



# John the Baptist Catholic Parish

## Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights



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

**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**

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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**

**Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 10am to 4pm**

**Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang**

**Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski**

### MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 3

'Prayer of the Church'

Morning Prayer is prayed at  
St John the Baptist  
10 minutes prior to  
weekday morning Masses

**Monday - No Mass**

*St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary*

**Tuesday - 9:10am**

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

**Thursday - 9:10am**

**Friday - 9:10am**

**Friday 7pm SOLEMNITY  
OF ANNUNCIATION**

**Saturday - 9:10am**

*The Annunciation of the Lord*

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY 25/26 MARCH**

*(Fourth Sunday of Lent)*

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm**

**Sunday Masses :**

**8:00am, 10 :00am and 5:30pm**

**4th Sunday of the Month:**

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

**Reconciliation:**

Saturdays— 4:15 - 5:00pm

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Every Friday - 12pm & 7pm

**LENTEN ADORATION**

Every Friday 12.30pm to 7pm

*Come and spend time with Jesus!*

### **Reflection Questions**

- ◆ I have encountered Jesus when.....
- ◆ These encounters have transformed me in these ways.....
- ◆ I attempt to deceive Jesus when I.....
- ◆ He brings me to face the truth of myself by.....
- ◆ My words testify that Jesus is the "saviour of the world" when.....
- ◆ My actions testify to Jesus as the "saviour of the world" when.....

## Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

18th and 19th March, 2017

**“True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.”**

Lent is a time to reflect on the reality of God’s love for each of us. This love is mysterious. God, in his providence and wisdom, adapts to our mistakes and provides new opportunities for us.

The story of the Samaritan woman reminds us that human weakness and chaos are not recent inventions. Even by contemporary standards, the Samaritan woman has to be considered a colourful figure; five husbands and now a partner who is not her husband! The experiences and scars that lay beneath the external confident smile and the banter of the Samaritan woman are worth considering.

At the time of Christ, women went to the well in the morning and evening as groups. A visit to the well was a social and community activity and it was done during the cooler parts of the day. However, the Samaritan woman is at the well alone in the middle of the day. She has chosen to come to the well when there should be no one there because she wanted to avoid confrontation. We do not know how many of her husbands died or how many divorced her, but her hidden wounds were obviously very deep.

She may have been depressed, isolated and tempted to believe that her life was a failure. Naturally she became defensive when Jesus asked her to bring her husband. “I have no husband,” she replied.

Confronted by the truth of her complicated marital relations, the woman might have lost her temper, abused Jesus for impertinence or simply walked off and left Jesus alone. She certainly never anticipated such an encounter when Jesus asked her for a drink.

But she was honest with herself, open to this unusual man talking about the living water that takes away our thirst. In humility she acknowledged Jesus as a prophet.

Most Australians today know that right and wrong are important, but many are uncertain whether it is important to believe and to worship, let alone worship in spirit and in truth.

At the time of Christ, worshipping God in spirit and truth was an acknowledgement that there was only one God and that we do not worship false idols. The Samaritan woman accepted the reality of God and she knew that God would send a Messiah.

It was then that Jesus for the very first time acknowledges that he is the Messiah, the anointed and chosen of God.

This is a beautiful story, which has been repeated again and again throughout history. A wounded person allows God’s love to cleanse them and bring them to new life; a person judged the most unworthy and least likely to turn to God is cured and healed by the experience of God’s love.

The conversion of the Samaritan woman can be our conversion. We are called to be honest, open and prepared to pray and dialogue with God, especially in our weaknesses. During Lent, pray to experience God’s personal love and do acts of charity as a way of cooperating with God’s providence in spirit and in truth.

*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, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAFI, Carmen SPITERI, Audrey SPITERI, Christine TRIGAS, Crystel SACOBOS, Guido BADINO, Sue SHERMAN, Emmanuel POLJAK, Ciro PUNZO, Valerie McCARTHY, Pamela LEVERS, Lily TANTIYA, Brindley & Virginia CAVALLARO, Sarah CANCER, Doug ANDERSON, Darren OWM, Joe SAMMUT, Giannino MORASSUT, Diana VUKOV, Florence JIANG, Isabel TANTIYA, Nguyet-Thi-PHAM, John CODNER, Robin ISHAC, Nancy VARTULI, Tan LE, Bibeth BUENCAMINO, Rhea Mae ABRAHAMS, Felicitas VALENCIA, Presley PETILLA, Bruno BORSATO, John RAPPAL, Emilia Petilla DOTONG, Veronica MARIC, David SNOOK

**Recently Deceased:** Fr John B CHIANG (in Taiwan), Anthony GALEA

**Death Anniversary:** Joseph Tis Sing LAY, Ann DAVIES, Consuelo CRISTOBAL

**Other:** Special Intention



## 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 22nd March at 7:00pm as we pray for the following intention: **For an increase of courage in our hearts, that we may not be afraid to give ourselves to the Lord.** 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.



## Youth Alpha - Every 2nd Wednesday evening at 7.30pm—8.30pm. Next gathering on 22 March—Why did Jesus die?

Youth Alpha is designed for those who are in years 10, 11 & 12 and anyone who has recently finished school. It is a chance to come together, to share a meal, to discuss Jesus and feel connected with God for just one hour every two weeks.

Please come to Wednesday evening Mass at 7pm if you can, this is the best way to make time for God in our hectic lives! When we're busy and flat out with so many things to do, giving God half an hour of our time in the celebration of the Eucharist can be the most rewarding thing you can do for yourself and nothing can please God more! ☺

Afterwards, we will be meeting outside the **Meeting Room after Mass at 7:30pm on Wednesday evening, March 22nd.** If you're keen, please bring \$5 to help cover pizza and drink cost.

Please keep this in mind if you are trying to make more room for God in your life but are struggling to do so. This is something suitable for young people and is always fun and engaging. Hope to see you there! ☺



## JOHN THE BAPTIST ENROLMENTS

Enrolment Application packages for the 2018 school year are available from the school office. For more information please contact the school on 9823 5042.

## AFTERNOON FOR COUPLES HOPING TO CONCEIVE:

Married couples (Catholic or otherwise) who are hoping for children, struggling to conceive, or who wish to better understand what the Church offers and promotes in regard to fertility awareness and assistance are invited to an afternoon of information and discussion. It is also an important opportunity for fellowship with other couples facing similar difficulties.

WHERE: Dooleys Waterview Club, Silverwater Rd, Silverwater.  
WHEN: **Saturday 18 March 2017, 2:00pm-4:30pm.** Please direct RSVPs and inquiries to [lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org) or phone 9307 8403.

**Day Of The Unborn Child. Sunday, 26 March.** Annual Pro-Life march through Sydney CBD in support of the unborn. 10.30am Mass, St Mary's Cathedral, 12 Noon Angelus, followed by a prayerful procession through the streets of Sydney led by His Grace Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, 1.30pm Benediction inside the Cathedral. More information: [www.fli.org.au](http://www.fli.org.au)

**CATHOLICCARE.** For Gladys, volunteering with CatholicCare brings her immense satisfaction whilst bringing joy to the ageing clients she visits weekly. CatholicCare services assist people to live and thrive at every age. We provide disability services, counselling and support for children, young people and families and deliver ageing services in the home. To find out more call 13 18 19, email [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org) or visit [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)

**APRIL RETREATS**  
MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE  
247 St Andrews Road, Varroville  
Ph: 8795 3400  
Email: [retreats@carmelite.com.au](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com.au)  
[www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

Please see Church noticeboard for further details

**Xt3 LENT CALENDAR WEBSITE AND FREE APP.** What will you give up or take up during Lent? Xt3 can help you journey through the season with the Xt3 Lent Calendar. The calendar is both a website and a FREE App with fresh content daily, including Catholic videos, audio reflections, interviews and blogs. The Lent calendar also includes the Gospel readings of the day and daily challenges focussed on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Give God a moment this Lent visit: [www.xt3.com/lent](http://www.xt3.com/lent).



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** - relationship enrichment for married couples to be held on 19-21 May at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Bookings online at [www.wvme.org.au](http://www.wvme.org.au) or Bill and Ardell Sharpe on 02 4283 3435 or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au)

## DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN 2017 24th to 26th March

Take a glimpse into life and formation into the priesthood; the weekend includes talks, time for personal prayer, sacraments, spiritual guidance, Q & A with seminarians and discussions. This retreat is designed to help men discern their vocations. Where: **Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush.** Cost: \$99. Registration is essential. Registration/Enquiries: [vocationcentre@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocationcentre@sydneycatholic.org). Have some questions or simply want to inquire? Call us on (02) 9307 8424 or Email: [vocations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocations@sydneycatholic.org)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** The new Roster is available for collection. **Please note that the precious blood will not be distributed during Lent.**

**PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION**

**Baptisms** are usually held during weekend Masses. It is necessary to book through the parish office and attend a Baptism Preparation session. The date for Baptism will be confirmed once you have attended a session.

**Sacrament of First Penance/Reconciliation/Confession (for Yr 2 and older):** Will take place in Term 4 (28 November - 1 December, 2017).

**First Holy Communion (for Yr 3 and older):** Will take place on 11th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 25th June, 2017.

**Confirmation (for Yr 6 and older):** Will take place on Sunday 24th September, 2017.

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

**UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS/ NEWS**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Every Friday in the Church during Lent at 12:00pm and 7:00pm commencing on Friday 3rd March and concluding on Friday 7th April.



**LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Every Friday in the Church during Lent between 12:30pm and 7:00pm commencing on Friday 3rd March. Jesus invites us to come and spend an hour with him as he journeys towards his passion and death.



Third Sunday of Lent  
19th March 2017



Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation offers Uncle Richard and other former Stolen Generations survivors the chance to heal after a childhood of suffering, and manage the intergenerational effects of their pain.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help empower women in Timor-Leste to recover from domestic violence, develop sustainable livelihoods, and lead a life of dignity.



You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**ARCHDIOCESE SURVEY**

Parish 2020, the new pastoral project launched by the Archbishop last year, is a journey of renewal in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It is about all of us working together to explore and discern God's will for the Archdiocese. Until the end of March 2017, Archbishop Fisher wishes to hear the views and opinions of as many people as possible across the Archdiocese on ways of renewing and strengthening our Parishes and communities for the future. You are invited to complete an online survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/2V7XL9X/> For those unfamiliar with technology, there is a paper version of the survey available at the Church noticeboard and pamphlet area.

**'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.



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

Ministries Next Week 25/26 MAR	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	H Pinto A Pinto	C Sullivan
<b>EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS:</b>	G Siciliano A Portolese S Rapisarda J Oliveri M Esposito F Foti	J Vella G Zangari R Hibbs M Aulsebrook	L Topic M Brito J Burxgx V Petrovic F Bushby A Liberatore	
<b>Please note that the Precious Blood will not be distributed during Lent.</b>				
<b>COUNTERS:</b>	F Aloe	P Abordo	J Coiera	
<b>CLEANERS:</b>	M Oliveri	C Monteleone	M Bava	S Leonello

Is there more to life than this

Alpha

**ALPHA IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT - begins on 16 March.**

Every Thursday between 7pm and 9pm in the Parish Hall. **Please signup** if you are intending to come on the first night. The Alpha Program will run every Thursday from 16 March until 1st June at the conclusion of the Easter Season.

**Meal —> TALK —> Small Group Discussion**

Alpha is a tool for evangelisation and faith-enrichment that is used by thousands of Catholic parishes in over 70 countries around the world. It includes a meal, a talk (or video) followed by discussion.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS**

This is an invitation to all Parishioners to consider nominating to join the very active and supportive Parish Pastoral Council. As required by the PPC Guidelines a rotation must occur every 2 years with a number of our current members retiring due to reaching the maximum term and other commitments. A discernment afternoon is planned for Saturday April 1st from 2pm to 4pm from which new members will be selected. Please pray for many nominations to support the service of our priests and our parish. Contact the parish office if you are interested.



**You are invited**

The Ascension Prayer Community 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:** 30th March, 2017 (meetings take place on a fortnightly basis)  
**Where:** Parish Hall, 45 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.



**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:** *My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *For anyone who drinks it, says he Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life..*

### First reading

Exodus 17:3-7

#### A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

#### 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

Romans 5:1-2; 5-8

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

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

cf. John 4:42.15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

John 4:5-42

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

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan

woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, 'I have no husband'; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



#### The Gospel of the Lord

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