



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 3

'Prayer of the Church'

prayed at John the Baptist

10 minutes

before weekday Masses

Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

*The Nativity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

Friday - 9:10am

St Peter Claver, priest

Saturday - 9:10am

Priests Retirement Foundation
Appeal this Weekend

SUNDAY 10/11 SEPT

(24th 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

- ◆ When I hear Jesus demanding that I place him ahead of family and my own self, I understand Jesus is asking me to.....
- ◆ An Example of when I placed someone or something ahead of my discipleship was.....
- ◆ This choice cost me.....
- ◆ I am willing to pay the high cost of discipleship when.....
- ◆ I am unwilling when.....

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

3rd & 4th September, 2016



Happy Father's Day to all our Dads

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

Jesus is not teaching a new commandment of hating people. He is teaching about the cost of following Him. The clue is in Luke 14:33 when Jesus says:

"In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

It's about what we must be prepared to do to follow Jesus. It's about giving up everything, even our very lives for Him. He doesn't say, "by doing this you will get into heaven". Jesus clearly teaches that through faith in Him we have eternal life (John 3:16). Through His death on the cross, we have the forgiveness of sins (Romans 6:23).

However, as His followers, are we willing to place Him in first position and place the most important people in our lives in second place?

Let's paint the scene. In Luke 14:25, large crowds were travelling with Jesus because they had seen him healing people, feeding people and teaching people at no cost. Why not follow Jesus? You can get something for nothing. However, in this passage we see Jesus turn around to them that following him is not without cost - you have to place him before other important people in your lives. You even have to place him before yourselves. To get his point across he uses very sensitive and challenging language - you must hate everyone else. In so doing he is not saying that you do it literally but you must be prepared to put everything else second. So if your parent forbids you from following him then you must disobey them and so on.

Thankfully many of us have never been put in a situation where we have had to choose between Christ and our loved ones. But imagine if you had been captured by religious terrorists and they demand that you deny Christ or watch one of your friends die what would you choose? Jesus is saying you must choose him.

But it can be more subtle than this. In the stress of working and making ends meet and chasing fame and fortune we can be tempted to cut down of church activities, reading the bible or praying because we don't have time. It may be the things you are working hard for are good things that will allow you and your kids to have a better life style and education. Jesus is saying don't pursue these things at my expense - nothing, not even your wife and kids, is more important than following me and obeying me.

It's not easy but Jesus promises that he will provide for all our needs. See Matt 6:25-34 and also Mark 10:17-31. Both these passages talk of God's rich provision for those who seek to follow Jesus above and beyond everything else.

Deacon Mervyn Francis

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 CANCERI, Doug ANDERSON, Doris LIGHTOWER, Darren OWM, Joe SAMMUT, Giannino MORASSUT, Diana VUKOV

Recently Deceased: Isaac KNOWLES, Francesca SCUTELLA, Fr Frank FURFARO, Ian BAKER, Tony VITALE

Anniversary: Maria Assunta LAVORATO

Other: Charles HIGGANS, Arthur & Julia HIGGANS, William & Rita CRUZE, Anthony & Maria VELLA and Charlies HIGGANS, Raffaea LAVORATO, Very Special Intention

PRAY 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 continue to pray for her as a community, that God may touch her heart on this journey. Good luck Rachel!



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/>



Condolences Our condolences are extended to Michael, Vicky and Matthew Scutella and family on the loss of Michael's dear mother Francesca. Please keep the family in your prayers.



We congratulate the family of Miica LAVORATO who will be Baptised here this Sunday 4th September.

New Archdiocesan Protocol: Children Receiving Communion under Both Kinds

The Archdiocese of Sydney has recently updated the protocols for safeguarding and protection of children across the Church in Sydney. Recent changes impact the distribution of communion to children.

"The Provision or supply of alcohol to a child is prohibited by the Liquor Act 2007 (NSW) and is not acceptable in the context of any activity or event related to or organised by the Archdiocese. Alcohol is not to be provided to any child **except** by a Priest or other Minister administering Holy Communion and with the authorisation of, or in the presence of the child's parent or guardian." Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney: *Safeguarding and Child Protection Manual, 30 June, 2016.*

In situations where a child, who has made First Holy Communion, is unable to receive the host due to food allergies, a parent/guardian can give written permission to the Parish and the School for the child to receive from the chalice at Parish Masses and Masses attended by the School. The priest celebrant of each Mass will need to be told immediately prior to the Mass about the requirement for a special chalice and the individual person will receive communion from the priest at the altar prior to the congregation receiving communion.

In all other circumstances, the chalice will no longer be offered to the congregation at Masses where school classes or grades will attend.

At Sunday Masses, it will be presumed (by the Communion Chalice Minister) that a child who presents, with a parental presence nearby, to receive from the chalice, has the authorisation of their parent/guardian. Parents should inform their child whether they have permission to receive from the chalice at Sunday Masses.

Children and Adults with food allergies are welcome to receive a gluten-free host at any Mass. This can be arranged with the priest celebrant prior to any Mass. The School teachers can assist in coordinating this when classes attend Masses.



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 7th September at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For greater love in our families, for one another and for Christ.** 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!

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.

Fancy a 1950's themed Dinner Dance at Luna Park? *Catholic Youth Services* is inviting all (young and old) to a night of food, fun and live music on Saturday 17 September at Luna Park. The night will include a three course meal, alcohol and soft drinks, live 1950's music, a huge dance floor and dance lessons. If you register a group of four or more, tickets are only \$100 each. For all information and to book visit www.catholicyouthservices.org/1950s-dinner-dance. RSVP 11th Sept.



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES PARISH FEAST:

Sunday 18th September at Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park. A fun family day out commencing with procession and Mass from 2pm followed by an afternoon of entertainment, rides, music, great variety of food, raffles and games. The evening will conclude with a fireworks display at 8:45pm. Come along and celebrate Our Lady and have a great afternoon with the family. Visit ourladyofvictories.org.au

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). Enrolments have now ceased.

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.**

PRIEST'S RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL

This weekend is the annual collection for the Priests' Retirement Foundation. More than 80 Sydney priests are currently supported by the Foundation including our own First Parish Priest Fr John Langtry, and every year more priests are retiring. The Foundation assists in providing a place for the retired priests to live and be cared for, to cover their transports costs and ensures they are provided with the basic necessities of life. Unfortunately across the whole Archdiocese the amount raised each year has decreased by 30% and the Foundation is unable to cover the expenses. Please consider giving generously to this important collection.

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.

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

Ministries Next Week 10/11 SEPT	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	G Zangari N Laureti	R Camilleri M O'Mara
EUCHARIST MINISTERS:	C Araco D Vella M Camilleri E Vella D Tomic L Tononcelli J Oliveri	M Jebrail B O'Connor A Esposito F Foti	G Zangari M Velardi F Holden M Aulsebrook L Aulsebrook C Porreca A Pinto D Ellul J Papaleo	
COUNTERS:	J Oliveri	V Baltazar	Younart	R Demasi
CHURCH CLEANERS: Group 2	S Peters	K Boya	S Shabo	

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS

END OF JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CELEBRATION 20 NOVEMBER 2016

UPDATE: So far we have: Assyrian, Croation, Holland, India, Mauritius, Philippines, Tonga and Vietnam stalls, cake and a Barista. We have a singer and a boy's band.

WE NEED: Maltese, Syrian and Iraq stalls, more entertainers, volunteers to assist in parking, volunteers to do face painting and we need disposable dinner plates. Please contact Susan 0419 606 683.



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: 15th 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.



THANK YOU for everyone who attended our Parish Church Spring Clean. Your help was greatly appreciated.

BEREAVEMENT AND LOSS SUPPORT REFLECTION MORNING

Date: Saturday 8th October 2016 from 9am

Where: John the Baptist

This will be a time to honour and to remember but also a time of reflection and support. There will time for prayer and speakers. Morning tea will be provided. Any enquiries please contact Josie 9607 3973.

*'Death and loss are not the end of the story
Life is changed not ended'*

What is grief? One understanding...Grief is a reflection of a connection that has been lost. We grieve those we love, those we like, those we didn't like and we even grieve those we hated. We don't grieve those we were indifferent to. We grieve people even if there was a negative connection.

What is bereavement? Bereavement can be a rite of passage in which we gradually revise, re-orient, rebuild, restore, re-adjust, rise to, relearn, reconcile and heal **who we are** in the relationships with those who have died and find or make a new connection. We can discover and experience, *new spirit, new life*.



Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child Wednesday 14th September at 7:00pm

for a special Mass at St Francis Xavier Parish, Lurnea dedicated to all our angels. Tea/coffee following. Please RSVP to Mary-Ann on 9607 8760 with the name of your loved one.



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: *You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

Responsorial Psalm: *God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

First reading

Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

What man indeed can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.
It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?
As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted
Wisdom

and sent your holy spirit from above?
Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened
and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89:3-6, 12-14, 17

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second reading

Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean

Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.

"An easy prayer to say every day: "Lord, I am a sinner: come with your mercy".