



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

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 - 9:10am & 7pm

**HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**

*The Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Stephen of Hungary

Wednesday - 7:00pm

For the Soul of Leocadia Palanca

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

St John Eudes, priest

Saturday - 9:10am

St Bernard, abbot, doctor

SUNDAY 20/21 AUGUST

(21st 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

- ♦ I have experienced fire, anguish, division because of my faithful discipleship when.....
- ♦ I have experienced Jesus' gift of peace because of my faithful discipleship when.....
- ♦ The choice to be a faithful follower of Jesus is easiest when.....
- ♦ Most difficult when.....

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 13th & 14th August, 2016

No Pain, No Gain!

I recently returned from a pilgrimage with young people to Italy and to World Youth Day in Poland. As we pilgrimaged I noticed that our generation of Catholics are a lot softer than previous generations, especially compared with saints like St Catherine of Siena.

When it comes to sport or even dieting, we seem today to be willing to do all sorts of challenging exercises so that our bodies look and perform better, but when it comes to our faith, it would appear that the spiritual practices of previous generations are considered out-dated and too difficult for today. Even coming to Mass once a week seems too difficult for most people.

Our pilgrimage visited Rome and we went up the Holy Stairs, which are said to be the stairs that Jesus went up when he went to see Pontius Pilate before the crucifixion. There are 28 stairs and the ancient custom is that people go up them on their knees as a way of reminding us of the suffering Jesus endured for us. The process takes about 25 minutes and it quite difficult in 35C heat.

Today's readings can be difficult to understand. Our Gospel begins with a strange speech by Jesus. *"I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!"* (Luke 12:49).

The symbol of fire has many meanings in the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, fire was often associated with judgment and the fires of hell. Fire, however, is also a symbol of the Paschal mystery – the fire that is used at the Easter vigil. Through fire and death comes new life and resurrection. Fire and tongues of fire are also symbols of the Holy Spirit. But to give us the Holy Spirit, Jesus firstly endures his death. Could that be why Jesus says before his death: "how I wish it – 'the fire of the Holy Spirit' were blazing already"?

Jesus continues: *"There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!"* (Luke 12:50).

There is an expression in English that goes 'a person underwent a baptism by fire.' This does not mean literally being washed in fire but it does mean a very difficult first experience, an experience that almost brings the end of a person.

For Jesus, the baptism by fire meant that Jesus had to undergo the most difficult of experiences before the Holy Spirit would be given to the Church. This baptism by fire is his suffering and death.

For many people, baptism can be understood as a nice little ritual to welcome a child into the world. But baptism has a far deeper meaning than simply a rite of welcome. Christian baptism is both a death and a resurrection experience. Christian baptism is the coming of the Holy Spirit to set a person alight with the life of God.

As Christians today it is easy to forget what Jesus has done for us. It is even easier to think that faith should be so soft and easy that it is handed to us on a platter. Interestingly, the only thing mentioned in the Scriptures to be handed on a platter is the head of John the Baptist. While at World Youth Day our Sydney pilgrims heard the Archbishop of New York speak about the mercy of God. Cardinal Dolan spoke about mercy as an undeserved gift from God, but when we received, each person must leave something behind from their past. Leaving behind things from the past can be painful, but unless we leave behind those things which distract us from the mercy and love of God, then we will never truly experience the fire of God working in our lives. In essence - No Pain, No Gain!

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 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, Ian BAKER

Recently Deceased: Tony VITALE, Eugen KLEIBERT, Fr Jacques HAMEL (France), Marie CONSTANTINE

Death Anniversary: Leocadia PALANCA, Rosa LASORBA

Other: Very Special Intention



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.



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL

We wish to thank you for your generous support of the appeal last weekend. Your gifts will go towards helping the CWF continue its vital work in our communities through its benefiting agencies. We thank you on behalf of CatholicCare, Ephpheta Centre, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (catechists), the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, our Seminarians and Catholic Chaplaincies.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Today we celebrate the close of National Vocations Awareness Week. On this day in particular, we are reminded to pray for all those in the priesthood and consecrated life. This week, let us reflect on the vital role that priests and consecrated people play in modelling Christ and his teachings to us. May we never forget these generous and courageous people in our prayers. 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.

New Bishops for Sydney - All are Welcome

The Episcopal ordinations of **Mgr Tony Randazzo** and Fr Richard Umbers will be at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 24 August in St Mary's Cathedral. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend to welcome the two new bishops who will serve us in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Natural Fertility Awareness Week 15th -21st August 2016

Did you know a woman's health is often reflected in her fertility? Learning The Billings Ovulation Method® can alert a woman to underlying health problems. If you would like to be able to manage your fertility naturally and to monitor your reproductive health accredited Billing Teachers are available to assist you throughout Australia. For further information ring Billings LIFE on 1800 335 860 or visit www.billings.life

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 information ring Mary Ramundi 9688 1432 or Charles N Mifsud 9501 5525.

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.



Are you Single? Are you Catholic? Then Read on!

The Catholic Singles Conference is all about giving single Catholics the opportunity to meet other like-minded singles, share their Faith and be encouraged. The Catholic Singles Conference will provide a range of social opportunities, but it is not primarily about finding a relationship; there will be a range of prayer opportunities, but it is not primarily a spiritual retreat. The hope behind the Catholic Singles Conference is to encourage attendees to live their singleness well and to become happier and holier people according to their current state in life. Location is the Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. Please check out the link below for more details. <http://www.catholicyouthservices.org/catholic-singles-conference/>



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 17th 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.

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



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.



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 this weekend 13th and 14th August**.

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.

Ministries Next Week 20/21 AUG	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Dionysatos E Vella	S Hely T Simpson	G Zangari N Laureti	M O'Mara A Watts
EUCHARIST MINISTERS:	J Oliveri L Topic P Micali M Brito M Chun A Gorla B Gorla	J Finucane G Agostino R Morellini S Xuereb	E Ellul J Papaleo G Buttel M Bridges N Laureti D Oliveri S Stornelli N Freeman N Dubuisson	
COUNTERS:	G Adam	E Villgas		
CHURCH CLEANERS: Group 7	R Shamounadeh	A Israel	V Martinez	R Gentile

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 basket provided 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 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.

“ We oppose hatred and destruction with goodness. We live in societies of different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and sisters.”



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: *Turn you eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, come to my aid!*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.*

First reading**Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10****A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well, where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 39:2-4,18*****Lord, come to my aid!***

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

Lord, come to my aid!

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

Lord, come to my aid!

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

Lord, come to my aid!

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay.

Lord, come to my aid!**Second reading****Hebrews 12:1-4****A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and *from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne.* Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord**Gospel Acclamation:****John 10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel**Luke 12:49-53****A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord