



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights
2016 - Jubilee Year of Mercy



(Incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills, Elizabeth Hills & Elizabeth Park)

Parish Administrator: Rev Fr James McCarthy

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Assistant: Rev Fr Phan Nguyen

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Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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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 - No Mass

*The Queenship of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Rose of Lima, virgin

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Bartholomew, apostle

Thursday - 9:10am

St Louis

St Joseph Calasanz, priest

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

St Monica

SUNDAY 27/28 AUGUST

(22nd 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

- ◆ To be like Jesus and make my "way to Jerusalem," I must.....
- ◆ The "narrow gate" and locked door I encounter on my daily journey are.....
- ◆ The strength of God's very Self, God's very Life sustains me most clearly when.....

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

20th & 21st August, 2016

"Will be there a few saved?" (Cf. Luke 13:12)

One of the strongest instincts of a human being is the desire to belong, to be included in a group. It is not without reason that people of all ages tend to form clubs and organisations. There is a sense of security that comes from the sense of belonging. Always to be left out, always to be excluded is a cause for sadness, but on the other hand always to be counted in, always to be sought after, can be an excuse for complacency or self-satisfaction.

It was this instinctive desire to belong that prompted someone from the crowd listening to Jesus to ask, "Sir, will there be a few saved?" (Cf. Luke 13:23). Among many of the Jews the question of whether the Gentiles would be saved as part of the kingdom was generally not even considered. They believed that descent from Abraham, together with the faithful observance of the Law, was what counted. The question, asked of Jesus, therefore preferred only to the Jews. Apparently the man who asked the question expected Jesus to give him a guarantee that he would be saved simply because he was the descendant of Abraham. Jesus seems to have judged that the man was looking for a confirmation of his complacency based on his being a member of the chosen people.

Firstly, Jesus refused to answer the question about numbers as irrelevant. He insisted that the people should not be concerned about how many are saved, but rather that people should work to make sure of their own salvation, regardless of what others may do. Secondly, he shook the man out of his complacency by declaring that blood descent from Israel's ancestry is no guarantee of entrance into the kingdom. Salvation is not automatic for anybody. Jesus condemned the smugness that lay behind the man's question, and added a stern warning that one must work hard to gain entrance through the narrow door that leads into the kingdom.

That the words of Jesus apply to us as Catholics is obvious. We were incorporated into the new people of God, the Church, not through physical descent from Abraham, but through the spiritual transformation of the Baptism. Just being a Catholic, however, is no guarantee of salvation. The point seems clear that to gain entrance into God's kingdom more is required than mere membership in the Church. We know that we must try to do God's will in every aspect of our lives. The letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews in the second reading today emphasizes one particular aspect of God's will is that God wishes to discipline us as his children so that we may be worthy members of his spiritual family. Good parents know that children need discipline if they are to mature. But a child of any age can resist discipline and thwart the most conscientious efforts of his parents. A child who rejects discipline and training wants to desire benefits from his family in an automatic fashion without any cooperation on his part. This kind of rebellion and mentality are mainly the misunderstanding of discipline among most of young people and also few adults.

Today second reading beautifully states "Suffering is part of your training ... Of course, any punishment is painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those in whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness" (Cf. Hebrews 12: 11-12). One of the worst things we can do is to revolt against the trials that God sends us. We don't have to pretend that God's discipline is fun, but we do have to see that it is necessary to make us worthy of his kingdom. And it is very childish of us to complain that those who are not Catholics seem to get away with the consequences of their sins. In fact, God is doing us a favour by the discipline which He imposes on us.

So we might have no concrete answer to the question of whether many or few will be saved. What we do know is that we cannot afford to be smug or complacent about our own salvation. We must work to do God's will and to cooperate with Jesus' fatherly discipline so that we can squeeze through the narrow door that leads into his eternal kingdom.

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, Ian BAKER

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

Death Anniversary: Frank BARILLA, Nancy PRINCI, Leocadia PALANCA, Rosa LASORBA

Other: GUNG Gia Jiang, GUNG Jing Kiam, TUNG Chil Ang, JIA Arng Muia, JUE Soak Kim, GUNG Tia Pung, GUNG Hoak Pung, GUNG Jung Pung, KUE, Soong Lee, NGO Hai Buai, KUE Chang Guang, KUE Peng Kee, KUE Peng Tia, KUE Peng Sir, KUE Miel Tian, Very Special Intention

NEW OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE AT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Camp Australia is partnering with John the Baptist Primary School and the Parish to deliver a tailored before and after school care and vacation care program that is focused on bringing out the best in kids. The program combines active games with structured and unstructured play, quiet time and healthy snacks. Every day is an adventure led by enthusiastic Camp Australia educators who are on a mission to make kids smile.

There will be a **Parent Information Session** to help families understand how the program is structured, to meet the educators, and to find out how to make bookings and manage your account.

When: Wednesday, 31st August 2016 at 6:00pm

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall

FAREWELL - Stephanie Poropat has been a member of the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass Choir for the past ten years, and (with the guidance and support of Mr Peter Tononcelli) has been conducting the Saturday Vigil Mass Choir for seven of those ten years.

Stephanie has recently been offered a place at the Royal Northern College of Music in England to complete a Masters in Music Performance (Opera Voice). As such, with the help of the good people at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta, she is putting on a farewell concert to say goodbye to her friends, family, community, and country.

Stephanie would like to extend a warm invitation to all parishioners here at John the Baptist to attend this musical adieu, on Saturday 27th August, at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta. For addition details see the Church noticeboard.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE UNBORN

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate the annual Memorial Mass for the Unborn on **Friday 2 September at 7:30pm at St Mary's Cathedral**. The Mass will be offered in commemoration of the lives lost to abortion and in solidarity with the women and men who grieve this profound loss. All are invited to attend. Enquiries: Life, Marriage and Family Centre, 9307 8404 or LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org.

PARISH SUPPER AND MORNING TEA

Parishioners are invited to stay after all Masses next weekend 27th & 28th August for a cup of tea or coffee. Please bring a plate of food to share.



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.



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.

CATHOLICS SINGLES CONFERENCE

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 24th August at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For forgiveness and mercy for those who have hurt us**. If you would like to offer an intention one week, please contact Joe to do so. Come along for a chance to pray the rosary, celebrate Mass and worship Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.



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!

JAMES PARKER, gay rights activist turned husband and father returns to Sydney to speak on "*Why I Changed My Mind about Same-Sex Marriage*".

Please see Flyer on the Church noticeboard for a full list of Parishes that will be hosting the Talk. More information: Chris Gordon, Life Marriage and Family Centre CAS, Ph: 9307 8402.

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**. 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.**



RECONCILIATION

RECONCILIATION ENROLMENT

Reconciliation enrolments will be held on the **weekend of the 27-28 August, 2016**. The Saturday 5.30pm Mass and the Sunday 8am and 10am Masses will have a special focus for year 2 children and a focus on Reconciliation. **The Enrolment forms will be distributed to potential candidates during the Mass ONLY.** Please note that enrolment forms **will not** be distributed prior to the above enrolment weekend nor will they be available from the Parish Office or at the Parish Hall.

Following the Mass, the enrolment form can be completed by a parent/guardian and submitted in the Parish Hall. Please bring a **PHOTOCOPY** of your child's Baptismal Certificate and a **contribution** of \$25 towards the program costs. Unfortunately if all required documentation is not provided at the time of enrolment, your child's enrolment **will not be accepted**.

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 27/28 AUG	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull M Camilleri	R Golubic S Davies	C Goodyer E Villegas	J Sullivan C Sullivan
EUCHARIST MINISTERS:	M Harvey T Grana P Grana D Rotondo B Empeigne A Pace A Watts	A Gibbs M Borgia S Ives T Simpson	J Habib A Vlahadamis E Villegas G Dunn H Fenech M Lavorato C Goodyer D Vella J Vella	
COUNTERS:	F Aloe	J Coiera		
CHURCH CLEANERS: Group 8	N Khosho C Lazar	I Hanna	A Essa	W al-Safar

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.

WE ARE IN NEED OF 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 MASS ON MONDAY 29TH AUGUST:

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



All are welcome

The Ascension Prayer Community (new name for the John the Baptist Prayer group) is inviting everyone for an evening of Praise and Worship, teaching/sharing, fellowship, and much more.

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

When: **1st September, 2016** (meetings take place on a fortnightly basis)

Where: Parish Hall, Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights 2177

Time: **7.15pm**

Contact: Susan: 02 9607 5137 or 0415 342 672



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.



CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

We will be holding a church Working Bee on **Saturday 3rd September from 8am -1pm**. We need as many volunteers as possible to work inside and outside the church .

Please bring along cleaning equipment, shovels, wheelbarrows etc . If you can help in any way please put your name on the list outside the church or Contact Grant Dunn on 9823 4704.

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.



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 your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart..*

First reading**Isaiah 66:18-21****A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 116:1-2**

Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

Second reading**Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13****A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? *My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons.* Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So *hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread;* then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The Word of the Lord**Gospel Acclamation:****John 14:16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel**Luke 13:22-30****A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, ‘Sir, will there be only a few saved?’ He said to them, ‘Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

‘Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, “Lord, open to us” but he will answer, “I do not know where you come from.” Then you will find yourself saying, “We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets” but he will reply, “I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!”

‘Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

‘Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

“ We ask Mary, our Mother, to help us to pray with a humble heart.”