



St. John the Baptist Catholic

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)



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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 10.30am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

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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 Pius V, pope

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Joseph the Worker

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Athanasius, bishop, doctor

Thursday - 9:10am

Sts Philip and James, apostles

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 5/6 MAY

*(Sixth 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



Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

28th and 29th April, 2018

BE FRUITFUL

A father was busy in his study when his little son came in and stood silently by. The father, busy with his work, put his hand into his pocket, took out a coin and offered it to the boy. "I don't want any money, daddy," the boy said. After a few moments, the father opened a drawer of his desk took out a candy bar and offered this to his son. Again he was refused. A little impatient, the busy father asked, "Well, what do you want?" "I don't want anything, replied the boy. "I only wanted to be with you."



Today's Gospel talks about this matter of being connected. When we love someone we want to remain connected to them. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son". And Christ came so that we may have life to the full. So Christ encouraged us to remain with Him. We are called to be connected to Christ as the branches are connected to a plant. "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing." Jesus showed himself as a life-giving vine. This vine represents the divine life Jesus shares with his disciples, and which the Father tends like a gardener tending to a vine. Jesus is not just the vine's stalk, but the whole vine in which the branches live. When I talked to people I found that for many, the idea of being connected to Christ is reserved for the religious people but it is not meant for me! This attitude is rather a pity; it is a giving up too soon without trying to experience the strength, joy and motivation in letting Jesus be a part of your life. Being connected is an awareness or relationship without any go-between; it is direct, unmediated. When we receive the Eucharist, our relationship with Jesus is mediated through the species of consecrated bread and consecrated wine, and we believe in the real presence of Jesus through these consecrated species. Furthermore, when we reflect on the Scriptures, our relationship with God is mediated through the biblical stories or words or images. "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ... then you will be my disciples."

Let us pray that we will strive to live Jesus' teaching in order to remain in him so that our lives will multiply and 'bear fruit in plenty'.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

425 The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ: 'We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.' And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ.

Trivia

1. Which sacraments can be received only once because they have a permanent effect?
2. Which sacrament can you receive everyday?
3. What are sacraments signs of in our lives?



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: Val HOOD, Eduardo MENDOZA,
Mons Dino FRAGIACOMO, Carmela DONNANTONIO

Death Anniversary:

Other: Melissa KOVAC , 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.



We congratulate the families of Alessia CAVASINNI, Lawson OLIVERI and Tasmin THOMAS who will be baptised here this Sunday 29th April.

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 Athanasius

St. Athanasius, also known as Athanasius the Great and Athanasius the Confessor, was a bishop and doctor of the church. He is called the "Father of Orthodoxy," the "Pillar of the Church" and "Champion of Christ's Divinity." Much of his life was a testimony to the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Feast day: May 2

Patron of Theologians, faithful Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians



Sts Philip and James

Why do we celebrate the feasts of St. Philip and St. James the Less on the same day? Because they were both apostles? No, we celebrate them on the same day because their relics were brought to Rome together on the same day in early May.

James the lesser was, chosen by Jesus Christ to be one of the twelve pillars of the Church. We find him listed in the gospels as James the son of Alphaeus.

We know Philip best from the Gospel of John, chapter one. Jesus himself calls Philip, saying, "Follow me." And Philip did follow. He heard the call Jesus issues to each of us and followed.

Feast Day: May 3

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.



FAREWELL: It is with much sadness that we say farewell to Fr Phan. Fr Phan is moving to St Brendan's at Central Bankstown. Fr Phan will celebrate his last Mass here in the Parish next weekend. We wish him all the best in his new ministry.



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL:

Next weekend is the CWF Appeal which continues to play an important role in providing social, pastoral, advocacy and training programs through its 6 agencies. The CWF is your Catholic charity and we encourage you to give it your generous support. Couples, families, refugees, migrants, our future priests, Catholic public school children, the deaf and hearing impaired are just some of the people you are helping by supporting the CWF. There is so much which can be done with your donations, so please give generously.



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.

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

| Ministries Next Week 5/6 MAY | Sat 5.30 pm | Sun 8.00 am | Sun 10 am | Sun 5:30 pm |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| READERS: | A Pace L Krslovic | J Finucane T Simpson | N Dubuissou J Habib | G Colusso C Sullivan |
| EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER | S Rapisarda J Oliveri L Topic M Brito J Burxg V Petkovic | M Jebrail B O'Connor V Tomac A Esposito M Esposito | H Fenech J Bankowski C Goodyer G Rapisarda G Zangari R Hibbs | |
| CHURCH COUNTER | M Davies | | | |
| CLEANERS: CHURCH Group | | | | |
| ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER | 6/5/2018 Connie Monteleone | 13/05/2018 Jacquie Sultana | 20/05/2018 Michelle De Luca | 27/5/2018 Denise Triganza |
| 10AM MORNING TEAS | 29/04/2018 Group 4 | 6/5/2018 Group 1 | 13/5/2018 Group 2 | 20/5/2018 Group 3 |

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 this weekend. 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 the home of Kathy Finucane commencing at 6.30pm. This will be a fairly laid back evening of talking, eating and having a good time. Please bring a plate of finger food, drink or dessert. thing to drink. If you are able to attend please call Mary Fraser 0403 647 399 for further details.



Congratulations to the following Parish members who have completed the 'Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion' course: Luba Gromof, Simon Hambrook, Maria Thi Dang Thanh Mai and Lisa Tosello



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.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon: *I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.*

Next Sunday:

Sixth Sunday of Easter - (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Second Reading: I John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:8-17

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I remain in Jesus when I.....
- ♦ Jesus' word has pruned me in these ways..... The pruning that yet needs to happen is.....
- ♦ The fruit my discipleship has already borne is..... New fruit that I sense is budding in me is.....

First reading

Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

21:26-28, 30-32

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.'

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second reading

1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:4-9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Trivia Answers

1. Baptism, Confirmation
2. Eucharist
3. Sacraments are signs of the presence of God, moments when God changes us and helps us to grow.