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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Website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours: Tue- Fri 10.30am to 4pm
Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang
Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 1
'Prayer of the Church'
Morning Prayer is prayed at St John the Baptist 10 minutes prior to weekday morning Masses

Monday - No Mass
Tuesday 9:10am
Sts Cosmas and Damian, martyrs
Wednesday - 7:00pm
St Vincent de Paul, priest
Thursday - 9:10am
St Wenceslaus, martyr
St Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs
Friday - 9:10am
Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels
Saturday - 9:10am
St Jerome, priest, doctor

NEXT SUNDAY
SUNDAY 30 SEPT/1 OCT
(26th Sunday of Ordinary Time)
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm
Sunday Masses:
8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm

4th Sunday of the Month:
5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliations:
Saturdays – 4:15–5:00pm

Reflection Questions
- I find myself damouring for status when…..
- At these times Jesus challenges me to be servant by…..
- I am the least when…..
- I am the greatest when…..
- I am reduced to silence when…..

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) - SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
23rd and 24th September, 2017

Social Justice Statement 2017–2018 of the Australian Catholic Bishops.
Everybody's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy

Pope Francis has called for an economic system that places men and women at the very centre – one that meets the needs of all people and is just and sustainable. He denounces economic structures that take a purely utilitarian view of human beings, treating them as mere elements of production, to be thrown away if they are not seen as useful or productive.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2017–18 is titled 'Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy'. The Bishops call for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

The Bishops' Statement is built around the Gospel for Social Justice Sunday, 24 September 2017. Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard, where all are active contributors and are recognised for their human dignity.

Australia has experienced a quarter of a century of continuous economic growth, but the benefits of this good fortune have not been distributed equally. In our workplaces, conditions and security of employment have been eroded, while those who are unemployed subsist on incomes well below poverty levels. Australia is experiencing a housing crisis. And our Indigenous brothers and sisters struggle with economic and social burdens that most Australians cannot imagine.

A Prayer for Economic Justice

God of justice and compassion, whose light shines into our hearts and into our nation's halls of power, strengthen our faith as we acknowledge the enormity of our task: to include all in the prosperity of this land.
*We pray for your **spirit of generosity** in challenging greed and neglect. Give us your grace to reach out to the lowest paid workers, families subsisting on meagre incomes, people who are homeless, the dispossessed First Peoples of this land, so that we may achieve change, inspired by the Gospel, that leads to human flourishing.*
*We pray for your **spirit of truth** as we place our own economic choices before you, reflecting on our own motives as we strive to give and to keep, to save and to spend, to invest and to speak out in ways that honour every human being.*
*We pray for your **spirit of fierce love and determination** as we seek to assist and empower the most vulnerable, to create jobs and opportunities where they are most needed, to build an inclusive economy that enables government and business to champion a society where justice and equity abound.*
*May we be instruments of your **compassion** as we take up the needs of the poor,*
*May we be instruments of your **mercy** as we bring truth to greed and neglect,*
*May we be instruments of your **creative** spirit as we seek to make our world anew.*
In Christ and through the Spirit we pray.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement or to download the Statement, visit the **Australian Catholic Social Justice Council** website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:

Sick: Fr John LANGTRY, Sebastian AGUIAR, Maria KONTREC, Bishop George PHIMPISAN, Maila CORKILL, Fahed JREISAT, Emmanuel ARAPA, Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Anna MILLZARSKI, Bogdan MILLZARSKI, Justin ZERAFA, 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 CANCERI, Darren OWM, Joe SAMMUT, 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 RAPPAI, Emilia Petilla DOTONG, Inez BUGEJA, Nicolina La FERRARA, Doug ANDERSON, Nadim SAAD, Dr Amelia CATALAN, Joseph DEQUARA, Lino LOPES, Mariela SOTO, Jessie ZAMMIT, Baby HAYDEN, Kate BIONDI

Recently Deceased: Giannino MORASSUT, Janet LIM, Shirley TAN, Mauro C ALMONTE Jnr

Death Anniversary: Vincent MUSCAT, Violet ANDERSON, Luciano MORASSUT

Other: Special intention

ALPHA IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT PROGRAM

The Alpha Program will be running in the parish in the months leading up to Christmas from October to December. 35 parishioners undertook the program during Lent and Easter this year, and there is a desire to give more parishioners and those interested in deepening a relationship with Jesus the opportunity to undertake this great course.

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.

Very often our children get opportunities to grow in their understanding of the faith through sacramental programs and through school. Alpha is an opportunity for adults of any age to discuss their faith, to grapple with the big questions of life and to be open to growing in their love for Jesus Christ.

YOU ARE INVITED

Alpha - Every Thursday evening at 7pm - 9:15pm
Commencing on October 5, 2017, in the Parish Hall

Alpha is a chance for everyone to come together, to share a meal, to discuss questions about faith, Jesus and feel connected with God in an honest, friendly, and open environment. So why not come along and join us, to enjoy a time of sharing, worship, and great fellowship.

If you have any further questions about what the Alpha Course is about or would like to become an Alpha Helper please contact Elizabeth on 0426 242 600 or email elizabeth_dimarco14@hotmail.com

Catholic Bushwalking Club is looking for new members. Bushwalking, Camping, Canyon and Skiing trips Please apply via website www.cbcnsw.org.au or contact Linda 0478 919 427

YOUTH CORNER

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. 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 Wednesday 27th September.

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.

After 7pm Mass on Wednesdays we gather in the **Meeting Room at 7:30pm**. 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! ☺

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

The students of John The Baptist Primary School **thank you** for the support and contributions made to our Woolies Earn and Learn Campaign. Our school has earned many points and will be able to use these to purchase math resources and sporting equipment to enhance the education of our students.

DEVOTIONS TO HONOUR OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on **Sunday 8th October** (behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church), entrance via St James Avenue. Commencing with recitation of the Rosary at 2:30pm followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3:00pm. The principal celebrant will be Bishop Terry Brady. Disabled parking will be limited to the main drive entrance to the Grotto. Parking is also available in the surrounding streets and Council car park.

AGING AND AWAKENING: GOD'S SURPRISING GIFTS!

Time and age are the gifts of the second half of life. As the worn oak wine barrel produces mellow wine so the second half of life allows us time to notice and reflect on the richness of our experience of life - awakening us to God's surprising gifts on our journey. These days, with Sr Kerin sgs, offer opportunity for input sessions, reflection and personal prayer as well as communal prayer with the Benedictine nuns at the Abbey. Printed material will be provided for further reflection.

DATE: October 27-29
VENUE: Benedictine Abbey 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo
TIME: 9.00 a.m. commencing with Eucharist and concluding with Vespers at 5.00 p.m. on the 29th.
COST: $100.00 for the talks plus accommodation fees.
BOOKINGS: Petrina 0242360533
cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

CATHOLICCARE Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive. CatholicCare Sydney supports people living with a disability to find meaningful work, including young people leaving school. For more information contact our CCareline Team on 13 18 19 or email us at connect@catholiccare.org

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 between 28 November - 1 December, 2017 (times to be advised).

First Holy Communion (for Yr 3 and older): Took 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.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PARISH PRIEST

After almost 12 years as Parish Priest of St Felix at Bankstown, **Fr Dominic Dinh** has been appointed by Archbishop Fisher as the new Parish Priest of St John the Baptist Parish at Bonnyrigg Heights. He will take up this new position of leadership at the beginning of November. The Parish of St Felix thanks Fr Dominic for his long-service to their parish and are preparing a farewell in October. The Parish of St John the Baptist are thankful for this appointment and are preparing to welcome Fr Dominic as their new Parish Priest for the beginning of November.

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR FR JAMES

Earlier this week Archbishop Fisher appointed Fr James as the new Parish Administrator of St Michael's Meadowbank. He will take up this new position from 1 November.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

The next altar server training session is **24th September 2017 at 9am**

CATECHIST NEWS Annual Catechist Mass 2pm Sun 24th Sept

Congratulations to Julieanne Di Filippo and Teresa Micali two of our Catechists who will receive their 25 year and 20 year Certificate of Service to the Catechist Ministry at St Mary's Cathedral this Sunday. Also forty five of our sixty student catechists from Freeman Catholic College will also attend the Mass and receive acknowledgments and certificates for their year's service to the Catechist Ministry. We thank them for their commitment and dedication in proclaiming the Good News to our State School children.

We are in need of a Year 3/4 Catechist Teacher at Busby West Primary School on Fridays at 9:45am. If you are interested please contact Trudi Simpson on 0414 608 538.

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

Ministries Next Week 30 SEP/1 OCT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Dionysatos E Vella	L Barilla S Hely	J Habib A Patrikios	
EXTRA–ORDINARY MINISTERS:	A Jameson G Rapisarda H Fenech P Vujica T Micali B Empeigne G Luppino	V Tomac A Esposito M Esposito F Foti	J Burxgx Dellica Vella J Vella R Hibbs M Aulsebrook C Porreca A Pinto D Ellul J Papaleo	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	M Davies			
CLEANERS: Group 1	V Baltazar	J Mavizo	B Roy	R Agius

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS/ NEWS

Bishop Tony Randazzo will celebrate Confirmation this Sunday at 12pm and 3pm. Please keep the Candidates in your prayers.

FAREWELL WEEKEND FOR FR JAMES 28 and 29 OCTOBER

The Parish Pastoral Council is organising a special weekend of Masses and celebrations to farewell Fr James. Following all weekend Masses on **Saturday 28 October and Sunday 29 October,** there will be an extended supper, bbqs, food and drink outside the Church.

More details to come. Please save the date and make a special effort to attend any of the weekend Masses on 28 and 29 October. Plan to spend some time outside the church after Mass.

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.

'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD' CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Every Monday and 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.

You are invited

The Ascension Prayer Community is inviting everyone to our prayer meetings. The meetings start with Praise and Worship, followed by teaching/sharing, fellowship and much more. So why not come along and join us, to enjoy a time of worship, teaching, sharing and great fellowship.

When: Thursday 12th October @ 7pm
(Meetings take place every fortnight on a Thursday.)
Where: Parish Hall, 45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights
Contact: Susan (02) 9607 5137 or 0415 342 672

"MEN ONLY' WEEKEND

Date: Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 October
Venue: Good Shepherd Parish Hall, 21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park

Experienced leader from the menALIVE Team will be running the menALIVE weekend for Catholic men. We encourage the men of your parish to come along and be inspired, and rediscover God's purpose for their lives. Enquiries, phone Tivoli 0416 633 322 or the parish office 9825 8154.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Group registrations for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival close next Friday 29 September. If any young people are interested in attending the Festival let's get them registered now by contacting our Deanery Coordinator Benjamin Woolf westerndeanerysydney@gmail.com will assist to get last minute registrations into our group.

As parents or grandparents you might consider giving registration as an early Christmas present - $250 for the 3 day Festival or $125 for day registration. This will be an amazing opportunity for our young people and we need to support them to attend.

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: *I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

Communion Antiphon: *You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping with your statutes.*

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First reading **Isaiah 55:6-9**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18**
The Lord is near to all who call him.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second reading **Philippians 1:20-24, 27**
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results-I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **cf Acts 16:14**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 20:1-6**
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

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