



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

2016 - Jubilee Year of Mercy

(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 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

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Autumn Ember Day

Stations of the Cross 7:00pm

24 Hours for the Lord begins from

7.30pm on Friday until 9.30pm on

Saturday evening

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 5/6 MARCH

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

7pm: Evening Prayer

9pm: Night Prayer

& Benediction

Sunday Masses :

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

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog



Reflection Questions

- Those who have helped me face my own sinfulness are.....
- When I hear "repent [or] you will all perish," my first response is.....
- What I hear Jesus asking of me is.....
- This Lent God is cultivating and fertilizing my life by...
- The fruit I hope to bear through my repentance is.....

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C) 27th & 28th February, 2016

"Repent, says the Lord – the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand" (Matthew 4:17)

Today's Gospel is a fascinating account of two tragic public events that occurred during the ministry of Jesus. Jesus uses these well-known local tragic events and then a story about a fig tree producing no fruit as a way to teach us about our need for repentance and renewal.

St Luke is the only New Testament writer to refer to the slaughter of the Galileans by the famous Pontius Pilate and the accidental deaths of workers on a tower in Siloam. The Jewish historian Josephus reports how Pontius Pilate had killed many Galilean Jews at the Temple of Jerusalem while they were offering sacrifice after they had protested when Pilate illegally took Jewish Temple money from the Temple treasury to build an aqueduct in Jerusalem. Even though it was Pilate who commanded this atrocity to be carried out, the natural assumption at the time was to think that the victims were particularly guilty and must have somehow deserved to die in this way. For the Jewish people, many lived with an idea that bad things only happened to bad people.

Jesus then proceeds to connect his warning "Unless you repent you will all perish" to another current event. There was a building accident related to the renovation work of the control tower of the water aqueduct at Siloam, in which eighteen people died. The Jews interpreted this tragedy as God's punishment of the workers who co-operated with Pilate, the Roman Governor, in what was considered his sacrilegious aqueduct project. Jesus however does not say that the Galileans died because of their sins, but calls his listeners to repent lest they suffer for their sins. In fact, Jesus presents both these incidents as timely reminders of the need for all to repent. He says, "... unless you repent you will all perish as they did."

We know that tragic events and accidents often occur randomly and these accidents often have nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of the victims. An earthquake, volcanic eruption or a tsunami kills the saints as well as the sinners in the affected area. Drunk drivers kill innocent people. Religious fanatics, terrorists and suicide bombers cause the untimely death of good people as well as those who want evil. Accidents are a part of the frailty of human life, and all of us, if we are honest, have struggled to understand why tragedy seems to effect innocent people. A lot of people live life with a karma mentality, thinking that if they have done bad things to others, then bad things happen to themselves. This is a very ancient Jewish approach that assumed guilt upon those who suffered, and assumed sanctity upon the rich, famous and successful. Jesus' life is the clearest evidence that a person's suffering is not proof of that person's sin. While sin can lead to tragedy, not every tragedy is the result of sin.

Repentance is a major theme in Luke's Gospel, and to the untrained eye it might appear that Luke is associating innocent victims or tragedies with sin. But as Christians, every day we need to consider our lives in the presence of God. We are called to live life to the full, to reflect the presence of God in the world and to be ready to see God at any moment. The call to daily repent of one's sins always includes the threat of divine retribution if one does not repent on the one hand and the promise of forgiveness if one does repent on the other.

During this Lent, I encourage you to make a daily act of contrition, recognising your failings and asking God for forgiveness.

O My God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, because you are so good, and with your help, I will not sin again.

Fr James

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

Sick: Fr John LANGTRY, Archbishop Anthony FISHER, Sebastian AGUIAR, Maria KONTREC, 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, Ciro PUNZO, Valerie MCCARTHY, Gemma GATT, Pamela LEVERS, Lily TANTIYA

Recently Deceased: Renato ANTONELLI, John Emile DAWES, Pek LANG

Death Anniversary: Anna CASTAGNETTI-SULLIVAN, Salvatore MIRABITO

Other: Mary VELLA, Very Special Intention

TEEN TALK GAVEL CLUB: (Public Speaking for Students in Years 5 - 12) will meet again next Sunday 6th March at 11:30am in the Parish Hall.

HEAR OUR LORD JESUS' WORDS OF MERCY
Saturday 19th March from 9am - 4pm at the Shrine of St Benedict's Hall, Cnr of Justin and Neville Streets, Smithfield
 Talk: Rev Jarek Zan

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN, 11-13 MARCH
 A retreat for young men open to explore if God is calling them to the Priesthood. The weekend will include talks, time for personal prayer, sacraments, spiritual guidance, a movie, time with seminarians and discussions. This retreat is designed to help men discern their vocations.
 Where: Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. Cost: \$100, registration is essential.
 Enquiries/registration: <http://www.vocationcentre.org.au/>

AFTERNOON FOR COUPLES HOPING TO CONCEIVE
 Married Couples (Catholic or otherwise) who are hoping for children, struggling to conceive, or who wish to better understand what the Church offers and promotes in regard to fertility awareness and assistance are invited to an afternoon of information and discussion. It is also an important opportunity for fellowship with other couples facing similar difficulties.
 WHERE: Dooleys Waterview Club, Silverwater Rd, Silverwater.
 WHEN: Saturday 12 March, 2016, 2:00pm-4:30pm. Please direct RSVP's and inquiries by phone (02) 9307 8403 or to lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org

Come and See how a gift to CatholicCare can help transform lives.
 Visit our Lewisham site on 18th March, enjoy a light lunch and learn about CatholicCare programs that support families impacted by problem alcohol, drug use and gambling as well as helping individuals with substance abuse and gambling problems.
 Visit the Norma Parker Respite Centre at Lakemba on 9th April, enjoy a light lunch and learn about how the Centre provides respite care to people with an intellectual disability from this local area, and their families and carers.
 BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Fundraising: T 9509 1111
 Email: fundraise@catholiccare.org www.catholiccare.org

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

YOUTH CORNER

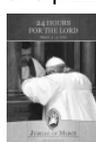


QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
 Mother Theresa

JORDAN & GALILEE YOUTH GROUPS

Galilee youth group (years 7-10) will be returning on Friday, March 4th and Jordan youth group (years 5-6) will be returning on Saturday, March 5th. Galilee will be held in the parish hall from 5:30-8:00pm and Jordan will be held from 3:30-5:30pm, also in the parish hall. Jordan youth will have the option of attending the Sacrament of Confession throughout this timeslot and they are more than welcome to stay for Mass which will start at 5:30pm. Those that stay back for Mass can return to the parish hall for some games and pizza if they want to ☺



March 4th and 5th both fall in the "24 hours for the Lord" initiative that Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics right across the world to participate in, during this Lenten season. This is a time of prayer and devotion to Jesus and is something that people right around the world will be doing, so please come along and join us. This will take place in the church and we will be there for approximately half an hour, definitely not the whole 24! My details are at the front of this bulletin, so please email me if there's anything you'd like to know. Please spread the word to all friends and family if you can. Thank you and God Bless.

Y-FACTOR "SHINE" 2016!

Join us for Y-FACTOR "SHINE 2016! We can't even begin to tell you how incredible last year's camp was. You'll just have to pack a bag and join us this time round. The CYS Staff and Youth Ministers from all over the Sydney Archdiocese have been working for months to make this year's camp even better (if that's possible). So, if you are currently in years 7-12, then come have the time of your life these Easter school holidays with 60 friends you haven't met yet! There'll be heaps of time for games, activities, talks, discussion, prayer and a chance to grow in your faith and relationship with God. This camp is so big we can only run it once a year so get on board now or miss out! Please check out more of the details at <http://www.catholicyouthservices.org/events/y-factor-archdiocesan-youth-camp/>



CADBURY CHOCOLATES

If you would like to support our youth going to Poland in another way, we have chocolates that need selling! All help would be greatly appreciated and is something relatively simple. If you would like to help, please come and visit me in the parish office. Thank you.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Please join some of our young adults in a parish Lenten program that will be running throughout the next 5 weeks of Lent. It will commence at 6:30pm on Sundays in the parish hall. Since this is a Jubilee Year of Mercy, each week we will be primarily focused on Mercy and how we can apply it to our day-to-day lives during this Lenten season and beyond.



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 2nd March at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **That we may rise up to the challenge and accept what God wants of us.** If you would like to offer an intention one week, please contact Joe to do so. Come along for a chance to pray the rosary, celebrate Mass and worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. The last Wednesday of every month, we'll be heading out for a meal for a night of fellowship and relaxation, so please join us for that if possible.



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!

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.*

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Communion Antiphon: *The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.*

First Reading Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 11

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading I Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Matthew: 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

"Do not forget that the mercy of God is our shield and strength against injustice, destruction and oppression."

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:

Will take place in term 4 (November 2016).

First Holy Communion: Will take place in term 2 (June 2016).

Confirmation: Will take place on 24th and 25th September, 2016 (the first weekend of the school holidays).

Please keep watching this space for changes or updates or call the Parish Office.



We congratulate the families of Marcus HAMBROOK, Sebastian GAFA and Phoenix IOANE who will be Baptised here this Sunday 28th February.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Parent Meeting will take place next Tuesday 1st March at 7:00pm in the Church. If you wish to enrol your child for First Holy Communion you must attend this meeting.

The Group Leaders Meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th April at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

PARISH BULLETIN DEADLINE:

If you have any items that need to be included in the Parish Bulletin could they please be at the Parish office **NO LATER than 12:00pm on Wednesday**. Any late items will not be included in the Parish bulletin for that coming weekend. Thank you for your understanding and our apologies if this causes any inconvenience.

CATECHIST NEWS:

Governor Phillip King at Edensor Park is in need of 3 catechists. Year 2 at 9:00am, Year 4 at 9:30am and Year 5 at 10:00am.

If you would like to join our vibrant Catechist team, please contact Nina Laureti on 0408 465 149.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is available for purchase at \$2.00 per copy. The money for the Catholic Weekly can be put into the poor box or handed to the Piety stall. Thank you.

Abstinence from Colour Copying During Lent

The Lenten Practice of Abstinence can include not eating chocolate, meat or drinking alcohol, but it can also include other initiatives. A little sacrifice every day can help provide for Project Compassion. During Lent the Bulletin and Parish Office will only be printing in Black. This will provide a saving of about \$300 during Lent, which the Parish will direct towards Project Compassion.

If you have an unusual abstinence, let the Office know and it could help to inspire acts of abstinence and charity from everyone in Lent.

Ministries Next Week 5/6 March	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Oliveri L Krslovic	S Hely J Finucane	J Habib F Holden	M O'Mara A Watts
EUCARIST MINISTERS:	M Abela J Abela D Rotondo B Empeigne G Luppino A Pace A Demasi	J Gilan R Imbert L Barbara J Finucane	N Laureti D Oliveri S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib A Vlahadamis D Cordina E Villegas	

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS



Stations of the Cross During Lent Fridays 7:00pm at John the Baptist Church.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) prayer - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
 - (b) self denial - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) helping others - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.



Project Compassion
Lent Calendar



Did you know that you can download a Lent Calendar for your iPhone or Android? You can also view it on the Caritas Australia website!

Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent and learn about Caritas Australia's work in six countries across the globe. Explore Project Compassion, meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings, prayers and social justice actions.

View or download at

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar

Schedule for 24 Hours for the Lord

PLEASE SIGN-UP on SHEETS OUTSIDE CHURCH

Pope Francis has asked all parishes to participate in 24 hours of Exposition and Prayer at the mid-point of Lent. "Can you not watch one hour with me?" (Matt 26:40).

Friday 4 March and Saturday 5 March

Begins at 7pm on with Stations of the Cross

7.30pm - continuous Exposition all through Friday night and throughout Saturday until 9pm.

9am - Morning Prayer

9.10am - Mass

5.30pm - Mass

7pm - Evening Prayer

9pm - Night Prayer and Benediction

Confessions will be available at various times throughout both days. Please see sign-up sheets outside the Church.



'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 in 2016, 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.