



# 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

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

#### 'Prayer of the Church'

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

**Monday - 9:10am**

*Mary Mother of God*

**Tuesday - 9:10am**

*Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors*

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

**Thursday - 9:10am**

**Friday - 9:10am**

**Saturday - 9:10am**

## NEXT SUNDAY

### SUNDAY 6/7

#### JANUARY (The Epiphany of the Lord Year B)

**Saturday Vigil Mass:**

**5:30pm**

**Sunday Masses:**

**8:00am, 10:00am and**

**5:30pm**

## 4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

## First Friday of the Month:

7:00pm Mass in

Vietnamese

**Reconciliations:**

Saturdays – 4:15–5:00pm



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year B)

30th and 31st December, 2017

## *Be a loving family*

A couple renew their marital vows at their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. At the reception after Mass, the husband is asked by the master of ceremonies, “*If you were given the chance to start life anew, would you marry the same woman?*” Caught by surprise, the husband ponders on the question in silence. While the wife waits for his reply nervously. Then in front of all the guests, he says emphatically, “*Yes, I definitely will!*” On hearing this, the wife bursts into tears. “*these are tears of joy,*” she explains. “*I’m not perfect, but I try my best to be one because of his love.*”

Love makes perfect!

This Sunday the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the **Holy Family** to highlight the importance of the family, ‘*the domestic church*’. She sets the Holy Family of Nazareth as an example. It is not a pie in the sky sort of Feast i.e. say your prayers and all will be well. Instead, Mary and Joseph have to deal with many crisis right from the beginning of their relationship. Joseph had doubts about Mary’s pregnancy, they could not find a proper place for Mary to give birth, they have to protect Jesus from Herod’s persecution, Jesus was lost in the temple.

The word family often associates with members being ‘at home’ for one another. This is becoming more and more of a problem in our society when we are not at home with ourselves and we spend less time to be together. As a result we find it hard to listen attentively to one another. There are many broken families when husbands and wives are not willing to listen and support one another to overcome their differences in crisis.

In today’s Gospel, Mary is told by Simeon, “*You yourself shall be pierced with a sword.*” Mary and Joseph both listen to the word of God, treasure it in their hearts then act upon it, even though they did not understand what Simeon said to them, Joseph and Mary have shown their willing to respond patiently and lovingly, and Mary ‘*kept all these things in her heart.*’ Patient and love will strengthen the relationship of family members and help them to overcome critical moments.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brings into focus the most important aspect of family life which is love. It has been said that the best gift that parents can give their children is to love one another. The secret of an enduring family life is to put the love of God in every aspect of daily living. It is true that love conquers all, and the love of God will make it possible for every family to overcome all obstacles. Let us reflect on our own family’s conflict and crisis, may Jesus, Mary and Joseph inspire us with their examples and may our families become more loving and more caring.

Fr Dominic Dinh

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

**2204** The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realisation of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a *domestic church*. It is a community of, faith, hope and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the new Testament.

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



**Sick:** Nancy VARTULI, Doug ANDERSON

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Timothy O'TOOLE, Gerald GLEESON, John Dominic BASTIANS, Maria, Renato IGNACIO

**Death Anniversary:** Mrs Mary FITZSIMONS, Kuriakose KATTAPPURAM

**Other:** Special Intention, Madeleine & Alicea



### **ANNointing of the Sick**

If you have a family member or know of anyone who is sick and needs anointing please contact the Parish office on 9823 2572 or in an emergency please contact Fr Dominic on 0423 420 639.



### **St Gregory the Nazianzen**

Doctor of the Church, born at Arianzus, in Asia Minor, c. 325; died at the same place, 389. He was son -- one of three children -- of Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus (329-374), in the southwest of Cappadocia, and of Nonna, a daughter of Christian parents. The saint's father was originally a member of the heretical sect of the Hypsistarii, or Hypsistiani, and was converted to Catholicity by the influence of his pious wife. His two sons, who seem to have been born between the dates of their father's priestly ordination and episcopal consecration, were sent to a famous school at Caesarea, capital of Cappadocia, and educated by Carterius, probably the same one who was afterwards tutor of St. John Chrysostom. Here commenced the friendship between Basil and Gregory which intimately affected both their lives, as well as the development of the theology of their age. From Caesarea in Cappadocia Gregory proceeded to Caesarea in Palestine, where he studied rhetoric under Thespelius; and thence to Alexandria, of which Athanasius was then bishop, through at the time in exile. Setting out by sea from Alexandria to Athens, Gregory was all but lost in a great storm, and some of his biographers infer -- though the fact is not certain -- that when in danger of death he and his companions received the rite of baptism. He had certainly not been baptized in infancy, though dedicated to God by his pious mother; but there is some authority for believing that he received the sacrament, not on his voyage to Athens, but on his return to Nazianzus some years later. At Athens Gregory and Basil, who had parted at Caesarea, met again, renewed their youthful friendship, and studied rhetoric together under the famous teachers Himerius and Proaeresius. Among their fellow students was Julian, afterwards known as the Apostate, whose real character Gregory asserts that he had even then discerned and thoroughly distrusted him. The saint's studies at Athens (which Basil left before his friend) extended over some ten years; and when he departed in 356 for his native province, visiting Constantinople

# **Saints of the Week**

### **Mary Mother of God**



Mary, also known as St. Mary the Virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Mary, Mary Mother of God or the Virgin Mary is believed by many to be the greatest of all Christian saints. The Virgin Mother "was, after her Son, exalted by divine grace above all angels and men."

**Feast Day** January 1

**Patron of all humanity**

Birth: September 8, Nativity of Mary

### **St Basil the Great**

St. Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He was one of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. Several of his brothers and sisters are honored among the saints. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little

later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually he decided to become a monk and found a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made bishop of Caesaria. In this post until his death in 379, he continued to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was responsible for the victory of Nicene orthodoxy over Arianism in the Byzantine East, and the denunciation of Arianism at the Council of Constantinople in 381-82 was in large measure due to his efforts. Basil fought simony, aided the victims of drought and famine, strove for a better clergy, insisted on a rigid clerical discipline, fearlessly denounced evil wherever he detected it, and excommunicated those involved in the widespread prostitution traffic in Cappadocia. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity.



**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.

### **LETTERS TO GOD FROM CHILDREN**

Dear God, I bet it is hard for you to love all the people in the world. There are only five people in my family and I can never do it. Sam (6)

Dear God, Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy Joyce (4)

## PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

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

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

### We are in need of new leaders and helpers

If you are interested in joining our team please contact Angela (9606 8403 or 0410 964 196).



Please let Angela or your co-ordinator know (as soon as possible) whether you would like to continue being a Children's Liturgy Leader in 2018.

Please leave your folder and photocopies for 2017 in the Church Meeting Room or the Children's Liturgy cupboard.

Thank you,  
Angela Galdas

Is there  
more to  
life than this



### YOU ARE INVITED

**Alpha - Thursday evening at  
7pm - 9:15pm  
in the Parish Hall**

The second Alpha program had come to an end. The program was intended to train leaders for the next steps regarding bringing Christ back to the lost sheep and also those who wish to know Christ. In the last two years we achieved many significant expectations such as training of leaders and bringing a taste of faith encounter in this new millennium. Great thanks to all participants, leaders and helpers. You guys are **AWESOME!**

We will have the Alpha Reunion session on the **8th March 2018** for members of 2016 and 2017. This is also an opened invitation to those who want to COME and SEE.

The next step of this program will focus on Bible Study and also the sharing of CHRIST ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE. 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](mailto:elizabeth_dimarco14@hotmail.com)



**ATTENTION EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:** The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.



**ATTENTION READERS:** The new roster is now available and please take home your copy of "Break Open the Word" which is located in the Church alcove.

Ministries Next Week 6/7 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	A Dionysatos E Vella	L Barilla S Hely	N Dubuisson A Patrikios	G Colusso C Sullivan
<b>EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTERS:</b>	A Watts M Pangallo C Araco A Vlahadannis D Vella A Vella	D Sullivan Delicia Vella R Imbert J Finucane D Trigana	G Rapisarda G Zangari R Hibbs M Aulsebrook J urxg C Porreca	
<b>COUNTERS: CHURCH</b>	M Privitera	R Demasi		
<b>CLEANERS: Group 7</b>	R Shamounadeh A Tsolomiti	A Israel	J Poljak	A Falzon



## '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

Reflection, followed by teaching/sharing, fellowship and much more. So why not come along and join us, to enjoy a time of reflection, teaching, sharing and great fellowship.

**When: Thursday 1st February, 2018 @ 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



## Youth Corner

Hi guys,

We would love to hear your feedback on what you would like to see happen with the youth in the Parish.

You are welcome to write to the parish office telling us what activities you would like to do and what you would like to see in the youth corner of this bulletin.

Our postal address is 45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, NSW, 2177 or you can email us at: [info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au)

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing your suggestions.



## **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:** *The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

**Next Sunday:**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord (Year B)**  
First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

### Reflection Questions.....

- ◆ Righteousness means to me..... Holiness means to me.....
- ◆ I grow in Holiness when..... I help others grow in holiness when..... Others help me grow in holiness when.....
- ◆ What keeps me from growing in righteousness and holiness is.....

**First reading**                                   **Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3**  
**A reading from the book of Genesis**

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

### The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm**                           **127:1-5**  
**Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works!

*Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

*Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

*Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.

*Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

**Second reading**                                   **Colossians 3:12-21**  
**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the

Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

### The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation**                           **Hebrews 1:1-2**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**   **Luke 2:22-40**  
**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

### The Gospel of the Lord