



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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Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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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 4

'Prayer of the Church'

Morning Prayer is prayed
at St John the Baptist

10 minutes prior to
weekday morning Masses

Monday - No Mass

St George, martyr

St Adalbert, bishop, martyr

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Fidelis of Sigmaringen,

priest, martyr

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Anzac Day

Thursday - 9:1am

St Mark, evangelist

Friday - 9:10am

St Louis Grignon de

Montfort, priest

Saturday - No Mass

St Peter Chanel, priest,

martyr

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 28/29 APRIL

(Fifth Sunday of Easter

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

21st and 22nd April, 2018

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, will bear fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing" (Cf. John 15: 5)

In the gospel today, Jesus uses his favourite image of the vine and branches to help his disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of maintaining it. Their lives are mutually dependent - as close as a vine and its branches. In fact, in using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with him should be like.

Abiding in Jesus as condition for fertility: Even a well-pruned branch cannot bear fruits unless it abides in the vine, drawing water and minerals from the main trunk and transporting food prepared in the leaves to the main trunk and to the root. Jesus reminds us that we cannot bear fruit either, unless we abide in him just as he abides in us. Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." What Jesus' mean is that by abiding in him we will bear much fruits, and that apart from him we can bear nothing. Abiding in Christ means that Jesus has to live in us and we have to live in him.

We abide in Christ by drawing near to him and by experiencing his being near to us, or by living every moment as he has commanded as he said "Make your home in me, as I make mine in you" (cf. John 15:4). This life of intimate union with Christ subsisting in the Church is maintained chiefly by active participation in the Liturgy of the believers and carrying out the work of Caritas. On this perspective, Pope Pius XII beautifully stated in the Encyclical on the sacred liturgy Mediator Dei issued in 1947 that "The cooperation of the faithful is required so that sinners may be individually purified in the blood of the Lamb. For though, speaking generally, Christ reconciled by His painful death the whole human race with the Father, He wished that all should approach and be drawn to His cross, especially by means of the sacraments and the Eucharistic sacrifice, to obtain the salutary fruits produced by Him upon it. Through this active and individual participation, the members of the Mystical Body not only become daily more like to their divine Head, but the life flowing from the Head is imparted to the members, so that we can each repeat the words of St. Paul, "With Christ I am nailed to the cross: I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me"". Hence, according to Christ, those of us who do not live in him will be withered and be thrown away, just as withered branches are thrown into the fire to be burned. Fruit-bearing in Christian life is not just of our own making. It is a sign that Christ is working in us and through us as I mentioned in the quote above (Mediator Dei).

For this reason, we need to prune daily our Christian life by cutting out everything that is contrary to the commandments of Jesus and renewing our commitments to the Church's faith. A second meaning of pruning is practicing self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. Cordial mingling with people of different cultures, races, religions round our neighbourhoods and communities enables us to prune our selfishness, prejudicial tendencies. In doing so it would help us to treat others in our society with Christian charity and openness. Jesus prunes, purifies and strengthens us by allowing us to face pain and suffering, contradiction and difficulty. We should take these 'adversities' with a positive attitude rather than a negative one, because these obstacles will give us a realization on the distinction between good and evil.

For if we don't understand the different natures of good and evil, we will have misconception on the outcomes or the ends of good and evil. Let us take a closer look at the action of pruning. When we prune a tree, meaning we will cut few bad and sick branches from a tree, so that other good branches will grow better and will produce better fruits. Moreover, when the action of cutting a branch will hurt the tree and giving a scar on the tree at first, but that wound will heal and in the end the tree will grow better and produce better fruits. That is the reason for the above made argument "Jesus prunes, purifies and strengthens us by allowing us to face pain and suffering, contradiction and difficulty". On the contrary, if we leave those sick and bad branches among other good branches, the tree at first will receive no pain and scars but in the end the tree will bear less fruits than other pruned trees. Apparently, the evil at first appears as pleasant and comfort, but in the end it will destroy the whole desired end which is described as good.

So let us use that strength of growth which is achieved after being pruned to become fruitful vine branches in the vineyard of Christ.

Fr. Phan Nguyen

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



Sick: Giuse, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI,
Fr Jose Maria ENEDAGUILA (Spanish Chaplain),
Josie HOPE, Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER,
Nancy VARTULI, Doug ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT,

Recently Deceased: Eliseo MAGLAQUE, Eduardo MENDOZA, Mons Dino FRAGIACOMO, Carmela DONNANTONIO, Lorraine JASON

Death Anniversary: Tarcisius ZAMMIT

Other: All Souls in purgatory ,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.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB MEMBERS MASS AND LUNCHEON

The 48th Annual Members Mass will be celebrated at All Saints Church (cnr Elizabeth Drive & George Street, Liverpool) on **Sunday 20th May 2018**. Mass will commence at 11:00am. At the conclusion of the Mass a luncheon will be served at the Club in the Grand Ballroom of the LCC Events Complex followed by entertainment.

Admittance to the luncheon is by ticket only - Bookings are essential. **Tickets will be available from the club at: 10:00am on Tuesday 17th April 2018 - \$40**



OZ ROSARY #53

A Rosary around Australia, for Australia The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

The Rosary will be prayed at numerous locations Australia wide. **St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Bonnyrigg Heights on Sunday 13th May 2018 at 4.00pm.**

This Great South Land of the Holy Spirit needs the Rosary. *Please join with us in this Act of Entrustment of our nation, Australia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We implore her to bestow her maternal protection on our land, her guidance in the light of truth for all its peoples, and wisdom, fidelity, courage and integrity for leaders of both Church and State.*

OZ Rosary #53 denotes the 53 "Hail Mary's" in a five decade Rosary



"GOD'S LOVE HEALS OUR DEEPEST NEEDS"

The Ascension prayer community is inviting everyone for a special evening of Praise and Worship and Teaching/Sharing and fellowship.

Speaker on 3rd May 2018 is Ron Maldigri, who is a well known Catholic lay Evangelist from Sydney. Ron is very anointed in the Lord and is much in demand for prayer ministry, inner healing, prayer for the sick and deliverance.

Topic: "Love of God"

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Time: 7.15pm.

Contact: Susan 02 96097 5137, 0415 342 672

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Please note that enrolments for Holy Communion for 2018 are now closed.

Important Dates for Enrolled Candidates:

Lessons - week commencing 29th April, 2018

First Holy Communion Retreat Day - 27th May, 2018 (Rehearsals held during the retreat)

First Holy Communion Masses - 9th June to 24th June, 2018

Reconciliation Program 2018

There will be no Reconciliation sacramental program in 2018 and accordingly no Holy Communion program in 2019.

The reason for this decision is that children will now be required to be older when preparing for their Sacraments. It is hoped that this extra year will allow children to have a better understanding of the church teachings and the meaning of the sacraments.

The next Reconciliation program will be held in November 2019, any children in grades Year 3 and above can apply to enrol in that program.

The next Holy Communion program will be held in June 2020, for any children who have made their Reconciliation and are in grades Year 4 and above can apply to enrol in that program.

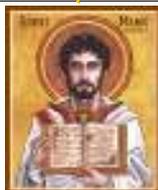
For further information please contact the Core Group Leaders Kylie Farias on 0473 779 338 or Tamara Vella on 0424 166 248.

MAY RETREATS MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE

247 St Andrews Road, Varroville

Please see Church noticeboard for more details

Saints of the Week



St Mark

Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions.

He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem whose home became a meeting place for the apostles.

He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas a Levite and a Cypriot. Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter and was not one of the twelve apostles. St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets. In 828, relics of St. Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy. There they are enshrined in a beautiful cathedral dedicated to the saint. St. Mark's symbol is a winged lion.

Feast day: April 25

Patron of notaries, Venice, Barristers



St Peter Chanel was born in 1803 in France. After ordination to the priesthood, he desired to become a missionary. He was assigned to his hometown. Finally in 1836, he led a small group of missionaries to the New Hebrides in the South Pacific. After a few years of converting the natives, the jealous island king had Peter killed.

However, within 5 months of his death, the entire island had been converted to Christianity.

Feast Day April 28

Patron of Oceania

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 6th May**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Phan and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.

SAVE THE DATE - JB SPRING FAIR

21st October 2018
11am – 4pm



Any enquires please contact:
Josie: 0407 203 593
Caterina: 0416 044 149
Susan: 0419 606 683
Maria: 0407 662 535

Volunteers needed to run food stalls of your cultural background for our Spring Fair. If you can help in any way please contact Susan 0419 606 683.

PARISH MORNING TEA EVERY SUNDAY AFTER 10AM MASS



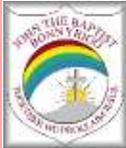
The Parish will now be holding a morning tea after the 10am Mass every Sunday. Please bring along a plate to share and stay to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with your community.

JOHN THE BAPTIST CLEAN UP THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who came to assist in the clean up of the Parish grounds this weekend.

JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR KINDERGARTEN 2019

Enrolment packs are available from the school office between 8:30am and 4:00pm. (School office is now closed due to holidays and will reopen on Monday 30th April 2018).

The Enrolments close on Thursday 31st May 2018.

Any enquiries please phone the school office on 9823 5042.

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!

First Holy Communions will take place on the weekends of 9th and 10th June, 16th and 17th June and 23rd and 24th June (during the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil, 10:00am Mass and 5:30pm Mass on Sunday)

Confirmation will be held on Saturday 29th September at 2:00pm and Sunday 30th September at noon and 3:00pm.

JB Spring Fair Sunday 21st October.

Year 6 Graduation Mass 11th December at 6:30pm.



JORDAN YOUTH GROUP

Children in Years 5-6 are welcome to come together and be involved with the Jordan Youth Group.

The Group will meet on a Saturday afternoon (3.30pm-5.30pm) once a month and participate in prayer, reflection, activities and discussion. It's a great way for children to engage spiritually and explore their faith together.

More information and permission slips will be sent out to the local schools in the first week of Term 2 with the **first session commencing in the John the Baptist Parish Hall on Saturday, 19th May 2018.**

For further information please contact:
Silvana Scamardella 0417 197 357 or
Rosalie Capolupo 0404 276 332.

PIETY STORE CAKE STALL



The Piety Store is having a cake stall at next weekends Masses, **28th and 29th April, 2018**. Your support with this will help raise funds which will go towards helping the poor and disadvantaged in our community.

LADIES GROUP GATHERING



The ladies group will meet again on **Friday 11th May, 2018** at 13 Swan Road, Edensor Park commencing at 6.30pm. Please bring a plate of finger food or something to drink. For further details contact Mary Fraser 0403 647 399.

CATECHIST NEWS

Catechists you are warmly invited to the CCD Catechist Gathering.
When: Monday 30 April, 10:30am -1:30pm (Morning teas will be served from 10am)
Where: Lidcombe Parish Hall (vehicle entry via 3 Keating St, Lidcombe)

Topics

10:30-11:30 Eileen O'Connor presentation
Angelus & Lunch - a light lunch will be provided
12:30-1:30pm Using song and actions in the classroom

RSVP: Julia Goff or Laura Argiro **by Tuesday 24th April**
Ph: 9307 8330 or
Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Ministries Next Week 28/29 APRIL	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino E Vella	J Poljak T Simpson	G Zangari F Holden	G Colusso C Sullivan
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	D Vella A Vella D Tomic L Tononcelli G Siciliano A Portolesi	P Vujica R Morellini S Xuereb M Borgia T Simpson	N Freeman N Dubuisson J Habib T Vartuli E Villegas G Dunn	
CHURCH COUNTER	M Privitera	R Demasi		
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	29/04/2018 Marianna Caruso	6/5/2018 Connie Monteleone	13/05/2018 Jacquie Sultana	20/05/2018 Michelle De Luca
10AM MORNING TEAS	22/04/2018 Group 3	29/04/2018 Group 4	6/5/2018 Group 1	13/5/2018 Group 2

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon: *Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Easter - (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Second Reading: I John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I know Jesus to be my Good Shepherd when..... I know myself to be a good shepherd when.....
- ♦ I experience myself as one of Jesus' flock when..... I hear Jesus' voice calling me to.....
- ♦ What helps me be willing to lay down my life for others is..... What keeps me from lay down my life for others is.....

First reading

Acts 34:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

17:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-19

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

*The stone rejected by the builders has become the
cornerstone.*

I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

*The stone rejected by the builders has become the
cornerstone.*

'Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end.

*The stone rejected by the builders has become the
Cornerstone.*

Second reading

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been
revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays
down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not
the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons
the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is
because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the
sheep.

'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know
me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and
I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I
have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as
well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only
one flock, and one shepherd.

'The Father loves me, because I lay down
my life in order to take it up again. No one
takes it from me; I lay it down of my own
free will, and as it is in my power to lay it
down, so it is in my power to take it up
again; and this is the command I have
been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

