



# 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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**Youth Ministry Co-ordinator: Joe Sullivan**

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**Parish Pastoral Centre:**

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**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 - No Mass**

*The Most Holy Name of Mary*

**Tuesday - 9:10am**

*St Chrysostom, bishop, doctor*

For the soul of Antonio Papalia

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

**Thursday - 9:10am**

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

**Friday - 9:10am**

*St Cornelius, pope, martyr and*

*St Cyprian, bishop, martyr*

**Saturday - 9:10am**

*St Robert Bellarmine, bishop,  
doctor*

**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, like the tax collectors and sinners, I draw "near to listen to Jesus," what I hear is.....
- ◆ Like the Pharisees and scribes, I have been self-righteous and unrelenting in these circumstances.....
- ◆ I am most self-aware and repentant when.....
- ◆ God's mercy.....

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 10th & 11th September, 2016

### God never gives up searching for the lost. Will you?

A mother found herself struggling with an increasingly rebellious teenager. It all came to a head late one night when the police called the mother to come to the police station and pick up their child who had been arrested. The two of them didn't speak on the way home, nor did they speak for a couple of days, until at last the mother broke the tension by giving her teenager a small, gift-wrapped package. The teenager opened it with an air of indifference and found inside a small rock. "Well, that's cute, Mum. What is it?" "Read the card," the mother replied. As the teenager did so, tears began to trickle, and the card fell to the floor. On the card the mother had written: "This rock is more than 200 million years old. That's how long it'll take before I give up on you."

That is what Jesus is telling us in today's readings: He never gives up on us and is always seeking to bring us into the love, warmth and joy of his presence.

God has always been a God of mercy and patience, a God who seeks out the lost and helps them to be found.

Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel is often referred to as "the gospel within the gospel," because it is the very essence of the good news about our Heavenly Father. The whole chapter is essentially one distinct parable, the "Parable of the Lost and Found," and it has three illustrations: the story of the lost sheep, the story of the lost coin (which were both read today) and the famous story of the lost son (or the prodigal son).

When someone or something is lost, it can be easy to eventually give up hope that it will ever be found. But God never gives up, and God's love is always waiting for our return. God is always waiting for us, searching for us and is ready for our return.

When something is recovered, the reaction should be JOY. Jesus is constantly joyful when someone or something that was lost is found.

Most Catholics know about the story of the lost sheep and even the story of the Prodigal Son. However the story of the lost coin is equally as interesting.

The coin in question in this parable was a silver drachma. Since the primitive houses at the time of Jesus were very dark, often with one little circular window, and since the floor was made of beaten earth covered with dried reeds, it was practically impossible to find a tiny coin if a person dropped it to the ground. But the woman in today's Gospel tried her best to get it back because it was worth more than a whole day's wage for a worker in Palestine. If the coin was one of the ten silver coins attached by a silver chain to the traditional customary Jewish headdress of a married woman at the time, it was as important to her as the wedding ring is in our society today. It's physical value was something, but it's sentimental and spiritual value were enormous. Thus, we can understand the woman's joy when at last she saw the glint of that lost coin. God, said Jesus, is like that. The joy of God, and of all the angels, when one sinner comes home, is like the joy of a woman who loses her most precious possession, with a value far beyond money, and then finds it again. We believe in seeking the love of God, because we see that love in Jesus Christ who came to seek and to save all people and things that are lost.

Fr James

# 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 ZERAFI, 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:** Joy GIBBS, Joseph XUEREB, Joseph BORG, Rose VELLA, Isaac KNOWLES, Francesca SCUTELLA, Fr Frank FURFARO, Ian BAKER

**Anniversary:** Antonio PAPALIA  
**Other:** REID Family, Family Intention, Very Special Intention

**Condolences** Our condolences are extended to Gary and Sue Xuereb and family on the loss of Gary's dear father Joseph. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**Condolences** Our condolences are extended to Geoffrey Gibbs, Trevor and Karen Garvin, Craig and Nikki Steele, Greg and Katrina Gibbs, their children and extended family on the loss of their dear Wife and Mother Joy. Please keep the families in your prayers.

**Condolences** Our condolences are extended to Eddie, Joanne and Melissa Vella and their extended family on the loss of their dear Wife and Mother Rose. Please keep the family in your prayers. Rose's funeral will take place at 11:30am on Thursday 15th September at St Gertrude's Parish Smithfield.



We congratulate the families of Matteo MURA, Sebastian BONVINO and Kensington ALLEN who will be Baptised here this Sunday 11th September.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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

## THANKS FROM RACHEL!

All the way from Tassie, Rachel send her deepest thanks to those who came to support her two weeks ago for her send-off trivia night. The parish support has been outstanding and she wants to once again thank you all who have made this journey possible for her.



## 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/>



Can't make the whole Catholic Singles Conference and don't want to miss out? Join us for the highlight of the conference a 1950s Dinner Dance to be held at the iconic Luna Park! This event is open to EVERYONE!

**JAMES PARKER SPEAKING TOUR** a gay rights activist turned husband and father returns to Sydney to speak on "Why I Changed My Mind about Same-Sex Marriage". See Church notice board for dates or call Life, Marriage and Family Centre on 9307 8402.



## 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 14th September at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For an increase of time to God through prayer, especially with the youth.** 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!

## THANK YOU

Perhaps you took the time to smile, to listen, or to wish me all the best. I wish to express my sincere thanks for your support and prayers as I begin my mission with the Immaculata Sisters. Thanks to so many who came along to the Trivia Night - it was such a fun night - filled with lots of laughter and happy faces! To the many of you who gave up so much of your time to help me with the organising of this event, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards - I couldn't have done this without you. Friends and Parishioners, your generosity is very humbling. Please remember me in your prayers; I will certainly remember you in mine.

Sincerely, Rachel Camilleri



## 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:** Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated almost \$5000 to the Appeal last Sunday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



### CONFIRMATION NEWS

**RECONCILIATION** for Confirmation Candidates and their families is being held on **Thursday 15th September, 2016** at the following times:

**5:30 - 6:30pm for Sunday Noon Mass**

**7:00 - 8:00pm for Sunday 3:00pm Mass**

**CANDIDATE RETREAT:** All candidates are to attend a special 10:00am Sunday Mass at John the Baptist on **Sunday 18th September**. Following the Mass Candidates will need to locate their group leader where parents will sign their children in. The children will remain with their group leader for the duration of the retreat. Parents are invited back at 2pm for Benediction and then parents will sign their children out as they leave.

Morning tea will be provided after the 10:00am Mass and we ask each candidate to please bring a plate of food to share.

If you have any enquiries please contact Linda Barilla or Mary Fraser.

**SR CLARA CHENNAI APPEAL:** As you know we have fundraised to help Sr Clara build the home for the abandoned girls in Chennai, India. While I was there in January, daily 3 or 4 women would come into the convent and sew jute bags which St Clara would then pay them per item and then she would sell the bags. I bought home with me some of these bags and they will be on sale after all Masses next weekend 17/18 September for \$5 each. The monies raised will be sent to Sr Clara, this will be our last fundraising for Chennai as Catholic Missions has deemed Sr Clara's project now self sufficient.

Thanking you in advance for your continued generosity in supporting Sr Clara's Chennai Appeal. Enquiries Nina Laureti 0408 465 149.

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

Ministries Next Week 17/18 SEPT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	J Oliveri M Camilleri	D Cordina M Jebrail	L Aulsebrook M Aulsebrook	J Sullivan C Sullivan
<b>EUCHARIST MINISTERS:</b>	J Burxg M Chun A Gorla B Gorla P Bennett C Bennett M Harvey	J Gauchi G Romeo G Vanderwert N Bevan	E Villegas G Dunn H Fenech M Lavorato J Bankowski G Rapisarda C Goodyer D Vella J Vella	
<b>COUNTERS:</b>	G Adam	E Villegas		
<b>CHURCH CLEANERS: Group 3</b>	A Gorla	M Petro	K Castro	M Diaz

## 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.

#### **BEREAVEMENT AND LOSS SUPPORT REFLECTION MORNING**

##### **Season's for Change: Workshop on Change, Loss and Grief**



Grief can emanate from any change and subsequent loss - Loss of job, marriage, relationship including death of a loved one.

Facilitated by Mark Gerhard - Bereavement Support  
Services from Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria.

**Date: Saturday 8th October 2016 from 9am**

**Where: John the Baptist**

Morning tea will be provided.

Please RSVP to the parish office on 9823 2572 or Josie 9607 3973.

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



#### **Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child**

If you are a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle or relative of an angel gone too soon, whether it was yesterday or years ago, please join us on **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 SUPPER & MORNING TEAS** will be held **next weekend 17th/18th September** instead of 24th/25th September due to the Parish Confirmations. Please bring a plate of food to share.



**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](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au)

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** *Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *I will rise and go to my father.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself, and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.*

### First reading

**Exodus 32:7-11,13-14**

#### A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. “Here is your God, Israel,” they have cried “who brought you up from the land of Egypt!”’ the Lord said to Moses, ‘I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.’

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: “I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.”’

So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

#### The Word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19**

*I will rise and go to my father.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

*I will rise and go to my father.*

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

*I will rise and go to my father.*

O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit.  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

*I will rise and go to my father.*

### Second reading

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**

#### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and

discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The Word of the Lord

#### Gospel Acclamation:

**2 Cor 5:19**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself,  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

**Luke 15:1-10**

#### A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” he would say “I have found my sheep that was lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

‘Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” she would say “I have found the drachma I lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord



**Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.**

**“God is always moved to compassion whenever we repent.”**