



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 2

'Prayer of the Church'

prayed at John the Baptist
10 minutes

before weekday Masses

Morning and Evening Prayer

Easter Octave

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 2/3 April

(Second Sunday of Easter

- Divine Mercy Sunday)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Masses :

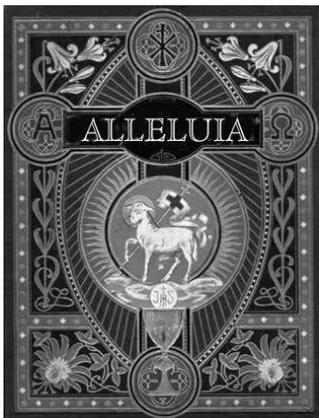
8:00am, 10:00am, 5:30pm

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliation:

Saturdays - 4:15 - 5pm



Reflection Questions

- ◆ I have "told" others about Jesus' risen Life in which I share by.....
- ◆ What brings me greatest joy and helps me come to greater belief in the new Life God offers me is.....
- ◆ The radiant joy I have encountered through others is.....
- ◆ The radiant joy I have brought to others is.....

Easter Sunday (Year C)

27th March, 2016

Let us sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph! (cf. Exodus 15:19-21)

These words are joyfully sung every year at the Easter Vigil. They echo the ancient hymn of praise sung by the Israelites after they had escaped slavery in Egypt and had safely crossed the Red Sea. As Christians we are no longer slaves but are redeemed people.

I have often heard people claim that as Christians we shouldn't talk about sin or about the possibility that a person could choose to turn against God. In our post-modern relativistic world, it is claimed that everyone is good and ultimately, everyone will go to Heaven. As Christians, we know the words of Christ that "No one is good except God" (Mk 10:18), and ultimately there is nothing any of us can do that will get us into Heaven. As Christians we do all sorts of things including charity, attending Mass, being involved in ministries and so on. But these actions do not make us good and these actions do not change our ultimate destiny in the eyes of God, even if we might feel or think they make us good.

Our future is changed because of what Jesus has done for each of us. Jesus Christ has freed us from being slaves to sin. No longer are we destined to a life-sentence of damnation that we deserve for our daily sins and offences. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, has been merciful and has opened for us, individually and as a community, the way towards the promised land, the universal Kingdom of justice, love and peace. This "exodus" (a breakout from imprisonment to sin) begins first all within our hearts, where we are led beyond ourselves so that God can make something greater of us. This "exodus" consists in a new birth in the Holy Spirit, the effect of the baptism that Christ has given us. Our old lives are left behind, and a new life now begins (cf. Rom 6:4); the old wrinkly guilty face is given a face lift to show a new, youthful, loving and joyful face. But this spiritual "exodus" is only the beginning. It is the beginning of a complete liberation and work of freedom, capable of renewing us in every dimension - human, personal, social and spiritual.

Easter is the true salvation of humanity! But some unfortunately ask "What do we need to be saved from?" If Christ the Lamb of God had not poured out his blood on the altar of the cross, we would be without hope and unfortunately our destiny would be death, destruction and hell. But the Easter mysteries have changed our future: Christ's resurrection is a new beginning for everyone. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are renewed and we become new creatures created again in the image and likeness of God.

Easter is an event that has profoundly changed the course of history, tipping the scales once and for all on the side of life, goodness and love. But Easter and the resurrection do not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church after the resurrection always finds history filled with joy and hope on the one hand, and grief and anguish on the other. As we are saved by Jesus Christ, let us continue our pilgrimage of faith, bearing in our hearts the song that is ever ancient and yet ever new: "Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!"

On behalf of the whole parish, I extend Easter greetings and blessings to all people in Bonnyrigg Heights and the surrounding areas, to your friends, families, neighbours and loved ones. May this Easter deepen your experience of Christ's saving work in your life and in our community.

Fr James McCarthy

YOUTH CORNER

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, Cecilia ABELA, Brindley & Virginia CAVALLARO, Sarah CANCERI

Recently Deceased: Giuseppe PETRULLA, Fr Francis (Frank) MARTIN (in his 100th year, oldest Priest in the Archdiocese of Sydney), Solidad SWING, Mario CANILUNA, Samuel CARUSO, Joseph Le NGUYEN, James A SMITH, Irene V SMITH, Elaine TREUIER, Natividad GONZALES, Ruperto DOMAOAL

Death Anniversary: Rita SALIBA, Consuelo CONSLOBAL, Ann DAVIES

THANK YOU to everyone who has assisted in making the Easter celebrations such as joyous and grace-filled time for all. Happy Easter to everyone.

WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT. A day to find out more about consecrated life and vocation discernment with time for personal prayer & reflection, as well as meeting and chatting with other young women. **Saturday, 30 April** at 9.30am. JPII Student Centre, 150 City Road, Darlington NSW 2008. For single women (18-35). Donation: \$10.00. **RSVP is essential by 25 April** via www.vocationcentre.org.au

ANGEL VOICES – FRIDAY 08 APRIL 7.30PM. With a program of music including Mozart, Handel and Vaughan Williams, St Mary Cathedral Choir will bring its seraphic singing to the Angel Place concert hall, offering an experience which is guaranteed to soothe your soul and touch your heart. Two renowned performers will join the Choir for this special evening: soprano Amelia Farrugia, one of Australian opera's biggest stars; and virtuoso trumpeter Paul Goodchild. Regular concert goers and first timers alike will find something to love in this performance. Angel Voices is your chance to hear this celebrated choir singing its natural repertoire, in the crystal clear acoustic of City Recital Hall. Tickets on sale now at www.cityrecitalhall.com

THE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY has an upcoming faith formation event **Pierre de Caussade – Self Abandonment to Divine Providence** presented by Bishop David Walker at 14 Francis St, Randwick. **Wednesday nights: 13, 20 & 27 April 2016 – 7.00 – 8.30pm.** Course: \$30 Books \$15. Direct Bookings: **9398 2211** or sally@thecentre.com.au.

MOTHER TERESA IS BECOMING A SAINT! Pope Francis has announced that Mother Teresa of Kolkata will be canonized a saint on September 4, 2016. Last year Pope Francis announced that Mother Teresa would be declared a saint after recognizing a second miracle attributed to her intercession: the healing of a Brazilian man with multiple brain tumors. Pope John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa in October 2003.

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



WORLD YOUTH DAY

5 weeks to go till registrations close!! (in case you couldn't tell) Anyone interested, please contact me ASAP! This is an experience of a lifetime (my 4th one!) and I couldn't encourage you anymore If you're between ages 18-35 and interested, please visit www.catholicyouthservices.org/wyd

JORDAN & GALILEE YOUTH GROUPS

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-5:30pm**. 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/>



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 30th March at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For an increase in WYD responses.** 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!

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 on 18th, 19th, 25th and 26th June.

Confirmation: Will take place on 25th September, 2016

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

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES

If you have not already handed in your Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes, could you please bring them into the Parish office or to Mass next weekend. Thank you for your support and contributions.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is available for purchase at \$2.00 per copy. A trial is being undertaken to determine interest after a number of years without it being sold. The money for the Catholic Weekly can be put into the poor box or handed to the Piety stall. Thank you.

JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR KINDERGARTEN 2017

Enrolment packs are available from the school office between 8:30am and 4:00pm. Kindergarten enrolments are considered where the child turns 5 years of age before 31st July of the year of intended commencement. Any enquiries please phone the school office on 9823 5042.

REGULAR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARISH

Thank you to all who regularly contribute to the running of the John the Baptist Parish. All donations through Parish Planned Giving are 100% tax deductible. If you would like to join the planned giving and contribute through periodic credit card donations, please complete one of the yellow Credit Card authority forms. These forms can be picked up outside the Church or from the Parish Office. Thank you for your assistance and support.

RCIA PROGRAM - Adult Initiation to the Sacraments

An RCIA program facilitated at St John the Baptist will start on 19th 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.

A big thank to those who beautifully contributed their time and efforts in decorating and cleaning the Church and supplying palms for the celebration of the Liturgy on Palm Sunday.

Ministries Next Week 2/3 April	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	L Krslovic A Pace	I O'Connor L Barilla	C Purcell N Laureti	R Camilleri M O'Mara
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	B Goria M Harvey T Grana P Grana D Rotondo B Empiegné A Pace	B O'Connor A Esposito F Foti F Bushby	N Laureti D Oliveri S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib A Vlahadamis	

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS

SPECIAL FAMILY MASS @ 10am on 3 APRIL

Next Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, two kindergarten children will be baptised during the 10am Sunday Mass. The Mass will have a special focus on families and children. All are encouraged to bring a plate of food to share the Easter and Baptismal joy. No children's liturgy will occur at the Mass as the children will be invited to participate in the Mass and the homily.

PARISH SUPPER AND MORNING TEA NEXT WEEK

Parishioners are invited to stay after all Masses next weekend 2nd & 3rd April for a cup of tea or coffee. Please bring a plate to share.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will take place Thursday 31st March at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.

THE REGINA COELI

During the Easter Season, the daily Angelus is replaced by the Regina Coeli. It can be prayed every 6 hours, normally at Midday and 6pm.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave rejoicing to the world,

grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joy of everlasting life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

VISIT TO OUR LADY OF MERCY, PENROSE PARK

On Wednesday 13th April a pilgrimage has been organised to visit the **Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Penrose Park** (near Berrima). The bus will leave John the Baptist at **8:00am** and **return by 5:30pm**.

The day will proceed as follows:

9:30am Confessions. 10:00am Exposition and Rosary, 11:00am Solemn Mass, lunch BYO or buy food and drink from kiosks. At 1:30pm Eucharistic procession to Grotto, 2:00pm Grotto devotions, Benediction and Blessing of pilgrims. 3:00pm visit some of the 43 chapels built by ethnic communities, such as, Padre Pio, Italy, Our Lady of Le Vang and the Martyrs of Vietnam Pakistan, Our Lady of Valankanni, St Anthony Chapel-Malta, St Stephen—Croatia and many more. 3:45pm return to coach.

Cost for bus transport is \$20.00 per person. Payment may be given into the Parish Office or directly to Nina Laureti.

WHY A PILGRIMAGE? To obtain an indulgence for the Year of Mercy, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to a Cathedral or designated Shrine where one is able to enter through the Holy Door of Mercy. This moment of entry to the Church is linked to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for Pope Francis and for the intentions that he bears in his heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world. Please join us for our Pilgrimage. Enquiries Nina Laureti 0408 465 149.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

Lk 24: 34; cf. Rv 1: 6

Responsorial Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Psalm 117:1-2,16-17,22-23

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Communion Antiphon:

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;

therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia

1 Cor 5: 7-8

First Reading

Acts 10:34,37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles of Isaiah

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:1-2,16-17,22-23

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord

Easter Sequence (read before the Gospel acclamation)

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation:

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?' And they remembered his words.

When the women returned from the tomb they told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Peter, however, went running to the tomb. He bent down and saw the binding cloths but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord

Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.



"Let us come to Him and let us not be afraid! Let us come to Him and say from the depths of our hearts: "Jesus, I trust in you!"