



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

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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 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 Vincent, deacon, martyr

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm
St Francis de Sales, bishop,
doctor

Thursday - 9:10am

The Conversion of St Paul,
apostle

Friday - 9:10am

Australia Day

Saturday - 9:10am

St Angela Merici, virgin
Sts Timothy and Titus

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 27/28 JANUARY

(4th Sunday in Ordinary
Time 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

1st Friday of the Month:

7:00pm Mass in

Vietnamese

Reconciliations:

Saturdays — 4:15—5:00pm



The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 20th and 21st January, 2018

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Cf. Mark 1: 15)

When we heard of Jonah in the Bible, most of us think of the incident in which he was swallowed by the great fish. Actually that story was but a prelude to today's lesson. God wanted Jonah to preach to the pagan city of Nineveh, but Jonah felt that only Jews should hear the Word of God, and so he tried to run away. In a storm at sea, brought on by God's anger, he was cast into the water only to be swallowed by the fish and then vomited on the shore. He received a second command from God, to preach to the pagans of Nineveh. This time he obeyed, and much to his surprise the people heeded the word of God and repent.

So-called fire and brimstone sermons of the type preached by Jonah are no longer popular. You would probably be shocked and dismayed to hear this type of preaching like Jonah did: "Repent! The end is coming". This is the reality of human emotion in today society. It is indeed hard to hear but it does not mean that there is not an end. And yet in today's gospel we hear Jesus himself proclaim: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel".

Shortly after he appeared in Galilee preaching the need for repentance and faith, Jesus called Andrew and Peter, James and John away from their work as fishermen to make them fishers of men. That same call Jesus continues to extend to bishops and priests down through the centuries. The reason is that his message of faith and repentance is the message for people of all times and all places. In this same line of teaching, the Second Vatican Council in its Constitution on the Liturgy clearly stated: "Therefore the Church announces the good tidings of salvation to those who do not believe, so that all men may know the true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, and may be converted from their ways, doing penance [24]. To believers also the Church must ever preach faith and penance, she must prepare them for the sacraments, teach them to observe all that Christ has commanded [25], and invite them to all the works of charity, piety, and the apostolate. For all these works make it clear that Christ's faithful, though not of this world, are to be the light of the world and to glorify the Father before men."

Yes, even to the believers the Church must constantly preach faith and penance. The penance preferred to is perhaps viewed as repentance. Repentance means turn away from sin and a turning toward God, a true change of heart necessary for all of us. To begin with, we are all really converts to the faith. No one can be born a Catholic in the way which one can be born a citizen of a country. Even if we were baptized as infants, at some time we must make for ourselves a profession of faith (confirmation) and a decision to follow Christ. Today Jesus talks to us: "Repent (reform your life), and believe in the gospel". Now is a good time to realize that Jesus is the only way to salvation, and that our whole life must base on his teachings. Indeed, no one, nothing can give us the eternal life but only Jesus and his teachings. "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Cf. Mark 1: 15).

Fr Phan Nguyen

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



Sick: Nancy VARTULI, Doug ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, Ronald & Ruben SAPIN

Recently Deceased: Speraza CAMILLERI, Lewis VELLA, Fr Grove JOHNSON, Fransi BOMBAC, Librada Guinto LEONES

Death Anniversary: Joseph & Carole SHERRY



St Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales was born to a noble family at Chateau de Sales in the Kingdom of Savoy near Geneva, Switzerland on August 21, 1567. He was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Francis was both intelligent and gentle. From a very early age, he desired to serve God. He knew

for years he had a vocation to the priesthood, but kept it from his family. His father wanted him to enter a career in law and politics.

In 1580, Francis attended the University of Paris, and at 24 years-old, he received his doctorate in law at the University of Padua.

All the time, he never lost his passion for God. He studied theology and practiced mental prayers, but kept quiet about his devotion. To please his father, he also studied fencing and riding.

God made his will clear to Francis one day while he was riding. Francis fell from his horse three times that day. Every time he fell, the sword came out of the scabbard, and every time it came out, the sword and scabbard came to rest on the ground in the shape of the Christian cross.

After much discussion and disagreement from his father, Francis was ordained to the priesthood and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, in 1593, by the Bishop of Geneva.

Feast Day January 24

Patron of Catholic writers, the Catholic press, the deaf, journalists, adult education.



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.

Saints of the Week



St Vincent

St. Vincent Pallotti, Priest. Born in Rome in 1795, St. Vincent became a priest and dedicated himself completely to God and cared for souls. He dreamed of gaining for Christ all non-Catholics, especially the Mohammedans. To this end he inaugurated a revolutionary program which envisaged the collaboration of the laity in the apostolate of the clergy. But St. Vincent was also well aware of the many deprivations in the natural sphere that hindered the spread of the Faith. He thus obtained and spent huge sums for the poor and underprivileged. He founded guilds for workers, agriculture schools, loan associations, orphanages and homes for girls - all of which made him the pioneer and precursor of Catholic Action. His great legacy was the congregation which he founded for urban mission work, known as the "Society for Catholic Action". This indefatigable labourer for Christ in 1850 from a severe cold which he most likely caught on a cold rainy night after giving his cloak to a beggar who had none.

Feast Day January 22

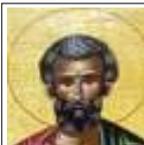


St Angela Merici

Orphaned young, she went to Salo to live in the home of an uncle. Later she joined the Third Order of St. Francis. At the age of 20 she returned to Desenzano, where she gathered about her a group of girls who taught the catechism to the children of the village. In 1506, while praying in the fields of Brudazzo, Angela had a vision in which she was told that she would found a society of virgins at Brescia. The citizens of Brescia came to regard her as a prophet and a saint. On Nov. 25, 1535, at Brescia, Angela and 28 companions consecrated themselves to God by a vow of virginity, and the Company of St. Ursula was born. Angela drew up her rule in 1536, which provided for the Christian education of girls in order to restore the family and, through the family, the whole of Christian society. She was unanimously elected superior 1537. Angela is often celebrated as a woman of foresight and courage who enjoined her successors to make changes according to the needs of the time.

Feast Day January 27

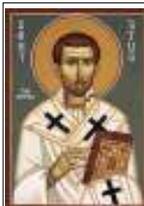
Patron of sick, disabled and physically challenged people and those grieving the loss of parents.



St Timothy

Born at Lystra, Lycaenia, Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Eunice, a converted Jewess. He joined St. Paul when Paul preached at Lystra replacing Barnabas, and became Paul's close friend and confidant. Timothy was probably with Paul when the Apostle was imprisoned at Caesarea and then Rome, and was himself imprisoned but then freed. According to tradition, he went to Ephesus, became its first bishop, and was stoned to death there when he opposed the pagan festival of Katagogian in honor of Diana. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy, one written about 65 from Macedonia and the second from Rome while he was in prison awaiting execution.

Feast Day January 26



St Titus

Disciple and companion of St. Paul to whom the great saint addressed one of his letters. Paul referred to Titus as "my true child in our common faith". He was dispatched to Corinth, Greece, where he successfully reconciled the Christian community there with Paul, its founder. Titus was

later left on the island of Crete to help organize the Church, although he soon went to Dalmatia, Croatia. According to Eusebius of Caesarea in the Ecclesiastical History, he served as the first bishop of Crete. He was buried in Cortyna (Gortyna), Crete; his head was later translated to Venice during the invasion of Crete by the Saracens in 832 and was enshrined in St. Mark's, Venice, Italy.

Feast Day January 26



St. Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers, and tent makers. His feast day is on June 29 when he is honoured with Saint Peter, although he is also honoured on other days throughout the year, **January 25, for his conversion**, February 16, for his shipwreck, and November 18 for the dedication of his Basilica.

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.



LENTEN GROUPS: If any parishioners are interested in leading a Lenten Group or you wish to join a Lenten Group please contact the parish office so that we can order the appropriate Lenten resources. Thank you



Maltese Community Council of NSW Australia Day 2018 Celebration

to be held on Sunday 28th January, 2018 at Holroyd Function Centre, 17 Miller Street, Merrylands (parking available on site) from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Job Vacancy: Manager, Mission and Outreach, CatholicCare Sydney. An opportunity to build strategic partnerships with parishes, schools and other Catholic entities in Sydney and to ensure CatholicCare's mission and the services it provides is known and understood within the broader Catholic community. Applications close 26 January. www.catholicjobsonline.com.au/jobs/manager-mission-outreach-catholiccare-sydney

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



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

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. Thank you.

Ministries Next Week 27/28 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Dionysatos E Vella	J Poljak T Simpson	G Zangari F Holden	G Colusso C Sullivan
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS:	M Harvey D Rotondo A Jameson G Rapisarda H Fenech P Vujica	M Esposito F Foti F Bushby A Liberatore J Gauchi	J Bankowski C Goodyer G Rapisarda G Zangari R Hibbs M Aulsebrook	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	F Aloe	J Coiera		
CLEANERS: Group 2	S Peters N Roel	K Boya	S Shabo	D Toma
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	28/1/2018	4/2/2018	11/2/2018	18/2/2018
	Marianna Caruso	Denise Triganza	Michelle De Luca	Sara Peters



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 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



LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MORNING TEA

As next weekend is the last weekend of the month, please bring along a plate to share after mass and stay to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with your community.



A Memorial Mass is being held for Speraza Camilleri (Mother of Maria Vella) this Tuesday 23rd January commencing at 7:00pm in the Church.

Youth Corner

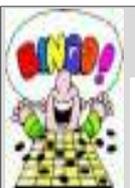
Hi guys,

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

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

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.*

Communion Antiphon: *Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Jesus invites me to follow him by.....
- ♦ Jesus brings about the kingdom of God surprisingly *through* me when I.....
- ♦ What I need to change ("repent") in order to follow Jesus more faithfully is.....

First reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

24:4-6, 7-9

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me.
because of your goodness, O Lord.

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

Teach me your ways, O Lord.



Second reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:

Believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord