



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)



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MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 3

'Prayer of the Church'

prayed at John the Baptist
10 minutes

before weekday Masses

Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday - 9:10am

St Mary of the Cross, virgin

Tuesday - 9:10am

*St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross,
virgin, martyr*

For the Soul of Lela Sherry

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Lawrence, deacon, martyr

For the Soul of Mary Vella

Thursday - 9:10am

St Clare, virgin

For the Soul of Eugen Kleibert

Friday - 9:10am

*St Jane Frances de Chantal,
religious*

Saturday - 9:10am

*St Pontian, pope, martyr and
St Hippolytus, priest, martyr*

SUNDAY 13/14 AUGUST

(20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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 - 5:00pm



Reflection Questions

- ◆ Those who have taught me Jesus' way of life are.....
- ◆ Those whom I teach Jesus' way of life are.....
- ◆ In the Master's absence, I continue his saving mission by.....
- ◆ What encourages me to remain faithful in the Master's absence is.....
- ◆ What impedes my faithfulness is.....

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 6th & 7th August, 2016

Flames from his burning house prevented a father from entering. He then saw his son in the bed room window. He cupped his hands to his mouth and yelled, "Jump, son, jump". The boy in terror shouted back, "Daddy, I can't see you, I can't see you". The father called again in desperation, "Jump, son! Daddy will catch you!" trembling with fear the boy stood poised at the window. Then he jumped. That little boy, unable to see and thoroughly frightened, made the leap into his father arms. He did so because of the great trust he naturally put in his father. With his father there he knew nothing could harm him.

Faith for us, in one sense, is a blind leap into the arms of God. It is a firm conviction, a gift from God himself, which is our only answer to the terrible, dark mystery of where we came from and where we are going. It is a child's trust in the hand that will lead us through the terrors that reach out to us from the dark. There is no faith needed to walk into the brightly lighted room in which we clearly see that there are no dangers, no uncertainties. As Saint Paul in Today's second reading told us, "Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities at that the present remain unseen" (Hebrew 11: 1-2).

In the second reading, Saint Paul also reminded us about the faith of Abraham. In the Catechism, the Church calls him "our father in faith". He is our father in faith because we are all his spiritual descendants as the people of God, but also because he is clearly a genuine example of what our faith should be. God has made extraordinary promises to Abraham. He told him "this is my covenant with you: you shall be the father of a multitude of nations; I will establish my covenant between you and me and your descendants after you throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant, that I may be a God to you and to your descendants after you (Cf. Genesis 17: 4,7). Though Abraham and his wife, Sara, grew old with no legitimate heir, Abraham still kept his confidence in God. Then when Sara was beyond the natural age of childbearing, she had a son, Isaac.

After Isaac had become a young boy, just when Abraham was content to feel that all of God's promise would be fulfilled in Isaac, God commanded him to give up his son's life in sacrifice. Abraham was in tremendous mental turmoil. It was terrible enough to be asked to sacrifice his son. The thing that disturbed him the more was that the death of his son would seem to make God's promises about descendants impossible of fulfillment. When Abraham led Isaac to the place of sacrifice on the mountain top, he could not see the bright sunshine of hope to be fulfilled, but only the dark clouds of confusion which faith alone could penetrate.

At that moment of Abraham's faith was being put to its supreme test. He saw in Isaac all his hopes and dreams. He saw in Isaac the person through whom God would fulfill his promises. As the old man stood with the knife clutched his trembling hand, he was in mental anguish over how this sacrifice could make sense. He simply did not see how God could possibly keep his promises with Isaac death. Yet he was willing to reach out his free hand to God to be led through the darkness of confusion and fear. That was enough for God. Abraham's faith was firm and unwavering, and so God sent his angel to stay the hand of sacrifice. Isaac's life was spared, and a ram was substituted in his place.

It is no surprise that the church calls Abraham the father in faith. Abraham was the man approved by God because of his faith. That kind of faith must be ours too. It is a faith that is more than an intellectual assent to truths revealed by God. It is a faith that involves the commitment of our entire selves to God. It is trust, reliance, a confident assurance, a firm conviction that God is good, that he is a true father to us in every circumstance of our lives.

Such faith is easy when things are going well for us, when we can see the signs of God's concern for us. For all of us, however, the day will come, or perhaps has already come, when the light is no longer there, when we are confused and frightened. That day is the time of the test of faith. We must meet it. We must confront it. Pray to God in this Mass for the strength to have a faith like that of Abraham. God calls us to make a leap into the mysterious darkness of life. We must make that leap with the confident assurance that the arms of God our Father will be there to catch us.

Fr. Phan Nguyen

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 John CHIANG, Maila CORKILL, Fahed JREISAT, Emmanuel ARAPA, Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Facunda MARTINO (7 years), Luis MARTINO, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAFA, Carmen SPITERI, Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK, Ciro PUNZO, Valerie MCCARTHY, Gemma GATT, Pamela LEVERS, Lily TANTIYA, Cecilia ABELA, Brindley & Virginia CAVALLARO, Sarah CANCELI, Doug ANDERSON, Doris LIGHTOWER, Joe BARILLA, Darren OWM, Joe SAMMUT, Giannino MORASSUT

Recently Deceased: Eugen KLEIBERT, Fr Jacques HAMEL (France), Marie CONSTANTINE, Antonino IENCO, Cecilia ABEL, Arturo COLUSSO, Patricia MOON, Josefina SACRIZ

Death Anniversary: Nicola & Antonia VITERALE, Pasquale & Rosa LETTIERI

Other: Mary VELLA, Very Special Intention

Joe Is Away
Hi to everyone. Just letting you all know that for the next few weeks, I'll be away on pilgrimage and won't be back until Monday, 22nd August. Please pray for me and the rest of the young people from the parish going to World Youth Day. If you have any prayer intentions, send me a private message if you possibly can and if I can view it, I'll definitely pray about it, all the way from either Fatima, Lourdes or Krakow J
During this time, there won't be any youth group outings. Tina Dunn will be running the youth groups on Saturday, 23rd July and Saturday 13th August, both from 3:30-5:30pm. There will be NO Galilee youth group on the Friday's, however any Galilee people are welcome to join the Jordan youth groups on the Saturday (and it would be great if they could assist Tina also!)
Youth group will feature DVD's, fun activities, talks, prayer, sharing, and food! Looking forward to seeing you all soon. God Bless.

JORDAN YOUTH GROUP
Our next Jordan Youth group will be held on Saturday, 13th August from 3:30pm-5:30pm. Please come along! Youth group will feature DVD's, fun activities, talks, prayer, sharing, and food! Thank you to Tina Dunn for giving up your time to share fellowship and faith with the young people of the parish!



TRIVIA NIGHT FOR RACHEL!
Rachel Camilleri, a young woman in this parish, will be going to Tasmania for 5 months after she gets back from world youth day, to do mission work in Tassie and other parts of Australia! Rachel has bravely accepted Jesus' invitation to serve him and other people in the next few months and so let us pray for Rachel that her relationship with Christ grows even stronger after what will be such a life-changing and profound experience for her. This is a rewarding, but tough decision that Rachel has made, so let us support her in any way we possibly can. On the night of August 26 (Friday), from 7:30-10:00pm, we will be holding a **trivia night** for Rachel, to raise some money for her, so she can afford to fully embrace this experience. With everyone's help, this can be made fully possible for Rachel, so let's do this! J
The night will consist of a variety of different trivia topics, prizes to be won, food and drink to be consumed and different games that can be played over the course of the night. Please spread the word and come along. At the moment, we're going to be using the parish hall, but we want an excuse to have to move to a bigger venue, so please show your support. There is a sign-up sheet at the front of the church (outside) which you can fill out to show that you'd like to attend. Thank you to all on behalf of Rachel. Hope to see you on the 26th. God Bless.

CWF CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL
Charitable Works Fund
This weekend our parish will be asking for your support for this appeal. The CWF provides social, training and advocacy programs throughout the Sydney Archdiocese communities. Your generous donation would be of great benefit and much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

BLESSING OF READERS AND COMMISSIONING OF ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
Every 12 months, the Church directs that all extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion be liturgically recommissioned for their ministry. A Blessing and Commissioning of Liturgical ministries will occur at **all Masses on the weekend of 13th and 14th August**. If you have been trained and wish to minister in the next 12 months, please attend on that weekend.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK
Today we celebrate the beginning of National Vocations Awareness Week. On this day in particular, we are reminded to pray for vocations of all the baptised as the laity have an important role in the life of the Church. Resources on exploring/discerning a vocation are available at: www.vocationcentre.org.au.

MASS FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS: Are you expecting a baby or know someone who is? You are warmly invited to attend the annual Mass for Pregnant Mothers to be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday 21st of August at 10:30am**. Morning tea will follow in the St Mary's Cathedral Chapel Hall. **RSVP and enquiries** can be directed to LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or call 9307 8404.

The Association Madonna Dei Poveri di Seminara is holding its annual feast day for Our Lady of the Poor on 14th August, 2016 at the Scallabrini Village Austral, 65 Edmondson Ave, Austral. Mass is at 11am with a procession following afterwards. BBQ lunch and various stalls will also be there for your enjoyment. For further information contact Maria Ph: 9809 3147.

The Maltese Cultural Association is commemorating a Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes at 7pm on Thursday 25th August for our dear recently deceased member Victor Buttigieg who was a long time committee member with the Association. Please come and remember him in your prayers. For more info ring Mary Ramundi 9688 1432 or Charles N Mifsud 9501 5525.

MOUNT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE VARROVILLE
August Retreats see Church noticeboard for further details.



GRACEFEST With Fr Rob Galea
The official reunion for WYD
Friday August 26th 19:30-22:30
Liverpool Catholic Club Bistro
Tickets are only \$10.



Come to Church. A lot of Pokemon to be found here!



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 10th August at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For all the young people in our parish and country**. 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.



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 date for Baptism will be confirmed once you have attended a Baptism Preparation session.

Sacrament of First Penance/Reconciliation/Confession:

Will take place in Term 4 (29 November - 2 December, 2016). There will be special **Year 2 Enrolment Masses on 27-28 August**. There will be a Parent Formation meeting on the 16th of August at 7pm—8.15pm in the Church. All parents wishing to enrol their child/children **MUST** attend this meeting. Children must be Baptised and in year 2 or above to enrol for the Reconciliation preparation program.

First Holy Communion: Took place on 18th, 19th, 25th and 26th June.

Confirmation: Will take place on 25th September, 2016. There will be a **Parent Information Meeting** next **Tuesday 9th August at 7:00pm** in the Church.

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



CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING will be held **next Tuesday 9th August at 7:00pm in the Church.**



2016 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION PARENT INFORMATION MEETING will be held on Tuesday 16th August beginning from 7pm in the Church. All parents wish to enrol their child/children **MUST** attend this meeting. Children must be Baptised and in year 2 or above to enrol for the Reconciliation preparation program.

PARISH FORUM - 15th October: 2pm - 4.30pm - ALL INVITED

There will be a Parish-wide community forum and discussion concerning the immediate future of our Parish on Saturday 15th October from 2pm to 4.30pm at the Parish Hall and surrounding venues. Please mark the date in your diary and make a special effort to attend. All input from parishioners will be most valuable for the Parish in planning for the future mission of our Parish. There will be a presentation on the findings of the Parish Building Feasibility Committee (as it will now be brought to a close). The presentation will look at options in relation to the church building, the possibility of a Parish pre-school and childcare, and other possible uses of our parish buildings in response to the needs of the community as expressed during the 2010 Parish Planning Survey and from other discussions. There will also be a presentation on the Financial situation of the Parish. An external facilitator will assist us in our discussions.

No decisions have yet been made about the future of the Parish or about future building projects or about new opportunities for outreach.

FOUND: A Pair of Glasses and a ring. If any of these items belong to you please contact the Parish office on 9823 2572.

Ministries Next Week 13/14 AUG	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	L Krslovic A Pace	M Lavorato I O'Connor	F Holden E Villegas	M O'Mara R Camilleri
EUCARIST MINISTERS:	A Watts C Araco D Vella M Camilleri E Vella D Tomic L Tononcelli	L Barilla J Gilan R Imbert L Barbara	Delicia Vella J Vella G Zangari M Velardi F Holden M Aulsebrook L Aulsebrook C Porreca A Pinto	
COUNTERS:	J Oliveri	V Baltazar	Younart	R Demasi
CHURCH CLEANERS: Group 6	M Oliveri	C Monteleone	M SBava	S Leonello

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS

END OF JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CELEBRATION 20 NOVEMBER 2016

The parish intends to have an international food fair with the possibility of some entertainment. We have run out of disposable plates. We would appreciate it if you could help donate some small disposable plates for this event. If you could assist, please place them in the Church meeting room. Thank you for your support.

URGENTLY WANTED Cultural food stalls and a DJ for the End of Jubilee Year of Mercy Celebration. No celebration would be complete without food and music. We are renowned for our cultural richness so why not let the parishioners and friends sample flavours from your cultural background. **DJ**—bring your passion for music, great voice, and your awesome personality to add to this event. Volunteering your services at this event is another way to advertise your business. If you can assist in anyway please contact Susan 0419 606 683.

SPECIAL MASSES ON MONDAY DURING AUGUST:

Monday 8 August is the *Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop*. Mass will be at **9.10am**.

Monday 15 August is the *Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Mass will be at **9.10am and 7pm**. This is a Holy Day of Obligation and all Catholics are asked to attend Mass on this day.

Monday 29 August is the *Feast of the Martyrdom of St John the Baptist*. Mass will be at **9.10am**



All are welcome

John the Baptist Prayer group is inviting everyone for an evening of Praise and Worship, fellowship, teaching and much more.

Why not come along and join us, to enjoy a time of worship, teaching and great fellowship. This is a great opportunity, so come and be inspired, refreshed.

When: **7.15pm - 18th August, 2016** (meetings every fortnight)

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall, Bonnyrigg Heights

Contact: Susan: 02 9607 5137



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.

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS FOR 2015/2016 and NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2016/2017

New Envelopes are now available for collection after all Masses. The Tax Receipts for 2015-2016 are available to be collected from outside the Church.

If any Parishioner is interested in joining our Planned Giving Envelopes or setting up direct debit contributions, there will be clipboards available for you to place your names on the request forms outside the church. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for all your support.



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

“The secret to joy: never suppress positive curiosity; get involved, because life is meant to be lived.”



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: *Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: You know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *O Jerusalem glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.*

First reading

Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second reading

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant

the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Matthew 24:42a, 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:32-48

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming," and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord