



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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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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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

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 10/11 MARCH

(Fourth Sunday of Lent 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 of Lent (Year B)

3rd and 4th March, 2018

Self reflect

One foggy, stormy night at sea, a ship's captain caught sight of what looked like the light of another ship heading straight toward him. He ordered his signalman to relay a message to the oncoming ship: "Change your course twenty degrees to the north." Immediately, there came the reply: "Change your course twenty degrees to the south." The light was getting closer, so the Captain responded firmly, "I'm the Captain, and I tell you to change your course north!" But the reply was equally firm, "I'm only a seaman, but you must change your course south!" Outraged at such insolence as the light boomed nearer and nearer, the Captain fired back the message, "You idiot! I'm giving you one last chance to change your course north. I am a battleship!" To which he received a cool reply, "I'm giving you one last chance to change your course south. I am a lighthouse."

The people in the Gospel today react similar to the Captain of the ship - self centred. They demand, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Instead, they should be self-reflecting upon Jesus' action and words. Jesus is defiant, forceful and showing his frustration. The wanton proliferation of commerce within the temple precinct is tantamount to desecrating the house of God. Jesus' action is not directly only against the money-changers and sellers of animals but also against the temple authorities who allow people to turn God's house into a 'marketplace.' Furthermore, Jesus' words "destroy this temple (Jesus' body), and in three days I will raise it up" remind us what true worship entails. It is not enough to worship in the temple, but the spirit of praising God must be taken to heart and show out in a life of loving-service. When we actually live Jesus' message we will find it easier to forgive those who offended us, and we will be eager to reach out to heal broken relationship.

May this Lenten season cleanse us from our greed, anger, prejudice, jealousy and anything that distracts us from living a life that Jesus had lived and shown us.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2072. Since they express man's fundamental duties towards God and towards his neighbour, the Ten Commandments reveal, in their primordial content, grave obligations. They are fundamentally immutable, and they obliged always and everywhere. No one can dispense from them. The Ten Commandments are engraved by God in the human heart.

Last Week Trivia Answers

Parish Priests: Fr John Langtry, Fr Bill Wright, Fr Michael McLean, Fr Kelvin Lovegrove and Dominic Dinh

Adm Fr James McCathy, **AP** Fr Joseph Gedeon, Epeli Qimaqima, Phan Nguyen

Trivia Questions

1. What are the sacraments of initiation?
2. Why is Baptism such an important sacrament for Christians?



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



Sick: Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER, Nancy VARTULI, Doug ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, Ronald & Ruben SAPIN

Recently Deceased: Sava PREDIC, Alex GLENISTER, John THWAITES, Marco MADELEINE, Fr Peter NEVILLE

Death Anniversary: Marie Ruth LEMASSON, Paul GAUCI, Philippa MUSCAT, Lily FENECH, Paul & Anna NGUYEN, Martha PHAM

Other: Femili GULLO, Special Intention

WOMEN GROUP

Do you come to church and see other women and wonder who they are?

I do and would like to get the women in this parish together for a social group so that we can make new friends and get to know each other on an ongoing basis.

I was thinking that in 4 weeks we could get together and have a dinner. That would be on **Tuesday the 27th March** at The Tafe at Wetherill Park starting at 6:30pm. They finish between 8:30 and 9:00pm so it won't be a late night. They do a 3 course meal for \$30.00 drinks extra. I can vouch that it is very good and we could have the restaurant to ourselves depending on numbers.

If you are young or a more mature woman we would love to see you. Bring a friend.

We could also work out car pooling if you are not comfortable to drive at night.

Please contact Mary Fraser on 0403 647 399 as soon as possible so I can work out numbers.

Thank you

AFTERNOON FOR COUPLES HOPING TO CONCEIVE:

Married couples (Catholic or otherwise) who are hoping for children, struggling to conceive, or who wish to better understand what the Church offers and promotes in regard to fertility awareness and assistance are invited to an afternoon of information and discussion. It is also an important opportunity for fellowship with other couples facing similar difficulties.

WHERE: Dooleys Waterview Club, Silverwater Road, Silverwater.

WHEN: **Saturday 17 March 2018, 2:00pm - 4:30pm.**

Please direct RSVPs and inquiries to LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or phone (02) 9307 8404.

'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD' CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Every Tuesday at 8pm for 8:15pm start
Give 30 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel. If you are new to the meditation group can you please allow one hour. For further information, contact Frances on 0438 213 313.



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ALPHA REUNION: ALPHA 1 & ALPHA 2 COURSE

**Thursday evening at 7:00pm– 9:15pm
Commencing on March 8, 2018, at 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 DiMarco at 0426 242 600, or email at elizabeth_dimarco14@hotmail.com



We congratulate the family of Ethan MALLIA who will be baptised here this Sunday 4th March.

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.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples 27th – 29th April 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



Volunteer with Palms Australia

Get out there and be the Church, "bruised, hurting and dirty" Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. Palms volunteers don't do quick fixes, but immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, share them with our global family!

Contact Christine at Palms on 02 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/volunteer/

VOCATIONS

There will be a **Seminary Open Day on Sunday 11th March** for anyone who is interested in Vocation to see how they live at Homebush. For more information please visit www.vocationcentre.org.au or call (02) 9307 8433 or email: vocations@sydneycatholic.org

MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE - MARCH RETREATS
Please see Church noticeboard for more information

The Maltese Cultural Association. Come and see a spectacular concert with a renowned singer from Malta, Ludwig Gale. He will be supported by our talented locals James Cassar and Alee in celebrating Valletta voted the EU capital of culture for 2018 at Wentworthville Leagues Club on 25th March at 2pm. Tickets \$22 adult and \$10 for children 12yo. For more info ring Mary Ramundi on 9688 1432 or Monica Ledger on 9896 0712

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION



Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass on Sunday 4th March**. Following Mass Fr Dominic and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.



First Holy Communion - Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June and Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June.



Reconciliation - There will be NO Sacramental Program for Reconciliation this year. The Reconciliation Sacramental program will recommence in November 2019 for children Year 3 and above.



Confirmation - Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September.

Please keep watching this space for changes and updates or contact the Parish Office for more information.

PARISH CENSUS

A Parish Census will be taken this weekend as Parish records have not been updated for the last 10 years. **All Parishioners** are requested to complete the Census form provided at all Masses. If you have a Catholic neighbour that will not be able to attend a Mass you are welcome to take a form home for them to complete as well. It is very important that our records be kept up to date and all information will be treated in a confidential manner.

SINGERS FOR 10AM CHOIR WANTED PLEASE

If you would like to share the gift of your singing voice with our parish, then please consider joining the Sunday 10am Choir. Due to people moving parishes and other church commitments we are in need of new talent-younger or older, it matters NOT. Just pop up and join in with us to have a sing one Sunday morning. We would love to have you enrich our Masses with the gift of your voice. We play on the first, second and third Sundays of the month. Enquiries - Tina on 0439 492 920.

Ministries Next Week 10/11 MAR	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	L Krslovic A Vlahadamis	J Poljak S Davies	C Porreca A Watts	C Sullivan G Colusso
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS:	M Camilleri A Pace A Demasi A Watts M Pangallo C Araco	J Gillan D Sullivan Delicia Vella R Imbert J Finucane	E Villegas G Dunn H Fenech J Bankowski C Goodyer G Rapisarda	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	J Oliveri	V Baltazar	Younart	R Demasi
CLEANERS: Group 8	N Khosho C Lazar	I Hanna	A Essa	W al-Safar
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	11/3/2018 Anna Portolesi	18/3/2018 Michelle De Luca	25/3/2018 Sandra Nguyen	01/04/2018 Karen Jekki

LENT

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 Easter Triduum **Saturday 24th March, Fr John Sullivan a former Spiritual Director of St Patrick Seminary Manly is our guest speaker, please keep this date free.**

The talk begins at 10am and finish with light lunch. (tea and coffee will be provided).

: "Father John Sullivan has been a priest in Sydney for 53 years, and during that time has been in Parishes, Chaplain to Hospitals, and in other roles, including Spiritual Director at the Seminary for training priests, He now leads Retreats, has people for Spiritual Direction, fills in in Parishes, has a Scripture group, plays tennis and golf, goes for the Wests Tigers... the 2018 Champions!!!"



Stations of the Cross During Lent

Friday at John the Baptist Church commencing at 7:00pm.



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Bayan is a 12 year old Syrian girl, living with her family in Jordan. An ambitious student, Bayan has her sights set on a career as an ophthalmologist. As a quiet, young refugee she struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone and faced the

prospect of missing out on schooling. With Caritas Australia's support, Bayan is an academic high-achiever who is flourishing in a stable school environment.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, bringing stability to vulnerable youth, providing just futures for others like Bayan.

A just future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



EASTER WORKING BEE

Please come and join us for lunch followed by a working Bee to prepare the Church and grounds for Easter.

We require as many helpers as possible from 1pm - 5pm on **Saturday 24th March**.

Please put your name on the sign up sheets outside the church or contact Grant Dunn on 9823 4704 to let us know that you can help.



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.



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

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.*

Communion Antiphon: *The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.*

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I am a living sign of the new temple when I..... I corrupt the sign when I.....
- ♦ Like Jesus, I become enraged by..... What I do is.....
- ♦ Jesus' being "raised from the dead" means to me..... It affects me in that.....

First reading

Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

18:8-11

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

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

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

John 2:13-25

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord