



# 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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**Assistant: Rev Fr Phan Nguyen**

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**Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis**

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**Parish Pastoral Centre:**

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**Website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au**

**Office Hours: Tue- Fri 10.30am to 4pm**

**Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang**

**Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski**

### MASSES THIS WEEK

#### PSALTER 2

#### '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 and**

**12 Noon**

**Saturday - 9:10am**

*Sts Nereus and Achilleus,  
martyrs*

*St Pancras, martyr*

#### NEXT SUNDAY

#### SUNDAY 12/13 MAY

*(The Ascension 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**



### Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

5th and 6th May, 2018

*"This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends" (Cf. John 15: 12-13).*

You may acknowledge that what is the ultimate commandment which God asks us to keep. It is "love one another". Having said this, I would love to share with you what kind of love that Jesus talked about. Usually, English has one word to describe love. This sometimes causes confusions in our expression on the degrees of love. In Greek, There are three words describing love: eros, philia and agape. Each of these implicates a different kind and degree of love.

The first one is Eros known as erotic love, a love usually between a man and a woman. This love is based more on physical traits. Say a person says he has "fallen in love" for a woman, because "she looked like an angel". Or a woman "falls in love" for a man because he is intelligent, has good body or he is good looking. This kind of love generates from a "feeling or emotion" which one has for the other.

The second one is "philia", a love based on friendship between two people. It is true that two lovers that start out by being friends first before becoming partners. Friendship is the foundation of a successful relationship. This is true whether it is marriage, or boyfriend-girlfriend, relationship between family members, relationship with co-workers, employer, etc. In the case of a man-woman romantic relationship, the advantage is you get to know each other first, before committing to a more serious relationship above friendship.

Aristotle believed that there are three different kinds of friendship; that of utility, friendship of pleasure, and virtuous friendship. Aristotle argued that friendship should be so highly valued because it is a complete virtue and he explained that it is above both honour and justice. Aristotle's theories regarding friendship break down into self-love, of which self-love of utility and self-love of pleasure become kind of selfishness in itself, meanwhile self-love of virtue is the highest good a person can achieve. Due to these three different kinds of friendship, human beings are shown to be quite political in nature. This is especially shown in the first two; that of utility and of pleasure as Aristotle interestingly stated that humans set up relationships for each owns personal gain. However, Aristotle finally confirmed that virtuous friendship is one of the most glorious attainments one can achieve.

The third kind of love is "agape", known as unconditional love. This is the kind of love that Jesus talked about: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". This is the kind of love which Aristotle understood as virtuous friendship. And in our Catholic understanding, this kind of love is called a sacrificial love.

The words we heard in today's Gospel account are thus important. They are the words of Jesus calling us to love, calling us to love others but above all calling us to love Him as our friend. He wants us to give Him our friendship and be His friend just as much as He wants to be with us – your friend. The offered friendship of Jesus to us is above all friendship. This friendship becomes more like a sacrificial love, a love which causes a person readily sacrificing his or her own life for the life of his or her friends. As Jesus said: "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends".

**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:** Judith MESCKE, Fr. Jose Maria ENEDAGUILA SJ, Eduardo MENDOZA, Mons Dino FRAGIACOMO

**Death Anniversary:** Joan PURCELL, Thi Hong NGUYEN, Esther MUSCAT

**Other:** Maria Flora TANO, Tey and Lita CASTOR (60TH Wedding Anniversary) Special Intention: Fr Phan

**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.

**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**

**Special Mother's Day Mass**

A Mother's Day Mass will be held on Friday 11th May at 9.10am and Midday.

*Saints of the Week*

**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



**St Nereus and Achilleus**

Sts Nereus and Achilleus were soldiers in the Roman army. They helped carry out the persecution of Christians. After a miracle of faith, they were converted. They threw down their arms and uniforms and escaped from their camp. They were eventually captured and martyred with Flavia Domitilla, the niece of Emperor Domitia.

Prayer: Saints Achilleus and Nereus, pray for those in the military and armed forces throughout the world that they may always see God as their authority and obey God's orders first. Amen

**Feast day: May 12th**

**The Bishop's Blend:** looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers. Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on Tuesday, 22nd May, 2018 at 7.00am at the Radisson and Blu Plaza Hotel, Sydney for the Bishop's Blend, a quarterly breakfast series for young professionals. On line booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://bishopsblendfourthedition.eventbrite.com> or contact us at [bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org)



**St Pancras**

We have no reliable historical information about this martyr. Legend tells us he was born at the end of the third century and brought up by an uncle in Rome after the death of his parents. Both he and his uncle became Christians. Pancras was beheaded in 304 during Diocletian's persecution. He was only 14 years old.

Prayer: St. Pancras, pray for all teenagers that their faith may be as strong as yours, strong enough to lead them through all the trials of their life

**Feast Day: May 12th**

## 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

## MOTHER'S DAY LAMINGTONS

Lamingtons will be on sale next weekend 11th and 12th May.

Packets of 12 - cream/plain/red cream - \$15 each

Packets of 6 - cream or plain - \$7.50 each.

All monies raised will assist to buy resources for the Catechist ministry. Enquiries Nina Laureti 0408 465 149.

## CATECHIST LEVEL 2 (INTERMEDIATE COURSE)

Catechists who have completed all of the Level 1 Basic Course are invited to enrol for the Level 2 course starting from **Monday May 21st**, 9.45am to 2.15pm at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Moorebank. Contact Laura or Julia or 9307 8330 or online bookings [ccd.sydneycatholic.org](http://ccd.sydneycatholic.org). Enquiries Nina Laureti 0408 465 149.



## 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.

| Ministries Next Week 12/13 APRIL | Sat 5.30 pm   | Sun 8.00 am                                    | Sun 10 am  | Sun 5:30 pm                    |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>READERS:</b>                  | A Vlahadamis<br>J Oliveri   | R Golubic<br>L Barilla                         | A Patrikios<br>C Porreca   | C Sullivan<br>G Colusso        |
| <b>EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER</b>   | M Chum<br>B Gorla<br>M Harvey<br>D Rotondo<br>A Jamieson<br>G Rapisarda | F Foti<br>F Bushby<br>A Liberatore<br>J Gauchi | M Aulsebrook<br>J Burxgx<br>C Porreca<br>J Papaleo<br>G Buttell<br>N Laureti |                                |
| <b>CHURCH COUNTER</b>            | J Oliveri   | V Baltazar                                     | Younart  |                                |
| <b>CLEANERS: CHURCH</b>          |   |  |  |                                |
| <b>ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER</b>      | <b>13/05/2018</b><br>Jacquie Sultana                                    | <b>20/05/2018</b><br>Michelle De Luca          | <b>27/5/2018</b><br>Denise Triganza  | <b>3/6/2018</b><br>Sara Peters |
| <b>10AM MORNING TEAS</b>         | <b>13/5/2018</b><br>Group 2   | <b>20/5/2018</b><br>Group 3                    | <b>27/5/2018</b><br>Group 4  | <b>3/6/2018</b><br>Group 1     |

## 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.



## CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

**APPEAL:** This weekend is the CWF Appeal which continues to play and

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.



## 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



## 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 have a good time. Please bring a plate of finger food, drink or dessert. If you are able to attend please call Mary Fraser 0403 647 399 for further details.



## FAREWELL MASS and MORNING TEA FOR FR. PHAN THIS SUNDAY 10AM

Parishioners please join us for Fr. Phan's farewell Mass and morning tea/light lunch this Sunday, 6th May 2018.

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** *Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.*

### Next Sunday:

#### The Ascension of the Lord - (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-13

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

### Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I experience the joy of the risen Jesus when..... He is completing his joy in me by.....
- ♦ What helps me love others as Christ has commanded is.....
- ♦ I find it most easy to lay down my life for others when..... most difficult when.....

#### First reading Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

#### The Word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm 97:1-4 The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

*The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

*The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

*The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

#### Second reading 1 John 4:7-10 A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him

and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son

as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

#### The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel John 15:9-17 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

#### The Gospel of the Lord