



# 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**

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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 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**

*St Francis of Assisi*

For Nguyet Thi Pham (sick)

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

For the Soul of Sosamma Mathew

**Thursday - 9:10am**

*St Bruno, priest*

**Friday - 9:10am**

*Our Lady of the Rosary*

**Saturday - 9:10am**

**SUNDAY 8/9 OCTOBER**

*(28th 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**

- ◆ The "impossible" I have done because of my faith is.....
- ◆ I have gone beyond what is expected or commanded of me when.....
- ◆ What happened as a result is.....
- ◆ I am most aligned with God when.....
- ◆ I can tell I am not aligned with God when.....

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) - Respect Life Sunday**  
**1st & 2nd October, 2016**

**WELCOME TO BISHOP TONY RANDAZZO**

"Lord, increase our faith."

In the current public discourse in Australia it appears that Christians have become the modern-day punching bag. It seems that politicians find it easy to bash-up and blame Christians for many of the problems in our society. On the flip-side, we as Christians can become so sensitive to criticism and not wanting to offend anyone that we decide to keep our beliefs to ourselves and make faith and religion a purely private matter. Supposedly we are so unreasonable and so 'un-Christian' that we are unable to have a decent conversation about life, marriage, sexuality or gender without threatening the life of another individual. I hope that this is not the case.

Interestingly in the last twenty years or so, Muslims around the world have become more public in their expressions of faith. Although some Australians think that our country is becoming a nation without God, the world is approaching a period where faith and religion are as important as they were a thousand or more years ago.

St Paul warns Timothy, and us also in today's 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, that we should not be ashamed to bear witness and to give testimony to the Lord, demonstrating that faith is not something that is a personal private possession. All of us need to share the moments when we witness and encounter the power of Christ in our lives.

Next Tuesday is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. He prayed the words of today's Gospel: "Increase our faith." For St Francis his faith led him to humility, and his extreme humility was above all freedom for service, mission, and ultimately freedom to trust in God.

St Francis heard the words of Christ: "Rebuild my Church!" These words are extended to all of us. No longer can we sit back and see the Church – the Body of Christ - continue to suffer ridicule, humiliation and false accusations, and no longer can we sit back and see the Church declining into irrelevance.

Pope Francis has challenged the Church in recent times to go beyond ourselves. He said "I want to tell you something. I want a mess. I want to see the church getting closer to the people. I want to get rid of the mundane, this closing ourselves off within ourselves, in our parishes, schools or structures."

Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1972 recognised that many in the world no longer see the importance of the Church or of belonging to a Church. He said "People no longer trust the Church; they trust the secular profane prophet that speaks to us from some newspaper or from some social movement."

Our Church and our faith have positive contributions to make to our society, nation and world. All of us need to assist in rebuilding a trust in Christianity and a trust for the Church.

Each and every one of us has been given a faith and each of us is given the mission to spread the message of the hope and joy of Christ's life and to defend it and promote it with all the talents we have received. Do we have the courage and are we up to the challenge?

*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 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, Florence JIANG, Isabel TANTIYA, Nguyet-Thi-PHAM

**Recently Deceased:** Rosaria STIVALA, Lino CELEBRIN, Joy GIBBS, Joseph XUERE, Joseph BORG, Rose VELLA

**Anniversary:** Mark CAVALLARO, Sosamma MATHEW

**Other:** Family Intentions, Very Special Intention



We congratulate the families of Tyson ORNELAS and Sofia YOUIL who will be Baptised here this Sunday 2nd October.

## RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Today in the Archdiocese of Sydney we are celebrating Respect Life Sunday. This year we are focusing upon grieving the death of a little one to miscarriage, and the hope and consolation which the Church offers to the bereaved. A brochure on this theme, *Unseen, yet Loved - Grieving Miscarriage*, has been distributed to Sydney parishes. Please take one home to read and to pass on to others.

## MARY, AND HER LIGHT OF MERCY Saturday 15th October at All Saints Catholic Church Liverpool.

1.30pm Adoration and Benediction; 2.00pm Fr Anthony Bernard talks about 'Our Lady's Role in this Year of Mercy' and Fr Bong Pamintuan on 'Mary & Her Light of Mercy'; 4.15pm Veneration of Our Lady of Guadalupe's Relic Icon (Confession available); 5.00pm Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil Mass). For enquiries, contact 0404 881 811.

## MEDITATION RETREATS

**Saturday 19th November**, Ron Dyer Centre, North Sydney  
**Sunday 20th November**, St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia  
 Please see Church noticeboard for more information.

## RETREATS IN OCTOBER

BENEDICTINE ABBEY at Jamberoo  
 and MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE at Varroville  
 See Church noticeboard for more details.



## FATIMA NIGHT

This coming October 13th is the 99th Anniversary of the last apparition at Fatima, Portugal.

Fr John Iacono will commemorate the event by celebrating "Fatima Night" with the following:

- 1) An Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as requested at Fatima by our Blessed Mother
- 2) Blessing to all the children
- 3) A documentary on Fatima

Venue: St Joseph's Parish, 231 Newbridge Road, Moorebank  
 Time: 6:45pm

For Whom: Everybody is welcome.

Don't miss this opportunity of a life time! It will be a mini experience of what takes place at Cova De Eria, Fatima, Portugal every 13th of the month. Please make an effort to be there. You will be blessed because you came.



## God, Sex & The Meaning of Life

The modern world has sought - with rapid success - to redefine human sexuality. The Result has been not only a new sexual ethic, but a new definition of our humanity and a new social order. Founded by Christopher West and inspired by John Paul II's Theology of the Body. The Cor Project aims to reframe questions of human existence in such a way that the divine plan for man and woman can be perceived and embraced in all its beauty and splendour. This is a project of the heart, attracting men and women who are yearning for more than what our culture's approach to happiness and fulfilment has to offer. Join Christopher West for this very special afternoon on Saturday October 22nd at the Seymour Centre in Sydney. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!



The splendour of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm. If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness.  
*St. Therese of Lisieux*



## Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children – YOUTH OUTING, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5TH

All youth of John the Baptist are invited to come and see this film next Wednesday (October 5th), at Events Cinema, Liverpool.

We will start the night with Mass at 7pm, which will then be followed by a short time in adoration and then pizza afterwards outside the church. Movie will start at 8:45pm and lasts approximately two hours.

Would love to see many of you there!! Please put your name on the notice by Monday at the latest, so we know how many pizzas and movie tickets to order. Call 0435188118 if you have any concerns/inquiries. Thank you ☺



## Galilee & Jordan

The next Galilee youth group will both be on **Friday, 14th October, from 5:30-8:00pm** and the next Jordan youth group will be on **Saturday, 15th October, from 3:30-5:30pm**, both being in our parish hall. All year 5-6 students are invited to Jordan youth group where students will meet myself and other leaders outside the parish hall. Jordan youth group will feature DVD's, fun activities, talks, prayer, sharing, and food!

All students in years 7-10 are welcome to join our Galilee night which will involve time for fellowship, presentations, discussion, prayer, activities and also plenty of food! Please join us for what will surely be a fantastic night! Please remember to invite others also. Hope to see a wide mix of years 5-10's there! ☺



## 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 5th October at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For an increase in acts of love and especially mercy on this Feast Day of Saint Faustina.** 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.

## 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:** Took place on 25th September, 2016.

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



### TRAINING FOR ALTAR SERVERS

**Sessions:** **13th October** (Thursday) 10:00am - 11:00am  
**23rd October** (Sunday) 8:45am - 9:45am  
**3rd November** (Thursday) 10:00am - 11:00am

**Applications Forms** are available for collection at the Parish Office.

### ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS

We wish to thank and recognise the following catechists who will be receiving their awards at the Annual Catechist Mass, **2pm at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 9th October.**

**25 year Service Award:** Angela Galdas and Nancy Vartuli

**20 year Service Award:** Nadia Pospischil and Trudi Simpson

**Accreditation Award for completion of all Accreditation courses:**

Maria Calabrese and Adrian Watts.

May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire these catechists as they continue this ministry.

### 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.



**ATTENTION READERS:** The new roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

Ministries Next Week 8/9 OCT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	L Krslovic A Pace	J Poljak S Davies	N Dubuisson C Goodyer	C Sullivan M O'Mara
<b>EUCARIST MINISTERS:</b>	D Vella M Camilleri E Vella D Tomic L Tononcelli G Siciliano A Portelesi	R Morellini S Xuereb A Gibbs D Cordina	E Villegas G Dunn H Fenech M Lavorato J Bankowski G Rapisarda J Burxgx Delicia Vella J Vella	
<b>COUNTERS:</b>	V Baltazar	Younart	R Demasi	
<b>CHURCH CLEANERS: Group 6</b>	M Oliveri	C Monteleone	M Bava	S Leonello

## UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS

### END OF JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CELEBRATION 20 NOVEMBER 2016

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

**WE NEED:** Maltese, South American, Spanish, 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:** **13th October, 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'*

### WEEKEND TO PRAY FOR HSC STUDENTS

**On Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October**, all Masses in the Parish will be to pray for our Year 12 students prior to the commencement of their HSC Exams later that week. There will be special prayers for our students and a blessing. Please encourage and invite any Year 12 students to attend any of the Parish Masses that weekend.



### 'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD' CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

**Every Tuesday at 8pm.** Give 20 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel. Duration time is approximately 30 minutes. For further information, contact Frances on 0438 213 313.



**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:** *Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! The word of the Lord stands for ever, it is the word given to you, the Good News. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.*

**First reading****Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4****A reading from the prophet Habakkuk**

How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help  
while you will not listen;  
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear  
and you will not save?  
Why do you set injustice before me,  
why do you look on where there is tyranny?  
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,  
all is contention, and discord flourishes.  
Then the Lord answered and said,  
'Write the vision down,  
inscribe it on tablets  
to be easily read,  
since this vision is for its own time only:  
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;  
if it comes slowly, wait,  
for come it will, without fail.  
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,  
but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

**The Word of the Lord****Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9**

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Second reading****2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14****A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy**

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

**The Word of the Lord****Gospel Acclamation:****1 Peter 1:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The word of the Lord stands for ever,  
It is the word given to you, the Good News.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel****Luke 17:5-10****A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'



**Pope Francis weekly tweet @ Pontifex.**

**"God never tires of offering His forgiveness each time we ask for it."**