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
Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Pastoral Centre:
45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Office: 9823 2572 **Fax:** 9822 9954
Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au
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
St John of Capistrano, priest
Tuesday 9:10am
St Anthony Claret, bishop
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:10am
Friday - 9:10am
Saturday - 9:10am
Sts Simon and Jude, apostles

NEXT SUNDAY
SUNDAY 28/29 OCTOBER
(30th 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

- What "Belongs to God" in my life is…..
- The goodness and truth I must more fully embrace in order to serve rightly both the kingdom of God and civil authority is…..
- When people look upon my life, the "image" and "inscription" they see is…..

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
21st and 22nd October, 2017

He said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (cf. Matthew 22: 21)

As practicing Catholics, there are many times we hear Jesus calling us to orientate ourselves toward the kingdom of heaven. Jesus used many different parables and images to describe the kingdom of heaven. Heaven is the destined place for those who choose to be part of it. The descriptions in which Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven are the real different realities of heaven, the world (the world in which we exist as bodies and souls), and hell.

As we may know Heaven is the place where people live as angles in the presence of the Trinitarian God and his angles. We can find the evidence of this teaching in the Gospel according to Matthew "In the resurrection, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like the angels in heaven" (Matthew 22: 30) and also in the Gospel according to Mark as it reads "When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Instead, they will be like the angels in heaven" (Mark 12: 25). There will be no pure evil in this place. This place is described as a place of eternally living happiness as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches "This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness".

Hell is an opposite place. It is the place where there is the absence of God. It is thus the place without happiness or also call the place of eternal damnation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church interestingly states "Jesus often speaks of "Gehenna" of "the unquenchable fire" reserved for those who to the end of their lives refuse to believe and be converted, where both soul and body can be lost. Jesus solemnly proclaims that he "will send his angels, and they will gather . . . all evil doers, and throw them into the furnace of fire," and that he will pronounce the condemnation: "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire!". This is the place preferred many times by Jesus as 'the Dark' which we came across in the last week reading "Then the kings says to the attendants, 'bind him hand and foot and throw him out in to the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth'" (cf. Mathew 22: 13).

The world is an interesting place where there is the mingling of good and bad, in other words the coexistence of God and Evil. The contingency of good and evil in the world results from the mercy of God. We may also say that the continuous existence of this world reflects on the mercy of God toward humanity – God wants to save them from the eternal death. The presence of God in the world is ultimately for this reason as the Gospel according to Saint John teaches that " For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Cf. John 3:16).

It is useful to notice that the world in which we live will not last forever. Saint Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians clearly states "For our light and temporary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory that far outweighs our troubles. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthian 4:17-18). Living in this world is the journey on which each individual person makes toward their predestination. It however does not mean that everyone will get to their predestination which is the kingdom of heaven. If an individual wants to reach his/her predestination, that person then needs to cooperate to the means of salvation. This cooperating process requires a harmony interaction with the conditions of so-called 'common good'.

The teaching of Jesus in the Gospel reading today is a good example to this. A good Christian needs to obey not only the divine laws but also the human laws. The encouragement of obeying human laws is a 'should' as long as those laws reflecting the divine laws and bring the ends to the common good. However the real end of all Christians is the life in the kingdom of heaven. For this reason, the attachment of this world will not help Christ's followers reaching their destinations.

The teaching of Jesus on returning to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God is a fulfilment of both human laws and divine laws. This fulfilling action of laws captures the teaching of Christ on honesty and humility. It also radiates the understanding on the differences between the belonging of heaven and the belonging of this world. Apparently, we do not belong to this world but belong to the kingdom of heaven. Indeed, all we have here in the world, especially the gift of life, belong to God the Creator. On this basis, it is necessary for all human beings, especially brothers and sisters of Christ, returning to God what belongs to God and returning to the world what belongs to the world.

Fr. Phan Nguyen

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, RAPPAI, Emilia Petilla DOTONG, Inez BUGEJA, Doug ANDERSON, Nadim SAAD, Dr Amelia CATALAN, Joseph DEQUARA, Lino LOPES, Mariela SOTO, Jessie ZAMMIT, Baby HAYDEN, Rosa Maria SANTOS, Kate BIONDI, Stella DUFF, Joseph SARREO, Lina

Recently Deceased: Nicolina La FERRARA, Felisa SANTOS, Tung Tiak MING, Bruno BORSATO, Manuel OSOTIO

Death Anniversary: David FENECH

Other: Antonia ANGILERI, Students completing the HSC, Special Intention

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 25th October.

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! ☺

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 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

The Bishop's Blend: Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Monday, 6 November at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Hotel Sydney** for The Bishop's Blend, a quarterly breakfast series for young professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to https://bishopsblendsecondedition.eventbrite.com or contact bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org

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

Holy Spirit Pilgrimage to "Holy Land & Holy Places in Italy (17 days" for $5,555 from 3rd - 19th September, 2018 and 7 days "Optional Extension to Egypt & Jordan". Spiritual Directors: Fr Emmanuel-tv & Fr Jude CSSp. Contact for itinerary/info: fremmanueltv@hotmail.com, 0417 999 553, (08) 9341 3079, (08) 9341 3131; or jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au, 0400 759 391, (03) 9789 9672.

CATHOLICCARE Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive. We provide ageing services in the home to help you remain living idependently. Call our friendly CCareline Team to talk about what your might need. CatholicCare CCareline 8am to8pm weekdays call 13 18 19 or emailconnect@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) : Took 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

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

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 26th 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

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
relationship enrichment for married couples
from 24th -26th November,
at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

Ministries Next Week 28/29 OCT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull M Camilleri	R Golubic S Davies	C Goodyer E Villegas	
EXTRA–ORDINARY MINISTERS:	M Harvey D Rotondo A Jameson G Rapisarda H Fenech P Vujica	P Vujica R Morellini S Xuereb A Gibbs	T Vartuli E Villegas G Dunn H Fenech J Bankowski C Goodyer G Rapisarda G Zangari R Hibbs	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	M Privitera	R Demasi		
CLEANERS: Group 5	M Newell PNewell	A Munari	S Strati	R Gentile

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS/ NEWS

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.

BECOME A JOHN THE BAPTIST CATECHIST/HELPER. WE TEACH 1100 STUDENTS IN 6 STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS. CLASSES ARE FOR 30 MINUTES . 2018 WE NEED 7 CATECHISTS TO COVER ALL CLASSES. TRAINING AND ALL RESOURCES PROVIDED.

School	Day	
Governor Phillip King YR 2 CATECHIST NEEDED YR 4 CATECHIST NEEDED	Tuesdays	
COORDINATOR	**Class**	**Time**
Connie Dif T. 0431694007	K – 2 3-4 5-6	9.00 9.30 10.00
Cecil Hills Primary KINDY CATECHIST NEEDED	Wednesdays	
COORDINATOR	**Class**	**Time**
Vicki Scutella 0447310204	k-2 3-6	8.50 9.20
Edensor Park Primary KINDYCATECHIST NEEDED	Wednesdays	
COORDINATOR	**Class**	**Time**
Nina Laureti 0408465149	k-6	9.00
Green Valley Primary	Wednesdays	
COORDINATOR	**Class**	**Time**
Louise Pace 9826 9191	K-6	2.10
Bonnyrigg Heights Primary YR 3 CATECHIST NEEDED	Wednesdays	
COORDINATOR	**Class**	**Time**
Nina Laureti 0408465149	K-2 5-6 3-4	11.30 12.05 12. 35
Busby West Primary YR 2 CATECHIST NEEDED YR 3 CATECHIST NEEDED	Fridays	
COORDINATOR	**Class**	**Time**
Trudi Simpson 0414608538	K-2 3-6	9.10 9.45

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: *To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ears to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

Communion Antiphon: *Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.*

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 45:1, 4-6**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **95:1, 3-7, 7-10**
Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens,

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second reading **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **Philippians 2:15-16**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 22:15-21**
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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