



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 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 Agatha, virgin, martyr

Tuesday - 9:10am

*St Paul Miki and
companions, martyrs*

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

St Jerome Emiliani

St Josephine Bakhita, virgin

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

St Scholastica, virgin

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 10/11

**FEBRUARY (6th 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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

3rd and 4th February, 2018

Reflection Mark 1:29-39

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples, they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Deacon Mervyn Francis

SALVIFIC SUFFERING— APOSTOLIC LETTER - St. JOHN PAUL II

"Suffering is certainly part of the mystery of man. Perhaps suffering is not wrapped up as much as man is by this mystery, which is an especially impenetrable one. The Second Vatican Council expressed this truth that "...only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. In fact..., Christ, the final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and his love, fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear"(100). If these words refer to everything that concerns the mystery of man, then they certainly refer in a very special way to human suffering. Precisely at this point the "revealing of man to himself and making his supreme vocation clear" is particularly indispensable. It also happens as experience proves—that this can be particularly dramatic. But when it is completely accomplished and becomes the light of human life, it is particularly blessed. "Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful"

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: Fr Peter NEVILLE, Rosita Guinto ROMEY, Cathy SALGATAR, Lorraine JASON, Speraza CAMILLERI, Fr Grove JOHNSON

Death Anniversary:

Other: Special Intention



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 Agatha

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. She was born around 231 in Sicily to a rich and noble family.

From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her. One of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge. To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. She suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus sent her off to prison a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her. Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Saviour, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture. This evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers.

After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

Feast day: February 5

Patron of: Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer, against fire, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses



St Paul Miki and Companions

Paul was the son of a Japanese military leader. He was born at Tounucumada, Japan, was educated at the Jesuit college of Anziquiama, joined the Jesuits in 1580, and became known for his eloquent preaching. He was crucified on February 5 with twenty-five other Catholics during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, ruler of Japan in the name of the emperor. Among the Japanese laymen who suffered the same fate were: Francis, a carpenter who was arrested while watching the executions and then crucified; Gabriel, the nineteen year old son of the Franciscan's porter; Leo Kinuya, a twenty-eight year old carpenter from Miyako; Diego Kisai (or Kizayemon), temporal coadjutor of the Jesuits; Joachim Sakakibara, cook for the Franciscans at Osaka; Peter Sukejiro, sent by a Jesuit priest to help the prisoners, who was then arrested; Cosmas Takeya from Owari, who had preached in Osaka; and Ventura from Miyako, who had been baptized by the Jesuits, gave up his Catholicism on the death of his father, became a bonze, and was brought back to the Church by the Franciscans. They were all canonized as the Martyrs of Japan in 1862.

Feast day: February 6



St Jerome Emiliani

Imprisoned for years, he embraced God. He later returned to Venice and studied to be a priest. He devoted himself to the poor, the suffering and especially the orphans. He became their family. He committed his life to helping them. He founded orphanages, hospitals, schools and shelters. He took ill with the plague while caring for others and died in 1537 at the age of 56.

Feast day: February 8 **Patron:** of abandoned children and orphans



St Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in the village of Olgossa in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was a member of the Daju people and her uncle was a tribal chief. Due to her family lineage, she grew up happy and relatively prosperous, saying that as a child, she did not know suffering. In February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She was placed in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. While she was in the custody of the sisters, she came to learn about God. According to Josephine, she had always known about God, who created all things, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ. When her mistress returned from Sudan, Josephine refused to leave. The case went to court, and the court found that slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before Josephine was born, so she could not be lawfully made a slave. She was declared free. She was baptized on January 9, 1890 and took the name Josephine Margaret and Fortunata. (Fortunata is the Latin translation for her Arabic name, Bakhita). She also received the sacraments of her first holy communion and confirmation on the same day. These three sacraments are the sacraments of initiation into the Church and were always given together in the early Church. The Archbishop who gave her the sacraments would later become Pope Pius X. Josephine became a novice with the Canossian Daughters of Charity religious order on December 7, 1893, and took her final vows on December 8, 1896. She was eventually assigned to a convent in Schio, Vicenza. For the next 42 years of her life, she worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent. She also travelled and visited other convents telling her story to other sisters and preparing them for work in Africa. She was known for her gentle voice and smile. She was gentle and charismatic, and was often referred to lovingly as the "little brown sister" or honourably as the "black mother." In her later years, she began to suffer physical pain and was forced to use a wheelchair. But she always remained cheerful. On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" She then died. She was canonized on October 1, 2000.

Feast Day: February 8 **Patron of:** Sudan



St Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict, consecrated her life to God from her earliest youth. After her brother went to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery, she took up her abode in the neighborhood at Plombariola, where she founded and governed a monastery of nuns, about five miles from that of St.

Benedict, who, it appears, also directed his sister and her nuns. She visited her brother once a year, and as she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he went in company with some of his brethren to meet her at a house some distance away. These visits were spent in conferring together on spiritual matters. On one occasion they had passed the time as usual in prayer and pious conversation and in the evening they sat down to take their reflection. St. Scholastica begged her brother to remain until the next day. St. Benedict refused to spend the night outside his monastery. She had recourse to prayer and a furious thunderstorm burst so that neither St. Benedict nor any of his companions could return home. They spent the night in spiritual conferences. The next morning they parted to meet no more on earth. Three days later St. Scholastica died, and her holy brother beheld her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven. He sent his brethren to bring her body to his monastery and laid it in the tomb he had prepared for himself. She died about the year 543, and St. Benedict followed her soon after.

Feast Day: February 10

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

LENTEN TALK

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4). Undoubtedly we are called to read and meditate on the word of God. Before we begin our Lent, Fr Dominic will facilitate meditation on the Word, commences on **Saturday**

10/2/18 at 10am-11am (after morning Mass). Everyone are invited to attend especially **all our ministers**, an opportunity to renewing your ministries.



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 11th February, 2018** (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 Anthony Randazzo.

Some parking for disabled people is available in the school grounds and general parking in the nearby council car park.



'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.

Ministries Next Week 10/11 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis J Oliveri	R Golubic L Barilla	A Patrikios A Watts	C Sullivan G Colusso
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTERS:	M Pangallo C Araco A Vlahadamis D Vella A Vella D Tomic	R Imbert J Finucane D Triganza L Barilla P Vujica	D Oliveri N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib T Vartuli E Villegas	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	J Oliveri	V Baltazar	Younart	R Demasi
CLEANERS: Group 4	Family Thang Vu	F Camacho	A Froio	N Leyland
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	11/2/2018	18/2/2018	25/2/2018	4/3/2018
	Michelle De Luca	Sara Peters	Salin Shabo	Zendy Penitani



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.

CATECHIST NEWS

Today we celebrate Catechist Sunday. Today we acknowledge over 1900 Catechists in the Archdiocese and in our Parish **65 catechists/helpers** who generously give their time to teach the Catholic faith to over 1100 children in our 6 public schools on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Due to work and family commitments and some catechists teaching 3 or 4 classes we need **8 catechists to cover all classes**. Training, resources and recognition for your years of service are available.

We congratulate the following catechists receiving certificates for the years of service.

5 Year Certificates to Fe Atanacio, Angela Callipari, Josie Hadad, Marie Pangallo and Tina Shashai.

10 Year Certificates to Delicia Vella and Nicole Dubuisson.

Today you will hear from several of our catechists on their wonderful and fulfilling experiences. Please join us for a cuppa after Mass and speak to one of our catechists or take a brochure and think about it and contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or any of the coordinators.

Parish Coordinator Nina Laureti 0408 465 149

Connie Giannone 0431 694 007 Governor Phillip King 9am - 10:30am Tuesdays **in need of Year 2, 4 and 5 Catechists**

Nina Laureti Edensor Park Primary 9am to 9:30am - **Kindy and Year 5 catechist needed**

Bonnyrigg Heights 11:30am to 1pm Wednesdays - **Year 3 catechist needed**

Vicky Scutella 0447 310 204 Cecil Hills Primary 8:50am to 9:50am Wednesdays

Louise Pace 0412 815 356 Green Valley Primary 2pm to 2:30pm on Wednesdays

Trudi Simpson 0414 608 538 Busby West Primary 9am to 10:15am Fridays - **Year 2 and 4 catechists needed**.

Helpers are always needed and are invaluable assistants in the classroom.

FOR CURRENT OR NEW CATECHISTS AND HELPERS

We are hosting the Basic One course at JB on **Monday evenings**. It is now a legal requirement for all catechists/helpers except those who joined in 2017 to do the **SAFEGUARDING course** (old 1.1) Vincent will run this course on **Monday 12th February in the Parish Hall from 6:30pm to 9:00pm**. Please let your coordinator know if you are able to attend. This course is also available on Monday 19th February at Mt Pritchard 9:45am to 2:00pm (please let Nina know if you intend to attend this course).

1.2 Curriculum training before teaching/helping a class on Monday 19th February and 1.3 Classroom Management on 26th February in the Parish Hall. All new catechists/helpers must complete these first 3 courses before starting classes. This course is also a great refresher for us all.

May God continue to bless you in bringing the hope and joy of Jesus to the children entrusted in our care.

Nina Laureti

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.*

Communion Antiphon: *Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.*

Next Sunday:

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading: Leviticus 44-46

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Reflection Questions.....

- I look for Jesus in these places..... I encounter Jesus when.....
- Jesus is Good News for me because..... I am Good News for others when.....
- My life “preaches” Jesus’ Presence and Good News when I.....

First reading Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, ‘When will it be day?’

Risen I think, ‘How slowly evening comes!’

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 146:1-6

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving;
to him our praise is due.

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.

The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a

responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, ‘Everybody is looking for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.’ And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord