fr Phan invite all our volunteers to a BBQ (with some surprises) on **Friday 4th December from 7pm.** More information will follow closer to the date. If you are involved in a ministry service of parish planned giving please come along for celebrations. Please contact Nina Laureti on 0408 465 149/ 9823 3277 or Leanne in the Parish Office on 9823 2572 to advise if you are able to attend by **Monday 30th November.**



'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. Please place your donated items including your name in the basket located in the Parish Meeting Room. Please email Susan sives7th@gmail.com or call 0419 606 683. **Items are required before 4 December.** Thank you for your support.

A full list of items suggested for the Christmas gifts are listed on the Church noticeboard.

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.



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: *The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.*

Responsorial Psalm: Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful, and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

15 November 2015

First Reading Dn 12:1-3

A reading from the prophet Daniel

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

**(R.) Keep me safe, O God:
you are my hope.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand,
I shall stand firm. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever.
(R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:11-14, 18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for

him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Be watchful, and pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before
the Son of Man.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:24-32

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

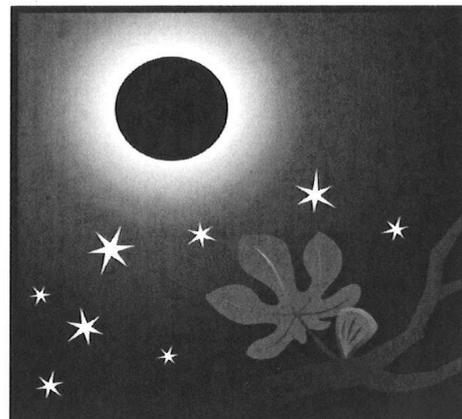
He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

by Michael Tate

Have you ever seen those pictures of angels. They are like babies with delicate gossamer wings. How sentimental, how pathetically trivial, how untrue. Angels are more like the light-swords wielded by Luke Skywalker in Star Wars. The good angels are lightning flashes of energy serving God's purpose in the battle against evil forces which can seem to dominate our worlds, private and social.

God loved us into existence in order to share in his life, but there are forces at work trying to frustrate that. There is a cosmic-scale battle going on. Who is on our side in that battle? The angels. Who are they?

They are non-bodily beings of great intelligence and power. Those are the angels, and those who have chosen to love and serve God are on our side.

Some are archangels with a cosmic-scale brief. We hear of one in the first reading: '...ichael, the great Prince who stands guard over your people'. Others are our individual Guardian Angels so that when powers of darkness seem to engulf us, we can turn to our Guardian Angel and say: 'Fight for me', and that light-sword of God will engage in battle because that is that sort of angel's way of serving God.

We could pause a moment to pray, thanking God for the Archangels who guard our church community and for our personal Guardian Angels, and asking our Lord Jesus Christ to command those angels to gather us as his chosen to share His glory.

mtate@bigpond.com

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