St. John the Baptist Catholic

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

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

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Dominic Dinh
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 4
'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
Wednesday - 7:00pm
St Albert the Great, bishop, doctor
Thursday - 9:10am
St Margaret of Scotland
St Gertrude, virgin
Friday - 9:10am
St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
Saturday - 9:10am
Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul, apostles

NEXT SUNDAY
SUNDAY 18/19 NOVEMBER
(33rd 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 "sleep away" opportunities to encounter Christ when I…..
- The second coming of Christ has an impact on the way I live daily in that…..
- What it means to me to be "wise" during the "long delay" of the Bridegroom's coming is…..

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
11th and 12th November, 2017

Who is a Deacon?

Recently I have been speaking with a few parishioners, and to my surprise I found that many people did not know who a Deacon was and what are his functions.

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: Bishop, Priest, and Deacon. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came "to serve and not to be served. "The Deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a Servant-Church, he is not a lay person but clergy.

What are these "various ministries" of the Deacon? All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and Charity, but Bishops, Priests and Deacons exercise these functions in various ways. As ministers of Word, Deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of Sacrament, Deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of Charity, Deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshalling the Church's resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a Deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a Deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important. Why do some Deacons go on to become priests? For many years ordained ministers "ascended" from one office to another, culminating in ordination to the presbyterate, or priesthood.

The Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965), however, authorized the restoration of the diaconate as a PERMANENT order of ministry. So, while students for the priesthood are still ordained deacons prior to their ordination as priests, there are more than 43,000 deacons in the world who minister in this Order permanently. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions between these so-called "transitional" and "permanent deacons."

May married men be ordained deacons? Yes. The Second Vatican Council decreed that the diaconate, when it was restored as a permanent order in the hierarchy, could be opened to "mature married men, "later clarified to mean men over the age of 35. This is in keeping with the ancient tradition of the Church, in which married men were ordained into ministry. Also in keeping with ancient practice is the expectation that while a married man may be ordained, an ordained man, if his wife should die, may not marry again without special permission. "Celibacy Affects Every Deacon: In one way or another, celibacy affects every Deacon, married or unmarried. Understanding the nature of celibacy—its value and its practice—are essential to the married Deacon. Not only does this understanding strengthen and nurture his own commitment to marital chastity, but it also helps to prepare him for the possibility of living celibate chastity should his wife predecease him. This concern is particularly unique within the diaconate. Tragically, some Deacons who were married at the time of ordination only begin to face the issues involved with celibacy upon the death of their wives. As difficult as this process is, all Deacons need to appreciate the impact celibacy can have on their lives and ministry. "Is a Deacon ordained for the Parish or the Diocese? Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church. Deacons are no different in this regard: they are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the Deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the Deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister under the immediate supervision of the pastor. However, this assignment may be changed at the request of the Deacon or the initiative of the Bishop. Some famous Deacons were St Stephen, St Lawrence, St Vincent, St Francis of Assisi.

Deacon Mervyn Francis

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: Leah FERNANDEZ, Thomas Tien TRAN, Stjepan GOLUBIC

Death Anniversary: Serafina BADINO, Reg McANDREW

Other: Special Intention

ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN AT NOTRE DAME SYDNEY

On Monday 4th of December from 9am to 4:40pm, all women are invited to spend a day around the theme of "The Mystery of His Nativity". There will be Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession and to inspiring talks. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. The retreat is taking place at the Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame. It is free, but registration is essential: 02 8204 4189. owww.trybooking.com/SPJK

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Matt Maher is Coming to Australian Catholic Youth Festival Are You?

Individual registrations are still open for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival! Register now to ensure you can experience all the main presenters and performers. Matt Maher will be joined by Emily Wilson, Steve Angrisano, Fr Rob Galea, Orange Sky and many more. Registrations are up to 18,500.
To register please contact our Deanery Coordinator Benjamin Woolf westerndeanerysydney@gmail.com

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE

Are you looking for a different way to start the new year? Maybe to meet some new people, get fit and conclude the Christmas season on a spiritual high? The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a 7 day, 110 km Catholic pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains which coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany. The pilgrimage begins at Emu Plains on January 2 2018 and finishes at Bell on January 8 2018. For further information and to register for all or part of the pilgrimage see www.epiphanypilgrimage.org or for general information and current news see https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS
Give a little differently this Christmas

As we welcome the season of Advent, the season of waiting and preparing our hearts for the birth of Child Jesus. May we, as individuals, schools and parishes, act and pray for a more just and fair world, a world full of hope, peace, joy and love.

Send a Christmas message to those you love, and give to those in need.

When you chose a Global Gift card to give to family or friends this Christmas, you a bringing a moment of joy and helping create a lifetime of change for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Order Global Gift cards online at: www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413.

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

Youth Alpha
Every 2nd Wednesday evening at 7.30pm - 8.30pm.
Next gathering Wednesday 22nd November.

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! ☺

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT for SEPT/OCT 2017

Over the past two month the Parish St Vincent De Paul Conference assisted a number of people/families of the area. This also includes the Smithfield and Sadleir and Bossley Park areas.

Currently, there are new procedures coming into operation regarding home visitations by volunteers, there is an ongoing refocus on how best to support the needy of the region.

All money from the Poor Boxes, Piety Store and donations support the Society .Thank you Millie for co-ordinating this important ministry. Over the past two months proceeds have been:

Poor Boxes	$544.30
Piety Store	$1,074.40
Donations	$200 (anonymous)

A very special thank you to Frances Demasi for so regularly donating fresh flowers to be sold through the store. Frances's generosity has greatly enhanced the work of SVDP. Also to Millie and Pauline for co-ordinating and managing the Piety Store over this past year. ……. Likewise to Maryann C, Anna P, Carina L, Mary S, Toni J, Dora, Giovanna, Kathy F, Lani V, Lucy M, Marilyn N, May, Olimpia P, Rose W, Silvana S, Theresa L, Yvonne S, Jenny S, Jelica, Josie B, Sarina P, Valerie B. …… Thank you for your generosity of time and spirit over the past year. We congratulate you for your efforts to raise funds for the poor and so make a better place for people in need.

The volunteer members of the Piety Store continue to provide quality religious items at reasonable prices to help support the needy. As a further way of raising funds, this group will be having a TOY SALE on the weekend of 18th & 19th November. Fantastic new toys at very reasonable prices will be available.

As we consider the dire events in our world, let our hearts and minds be uplifted as we rejoice at how blessed we are to be surrounded by family and friends and caring people. With the coming of Christmas, we are challenged to reflect the face of Jesus to all with whom we come in daily contact.

We pray that we may live, not by our fears, but by our hopes; not by our words, but by our deeds……. And that we may continue to think globally but act locally.

Thank you for your continuing support of St Vincent De Paul through donations, Poor Boxes and the Piety Store.

Jim, on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Conference.

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to make and appointment with either Fr Dominic, Fr Phan or Deacon Mervyn. A Baptism date will then be discussed at the meeting.

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).

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

CWF PASTORAL APPEAL: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Charitable Works Fund Appeal (CWF), the charity of the Sydney Archdiocese. This collection our parish was asked to raise $4700. Our Parish raised $4,354.00. Thank you for your generosity and support.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

November is a special month to remember and pray for the deceased. All Masses in November are offered for the faithful departed. November Mass Offering Envelopes are available in the Church and you are encouraged to write the names of deceased relatives on the envelopes. Names are added to the Parish Book of Life and remembered throughout the month.

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 23rd November @ 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

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

FREE Carols by Candlelight in the ground of the Liverpool Catholic Club on Sunday 3 December, programs starts at 6:45pm, carols 7:30pm. Also live nativity scene and a pen with nursery animals. Fireworks display to conclude the evening. All welcome. Details on www.liverpoolcatholic.com.au

Ministries Next Week 18/19 NOV	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Oliveri M Camilleri	S Hely M Jebrail	N Laureti C Porreca	J Sullivan C Sullivan
EXTRA–ORDINARY MINISTERS:	S Rapisarda J Oliveri L Topic M Brito J Burxgx V Petkovic M Chun	F Bushby A Liberatore J Gauchi G Vanderwert	G Zangari J Burxgx R Hibbs M Aulsebrook C Porreca A Pinto J Papaleo G Buttel N Laureti	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	G Adam	E Villegas		
CLEANERS: Group 8	N Khosho C Lazar	I Hanna	A Essa	W al-Safar

UPCOMING PARISH & WESTERN DEANERY EVENTS/ NEWS

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" ***Psalm 133:1***

LAST CHANCE TO RSVP

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR VOUNTEERS AND HELPERS
Wednesday 22nd November, 2017

Rosary begins at 6:30pm Mass follows at 7:00pm
Afterwards a dinner to celebrate 'Unity in our Parish'
RSVP is essential by Tuesday 14th November
Leanne in the Parish Office 9823 2572

If you have helped in the parish in anyway this year i.e. Catechist, Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Wardens, Musicians, Sacramental Core Group, Altar Servers, Cleaners, Linen, Adoration, Banners, Counters, Flowers, Finance Committee, Children's Liturgy, Housie, Youth, Alpha, Suppers and Morning Teas , SVDP Piety Store, RCIA please come.

BECOME A ST. 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	9.00 9.30
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 0412 815 356	K-6	2.00
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: *Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.*

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.*

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 **Wisdom 6:1`2-16**
A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself
known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **62:2-8**
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second reading **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 24:42, 44**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 25:1-13**
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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