



# 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

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

Email: josephs@johnthebaptist.org.au



## Parish Pastoral Centre:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

**Office:** 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

Friday - 9:10am

Stations of the Cross 7:00pm  
Saturday - 9:10am

### SUNDAY 12/13 MARCH

(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

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

4th Sunday of the Month:  
5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliation:  
Saturday 4.15 - 5.00pm



### Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

5th & 6th March, 2016

In the Gospel of Luke we hear one of the most well-known parables, often referred to as 'the parable of the prodigal son'. At the heart of this parable is really the loving and forgiving father. Who does this father, presented in the parable by Jesus, represent? It is God the loving Father who both loves humanity, each of us personally and also is willing to forgive all those who come back to him repenting of their sins. This is presented to us most thoughtfully at this time in Lent so we gain a perspective on this season in the Church. We must be sorry for our sinfulness and we must strive to do good, but ultimately our forgiveness is not up to us, but to God.

What message does God give to sinners? It is the message of love and forgiveness seen in this parable, but more importantly, as we look forward to Easter, it is the message of sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our forgiveness and incorporation into God's kingdom. This is the most wonderful message for the followers of Jesus. It is like that famous bumper sticker: "Christians are not perfect, just forgiven."

That is the message of this season. In Lent we acknowledge our sinfulness and strive to be better people and in the Easter Triduum we recognise God's ultimate forgiveness.

Pope Paul VI in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelli Nuntiandi* says:

"This kingdom and this salvation ... are available to every human being as grace and mercy, and yet at the same time each individual must gain them through... toil and suffering, through a life lived according to the gospel, through abnegation and the cross, through the spirit of the beatitudes. But above all each individual gains them through a total interior renewal, which the Gospel calls metanoia; it is a radical conversion, a profound change of mind and heart.(1975:10)

We have, like the prodigal son, squandered the father's inheritance in many ways. God has provided us with a wonderful human family and yet we often treat others sinfully condemning them because they are different to us, they look different, they think different things. The example of Jesus was to reach out to the outcast, the poor, the leper, the lonely. Do we reach out?

God provided us a wonderful planet and yet we squander its resources. We use more than we need. We pollute it. We damage nature and we care little for the legacy we will leave for future generations. We don't consider ourselves as real stewards of God's creation.

Lent is a time to 'pass over,' to pass from the world of injustice we have created over to a world of reconciliation. It is a time to "turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life."

The message of Lent, therefore, is clear: "We implore you, in Christ's name: be reconciled to God."

The first step, of course, is to do what the younger son did: "I will break away and return to my father, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against you.'

Such a confession will enable us to "hasten toward Easter with the eagerness of faith and love," and it will make possible the rejoicing which the Gospel in today's Mass foretells and encourages.

God bless,

Michael Toohey, (Candidate for Permanent Deaconate)

### Reflection Questions

- The thoughts and sentiments I entertain are.....
- God tends me reconciliation when.....
- I need to tender reconciliation to.....
- I need to feast when...
- I need to feast with....

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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 ZERAFA, 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:** Joseph Le NGUYE N, James A SMITH,  
Irene V SMITH, Elaine TRUER, Renato ANTONELLI,  
John Emile DAWES

**Death Anniversary:** Anna CASTAGNETTI-SULLIVAN,  
Marie Ruth LEMASSON, Venancio BANIOAS

 **TEEN TALK GAVEL CLUB: (Public Speaking for Students in Years 5 - 12)** will meet again this 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](mailto: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.

**BOOKINS ESSENTIAL:** Fundraising: T 9509 1111  
Email: [fundraise@catholiccare.org](mailto:fundraise@catholiccare.org) [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)

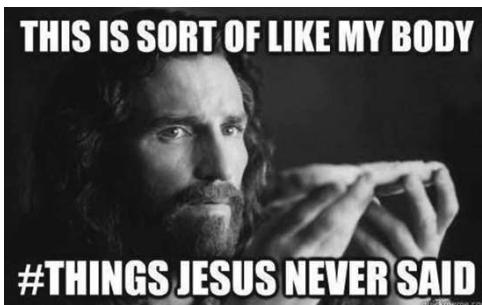


**PARISH HOUSIE:** Every Saturday  
2pm – 4:30pm at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

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](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au)

## **YOUTH CORNER**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



#### **JORDAN & GALILEE YOUTH GROUPS**



Thank you to all those who came this weekend to help kick-start our year! Thank you also to all those who participated in *24 Hours for the Lord*, it was a really beautiful and peaceful experience for the young people in our parish. We hope to see more years 7-10 students at our Galilee Youth Group, the next big one being Friday 8th April, from **3:30pm-6:00pm**. The next Jordan Youth Group for our years 5-6 students will be held on Saturday 9th April, from **3:30-5:30pm**. Listen out to see what's going to be happening and what we'll be doing!

#### **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 9th March at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For an increase in mercy and love for those that we don't get on with**. 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:** *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.*

### First Reading                    Joshua 5:9-12

#### A reading from the Book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm                    Psalm 33:2-7

#### *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

### Second Reading                    2 Corinthians 5:17-21

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation                    Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

### Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. ‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.”’ So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.”’ And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.”’ He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

#### The Gospel of the Lord



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

“Tears can generate a fracture which is able to open ourselves for conversion”.

## 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 Imogen SICILIANO and Luca and Allira CUTRUPI who will be Baptised here this Sunday 6th March.



### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

**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.



### **In this Jubilee of Mercy**

**The Second Rite of Reconciliation**  
(the Sacrament of Confession and forgiveness)  
for the Western Deanery of Sydney

**will be celebrated on Friday 18th March from 7:00pm**

at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, 230 Humphries Rd, Mt Pritchard  
Priests from across the Deanery will join Mt Carmel Priests to be available for our people just before Holy Week. This will be the first of four such Reconciliation Deanery Celebrations in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**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.

### **RCIA PROGRAM - Adult Initiation to the Sacraments**

An RCIA program facilitated at St John the Baptist will start in mid April 2016. Included in this program is adult preparation for those who have not yet received Baptism, Holy Communion, Reconciliation and/or Confirmation. There is now a good number of applicants who are wanting to join the program. During this time of waiting for the program to start, we continue to extend our invitation to everyone who would like to become a Catholic or would like to receive other sacraments as listed above to contact the Parish Office.

 **ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

Ministries Next Week 12/13 March	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	G Turnbull M Camilleri	R Golubic S Davies	C Goodyer E Villegas	J Sullivan C Sullivan
<b>EUCHARIST MINISTERS:</b>	A Watts C Araco D Vella M Camilleri E Vella D Tomic L Tononcelli	G Agostino R Morellini S Xuereb A Gibbs	G Dunn H Fenech M Lavorato J Sullivan C Goodyer G Zangari D Vella J Vella M Velardi	

## **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



First Australian Evangeline is an Artworker at the Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre where she is flourishing with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians to gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture.**

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) 1800 024 413

### **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.