



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

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

Fax: 9822 9954

Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

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 4

'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

Thursday - 9:10am

Christmas Eve Masses:

5:30pm, 8:00pm and Midnight

Friday - Christmas Day

7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 26/27 DEC

(The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Masses :

8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm

Sunday 27th December

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Special Mass Friday 1st January, 2016

Mary Mother of God - 10:00am

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4.15 - 5.00pm



Reflection Questions

- ◆ I feel the Holy Spirit overshadowing me by.....
- ◆ Inspiring me when.....
- ◆ Prompting me when.....
- ◆ My believing looks like Mary's when.....
- ◆ Like Elizabeth's when.....
- ◆ I leap for joy because of the birth of Christ when.....

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

19th & 20th December, 2015

“Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord?”

(Cf. Luke 1:44).

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The celebration of our beloved Lord Nativity is near at hand. The blessing event in which the whole creation awaits for is one more time celebrated in our midst. It is the mystery of the Incarnation of the Only Begotten Son of God into the world. It is the mystery of life. This precious life is the beginning and the end, the beginning of new life and the end of the slavery of sin. Life is thus a precious gift from the Almighty God. How mysterious it is that this gift grows and develops within the dark secrecy of the womb. Only the woman who has borne a child can begin to appreciate this marvel. Only she can know the feeling of awe at the first movement within her. Only she can experience the increasing sense of eager longing for birth of the child. What an incredible thing the beginning of human life is.

Today's gospel centers around two expectant mothers, Mary and Elizabeth. The chapter took place several months before the birth of Jesus. When Mary learned that her elderly cousin had conceived, she felt that it was her duty to visit the older woman and offer her help. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth greeted her with these words: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”, words that have come to form part of the “Hail Mary”.

Elizabeth's greeting is not surprising. She herself had an exquisite appreciation of motherhood. For many years of her life with her husband, Zechariah, she had been without a child. Then in her old age by the special power of God she conceived John the Baptist. Her many year of patient waiting made her value all the more the mysterious sacredness and mystery when she realized how God's special power had been at work. Moreover, her son was to be the great preacher of repentance in preparation for Christ. And so when she saw Mary, all of her own awareness, her own appreciation, overflowed in her cheerful greeting. If every new life is sacred, how much more the sacred was the life Mary was carrying in her womb. If God's power had been at work in Elizabeth's conceiving of John, how much greater was God's power at work in Mary's conceiving of Jesus. And if Elizabeth was impressed in knowing that her son, John, was to be a great teacher, how much more must she have been impressed in realizing that Mary's son, Jesus, was the Savior from whom John was to prepare people. No wonder, then, that Elizabeth exclaimed, “but why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord?”.

My dear friends, in just few days we will celebrate the birth of Christ. We will try to renew all our spirit of awe and wonder at the mysterious sacredness of the birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus in all of its magnificent reality is beyond our ability to comprehend. It is something we simply cannot grasp. Elizabeth asked, “Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord?” And we can ask “why should we be honored that the Lord himself should come to us in human flesh like our own?”. Amen.

Fr Phan

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



Sick: Sebastian AGUIAR, Maria KONTREC,
Eduiges CAMPOS, Bishop George PHIMPISAN,
Fr Paul STENHOUSE, Fr John B CHIANG, Ray CLARKE,
Maila CORKILL, Fahed JREISAT, Emmanuel ARAPA,
Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Facunda MARTINO (7 years),
Luis MARTINO, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI,
Justin ZERAFI, Cherish ADINA (1 year), Carmen SPITERI,
Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS,
Eugene KLEIBERT, Dora BADINO, Guido BADINO,
Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK

Recently Deceased: Jose BRITO, Joe CAMILLERI,
Amparo PEDRO

Death Anniversary: Marianna FOTI, Mary REILLY,
James F REILLY

Other: Francesco MARTINO, 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 3rd January, 2016.
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



All Saints' Day Word Search

M	F	N	F	K	X	R	B	L	I
L	R	N	I	A	N	H	W	U	R
U	C	E	N	C	P	T	S	C	E
A	V	N	T	E	H	I	C	Y	T
P	E	D	S	E	C	O	V	K	A
C	L	O	R	N	P	K	L	Q	K
D	J	E	A	G	G	L	Y	A	W
B	S	R	J	M	H	K	R	M	S
E	F	Z	E	D	U	J	A	T	Y
P	A	T	R	I	C	K	M	G	F



*Directions: Search only for the parts of the saints names or feast days that are in bold print.

St. Mary	St. Lucy	St. Paul
St. Joseph	St. Anne	St. Francis
St. Patrick	St. Jude	St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Nicholas	St. Peter	St. Kateri Tekakwitha

LUNA PARK OUTING

The John the Baptist Parish would like to extend an invitation to the Jordan, Galilee and Antioch youth groups to attend our summer holiday outing which will be held at Luna Park. This has been organised as a "thank you" to all those who have participated in the youth groups throughout the year, so that they can have fun with one another and enjoy each other's fellowship, a beautiful way to commemorate the new year as a community. We hope to make a day of it and so those that are up for it are welcome to attend a picnic that a few of us will be hoping to have at Bradfield Park (right next to Luna Park). We will have our lunch here and then make our way to Luna Park, where we will stay till 5:00pm. Bring some snacks also if you'd like to join us for our picnic at Bradfield Park.



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 23rd December at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For peace in the world.** 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!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT for YEAR 2015 (Calendar Year)

Over the past year, the Parish St Vincent De Paul Conference assisted some 185 families of the area.

Statistics for assistance by our Conference was as follows:

Food Hampers.....	\$3,030
Funeral Expenses.....	\$2,200
Medical Expenses.....	\$ 340
Rental Assistance.....	\$2, 980
Purchase of Whitegoods....	\$2, 345
Food Cards.....	\$4,350

Other support included electricity, gas and water to the value of \$5700

All money from the Poor Boxes, the Piety Store and donations support the above costs. Over the past 3 months (Oct. Nov. Dec.) proceeds have been:

Poor Boxes.....	\$ 370.85
Piety Store (less expenses).....	\$ 2,358.00
Donations.....	\$10,276.00

Our Conference received a Liverpool Catholic Club donation of \$10,000, We acknowledge Col Purcell in negotiating this donation and thank the Catholic Club for its ongoing support for the Society.

The volunteer members of the Piety Store continue to provide quality religious items at reasonable prices to help support the needy of our area.

A special thank you to Virginia and Rose for co-ordinating and managing the Piety store over the year.... Likewise to: Maryann C, Connie G, Frances M, Jelica C, Pauline Mc, Pauline C, Nancy A, Lani G, Lani V, Cita, Annie V, Kathy, Mona, Vita P, Josie, Millie, Anna P, Sarina, Vicky, Annette, May, Rena, Virginia and Jackiethank you for your generosity of time and spirit over the past 12 months. We congratulate you for your efforts to raise funds for the poor and so make tomorrow a better place for people in every area of need.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many...Your efforts in providing Christmas hampers, toys through Marian, John the Baptist, and Mary Immaculate Primary Schools and Poor Box donations can be a ray of hope for many at this time, Thank you. We acknowledge Silvana, and Emma Amalfi, Millie Breaden, Gladys Nimac, Kris and Rosie Imbert, Jenny and Tony Martin, Guy Santangelo, Frances Milano, Rosie Watson, Margaret O'Dwyer and all members of the SVDP Conference for preparing and delivering the Christmas Hampers. Special thanks for the generous Parish support this year.

Col Purcell recently received a Papal Blessing for his voluntary service to SVDP over the last fifty years. So well deserved.

As we enjoy the coming of Christmas, let our hearts and minds be uplifted as we rejoice at the coming of Jesus and how blessed we are to be surrounded by family and friends. We are challenged to reflect the face of Jesus to all with whom we come in daily contact.

We pray that we may live, not by our fears, but by our hopes; not by our words, but by our deeds.

Thank you for your continuing support of St Vincent De Paul through donations, Poor Boxes and the Piety Store.

Grant, Col P, Michael, Rosie, Tony, , Simon, , Errol & Jim

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.



We congratulate the family of Jake COLUSSO who will be Baptised here this Sunday 20th December.

Appointment of Parish Administrator for 2016

Archbishop Fisher has now appointed Fr James McCarthy to be the Parish Administrator of John the Baptist Parish for all of 2016. Later next year a process will determine if Fr James will be John the Baptist's next Parish Priest. Fr James asks for your prayers, understanding and support as he takes on this role of leadership over the next 12 months and beyond.

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.



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 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.

THANK YOU - The Sisters of Charity Outreach is a community organisation committed to providing assistance to the vulnerable in our society especially women and families.

The Sisters on behalf of their clients, staff and volunteers, would like to thank the Parishioners of John the Baptist Parish for your kind donation. The beautiful Christmas hampers were distributed to their clients at their Christmas luncheon. For some this may be the only gift they receive and we are grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

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.

Ministries Next Week 26/27 Dec	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	F Holden M Aulsebrook L Aulsebrook C Porreca A Pinto D Ellul J Papaleo G Buttel M Bridges	

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

Christmas Day: 7:30am 9:00am 11:00am



HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE OF FAMILIES TO DOOR OF MERCY SYDNEY 27TH DECEMBER, 2015

For the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has invited the faithful to obtain a plenary indulgence (for themselves or for the soul of a deceased person) by making a brief pilgrimage to the Door of Mercy in their diocese. Families in the Archdiocese of Sydney are invited to enter the Door Of Mercy at St Mary's Cathedral prior to the 10.30 am Solemn Mass on Holy Family Sunday, 27 December. To fulfill the conditions for obtaining the indulgence, each family member must be in a state of grace, receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist within several days, recite the Profession of Faith (Apostles' or Nicene Creed) and say a prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. Inquiries: 9390 8400 orlifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org

'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: Will be back next year, so please watch this space for the commencement date!

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. 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.



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.
"One goal for each day: to convey the tenderness of Christ to those who are most in need".

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: *Drop down from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

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

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

20 December 2015

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them

till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we
shall be saved.**

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
(R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you
have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into
the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of
the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey
your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and
you took no pleasure in them; and then he
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your
will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace
it with the second. And this will was for us
to be made holy by the offering of his body
made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

*A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke*

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from
the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and greeted
Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women
you are the most blessed, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured
with a visit from the mother of my Lord?
For the moment your greeting reached my
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,
blessed is she who believed that the promise
made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

by Michael Tate

This little gospel story tells us that 'the
baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not
merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this
just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a
wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good
vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus,
being carried by Mary in her pregnancy,
had a wonderful effect on the life carried by
Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of
Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to
all human beings. The good news is that you
and I and every human life ever conceived is
visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and
we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth.
Every mother or father who has lost a baby
too early needs to know that the same
extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence
was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence
conferred a powerful Original Blessing on
that little life within the womb, and that
same Presence accompanied your baby
into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love
in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the
very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the
Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on
English in the Liturgy Inc.(CEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts,
from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, ©1963 by The Grail, England
and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations
are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1966,
1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday
& Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

© Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.