



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 Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Tuesday - 9:10am**
- Wednesday - 7:00pm**
- Thursday - 9:10am**
- Friday - 9:10am**
- Saturday - 9:10am**

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 24/25 MARCH
(Palm Sunday of the Passion 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

1st Friday of the Month:
7:00pm Mass in Vietnamese

Reconciliations:
Saturdays – 4:15 – 5:00pm



The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)
17th and 18th March, 2018

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just as the grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:24)

This fifth Sunday of Lent marks a significant moment on the journey towards the ultimate purpose of Jesus' mission on earth. As you have heard the gospel according to John, you may recognize the urging tempo of the text. Jesus during this was moving towards Jerusalem, the place from where He will glorify the Father and also be glorified. He urged people back then and now us to immediately take our action to come to know Him and the merits of His life and teachings. This call of Jesus to us can be metaphorically described as an urgent call of a mother bird calling her children to come to her presence and protection.

In a similar way of calling, Jesus urges us to be attentive to the message of Salvation, because as Jesus clearly said "the hour has come". In this hour, the Son of Man will be glorified by the Father and through his suffer, death and resurrection. In this way of atonement, Jesus in return glorifies the Father. This hour also marks a significant commencement of the saving mission that the Son of Man will suffer, die for the sake of all humanity and on the third day He will rise from the death.

The question now is how all this can be done? Or how does this saving mission produce its fruit? As Jesus has said: "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32). This statement of Jesus conveys a significant element of his saving mission that this is the way how the Son of Man will die for the sin of Adam. The crucifixion is the chosen way in which Jesus sacrifices his ownself for the redemption of his brothers and sisters. As Saint Paul explains in the second reading that the new and better covenant was inaugurated through the high priest, Jesus' offering of himself as the one perfect sacrifice for sins.

We may recognize that Jesus was an outstanding teacher. Leading us to the understanding on the meaning of his death as a sacrifice, he used the metaphors of the "dying grain of wheat" and of "surrendered life": Jesus explained that it was by his suffering and death that he brought new life and liberation to this sinful world, just as a grain of wheat sown in the field ceases to remain itself by germinating and then grows into a plant which produces many new grains of wheat. In the same way, through self-sacrifice, holy men and women bear much fruits of life. In other words, when we "die" to our selfishness, we will "rise" to new life in Jesus Christ. To be "buried in the earth" means avoiding sin, accepting suffering for sake of others.

My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is calling us to pay sufficient attention to his own example. Jesus taught that in order to receive new life and eternal life we need to die to ourselves through sacrifice and service of others. On this basis, it is not wrong to say, according to Jesus' example, only a life spent for others will be glorified here in this world and in heaven. We know that the world owes everything to people who have spent their time and talents for God and for their fellow human beings. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, for instance, at the invitation of Jesus, gave up her comfortable teaching career and, with just 17 cents in her pocket, began her challenging life for the "poorest of the poor" in the crowded streets of Calcutta. Thus she became, in the words of the Secretary General of the U.N., "the most powerful woman in the world".

Salt delivers its taste by melting its hard form into liquid; a candle gives light by having its wax melted and its wick consumed. The oyster produces a priceless pearl through a long and painful process. Loving parents sacrifice themselves so that their children can have a better life than they themselves have had.

Self-sacrifice is indeed significant for winning a place in the kingdom of heaven. For Jesus has promised that "whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also my servant be." (John 12:26). So let us pray that, especially during this special time of Lent, every human being on earth in general and every member in this community in particular has a courage to bear a self-sacrificial spirit which will help them to change and bear the everlasting fruits. "

 * **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:** Mario LAMY, Slava STEGU.
 * Concetta GIAMPIETRO, Saviour BUGEJA, Carmello
 * CAUCHI, Sava PREDIC, Alex GLENISTER,
 * John THWAITES
 * **Death Anniversary:** John BARILLA, Rita SALIBA,
 * Joseph Tsi Sing LAY
 * **Other:** Special Intention Courtney TOPIC and Family

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

Monday 26th March - No Mass
Tuesday 27th March - 9:10am Mass
Wednesday 28th March - 7:00pm Mass
Holy Thursday 29th March - No Morning Mass, Christ Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral at 10:30am. Everyone is invited to the Mass.
7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 30th March - 10:00am Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross by Freeman students and will be outside finishing at the big white cross.
3:00pm The Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 31st March - 9:00am Morning Prayer
Easter Vigil 7:00pm Mass
Easter Sunday 1st April 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm

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.



We congratulate the families of Alejandro ZANDARIN PIZARRO, Dominic CUTRUPI, Isabell CALLUS and Patrik BLASKOVIC who will be baptised here this Sunday 18th March.



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.



CANDLES FOR THE EASER VIGIL will be available for sale next weekend from the Piety Store for \$2.00 each. The candles can also be used when praying together as a family at home throughout the year.



Congratulations! On the front cover of the Catholic Weekly last weekend you would have noticed that the Poljak Family were selected by the Sydney Archdiocese to represent Catholic families in Ireland for the World Family Synod in August. We congratulate the Poljak family and wish them well.

WOMEN GROUP
 Hi Ladies, those of you that would like to come to the dinner at 6:30pm on the 27th March at the Tafe at Wetherill Park, on the Horsley Drive, please let me know this week on 0403 647 399 so I can finalise the booking. I am truing to start this group so we can get to know each other a bit better. I will try to organise more outings. Thanks Mary Fraser



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held at **6:00pm on Tuesday 27th March**.

RECONCILIATION will be held on **Thursday 22nd March at 7:00pm** in the Church.



FREEMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE
ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING – Year 7 2020

An invitation is extended to Grade 5 Parents and Students to an Information Evening on **Monday 26th March, 2018** at 6:30pm in the Michael Addicoat Centre (followed by a tour of the College).

Freeman Catholic College
 Mount Street,
 Bonnyrigg Heights NSW 2177
www.freemanbonnyrigg.catholic.edu.au



Saint of the Week
St Joseph
 Joseph was married to Mary and foster Father of Jesus. He was a compassionate and caring man and was a carpenter. We know he respected God and followed God's commands and his one concern was for the safety of Jesus.
Feast day: March 19
Patron of the Universal Church, unborn children, fathers, workers, travellers, immigrants, and a happy death.



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 1st April.** Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Phan 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.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT INFORMATION AND ENROLMENT EVENING

**Tuesday 20th March, 2018
at 7:00pm in the Church**

Parents must attend, no children preferred. Enrolment fee of \$30.00 for each candidate is required on the evening.



PALMS

We are in need of palms for Palm Sunday. We need large palm leaves for decoration of the Church and smaller palm leaves for distribution during Palm Sunday Masses. Can you please drop off any palm leaves to the Church on Saturday 24th March prior to 2pm.



TREE LOPPING

We are in urgent need of a Tree Lopper for a small job in the Church. If we have anyone that could volunteer their services please contact Grant Dunn on 0409 958 744.

Ministries Next Week 24/25 MAR	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Oliveri G Turnbull	R Golubic M Jebrail	J Habib C Goodyer	
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS:	A Portolesi S Rapisarda J Oliveri L Topic M Brito J Burxgx	M Borgia T Simpson M Jebrail B O'Connor V Tomac	J Papaleo G Bittell N Laureti D Oliveri N Freeman N Dubuissou	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	F Aloe	J Coiera		
CLEANERS: Group 2	S Peters N Roel	K Boya	S Shabo	D Toma
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	25/3/2018	27/03/2018	28/03/2018	29/03/2018
	Denise Triganza	Stella Leonello	Anna Portolesi	Jacque Sultana

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 9.45am 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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Ditosa, a young girl from Mozambique, is cared for by her grandmother after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, Ditosa faced a challenging future with food scarcity, little education and few job prospects. In 2018, thanks to Caritas Australia's support Ditosa has graduated from school and hopes to go to university and secure an even brighter future.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa to grow up with an education, confidence and hope, providing them with a just future.

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.

MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT - NOTRE DAME BROADWAY

On Saturday March 24 from 10am to 4:30pm. The day will include Mass, time for reflection and reconciliation, lunch, afternoon tea, and inspiring talks from three fantastic speakers who will present the sessions: Fr James Baxter, OP, Fr Lewi Barakat and Fr Ed Travers, MSC. The retreat will take place at The University of Notre Dame Australia on Broadway Campus. Event is free, registration essential: Sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au or (02) 8204 4189.



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: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Communion Antiphon: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Next Sunday:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What troubles me about dying to self is..... I resist it because..... I am willing to die to self when.....
- ♦ I am aware of serving Jesus in serving others when..... This is easy for me when..... This is difficult for me when.....
- ♦ To be glorified is to.....

First reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

50:3-4,12-15

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from a letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 12:20-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord