



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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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 Monica

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Augustine, bishop, doctor

Wednesday - 7:00pm

The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 1/2 SEPTEMBER

(22nd Sunday in Ordinary

Time 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

1st Saturday of the Month

Fatima Devotions 7.45am

Adoration/Benediction

8.30am

Reconciliations:

Saturdays – 4:15 – 5:00pm

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office

Or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

25th and 26th August, 2018

Reasons for Leaving, Reasons for Staying

Why do you like to go to Church? What holds you in weekly worship when there are so many other things to do on Sunday?

Why do people leave the Church? Maybe this is the wrong question to ask. Shouldn't we pose a different question? Why do so many people go to Mass when there are so many other things to do on a Sunday? Doesn't sleeping in, reading the Sunday paper at a leisurely pace, sharing a relaxing brunch, or watching an exciting NRL game sound so much better than Sunday worship? But people still show up for Mass, week after week. Why? Does Mass just fulfil a personal need? Or, does the need run deeper? Does the need begin and end with Jesus? Relationships come and go in life. But real friends remain faithful through thick and thin.

The gospel today concludes a four-week reflection on the Eucharist. It presents the problem of fidelity in a very straight forward way. Some will leave. Some will stay. Remember the words of Jesus to the crowd last week: *"Eat my flesh; drink my blood...."* Those words scandalized Jesus' Jewish audience. Besides, some of Jesus' disciples had a hard time accepting his message.

John's focus turned from the general audience to the Jesus' disciples. The disciples are asked to make a choice – either to believe and accept the New Covenant that Jesus offers in his body and blood, or return to their former ways of life. So, not only did the words of Jesus cause division and scandal. Following Jesus brought scandal and shame. In the end, discipleship required total commitment, total loyalty. We too, are being asked to make a choice today.



Fr Richard

 Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:
 Sick: Claudio Da SILVA, Charlie SALIBA, Bozana VUKOV, Diana VUKOV, Judy VELLA, Giuse, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Josie HOPE, Nancy VARTULI, Doug ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT,
 Recently Deceased: J KIANG, Filomena BUGEJA
 Death Anniversary: Rose VELLA, Diego CALABRO, Fortunata CALABRO
 Other: Special Intention:



Saints of the Week



St Monica was an early Christian saint and the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo. She is remembered and honoured in most Christian denominations, albeit on different feast days, for her outstanding Christian virtues, particularly the suffering caused by her husband's adultery, and her prayerful life dedicated to the reformation of her son, who wrote extensively of her pious acts and life with her in his *Confessions*. Popular Christian legends recall Saint Monica weeping every night for her son Augustine.
Feast day: August 27
Patron of wives and abuse victims

Memorial Mass for the Unborn:
 Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, will offer the annual Memorial Mass for the Unborn on Wednesday 29th August at 7.00pm at St Mary's Cathedral. The Mass will be offered in commemoration of the unborn children lost to abortion and in solidarity with the mothers and fathers who grieve this profound loss.
 Please see notice board for further details.

JOHN THE BAPTIST PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND JANUARY 2019

A pilgrimage "**Footsteps of Jesus**" is being organised by Harvest Journeys - an authentically Catholic organisation. Let us watch the Gospels come alive as we retrace the progressive stages of the life of Jesus from his nativity in Bethlehem to his Passion on Calvary.
Tour Details: 10 days/9 nights. Sunday 13th to Tuesday 22nd January. Visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Mt Tabor, Mt Carmel, Haifa, Masada, Jericho, Jerusalem and Emmaus.
Inclusions: airfare, accommodation, meals, deluxe air conditioned coach, pilgrimage escort/local guides, sightseeing, entrance fees, fully escorted by Pilgrimage Chaplain and Private Daily Masses.
Cost: group of 15 - \$6,180 pp group of 20 - \$5,780 pp
Pre tour Option: 10th - 13th January. Wonders of Jordan (3 nights - Amman, Dead Sea Resort, Mt Nebo, Madaba and Petra. \$1,290 pp
If you are interested please contact Nina Laureti on 0408 465 149 to begin planning stages.

Let us pray that this Parish Pilgrimage will spiritually renew us, allow us to share amazing memories together and foster lifelong bonds of friendship and return home transformed with a stronger conviction to contribute to the faith life and mission of the community of John the Baptist.

SEPTEMBER RETREATS MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE

Please see Church noticeboard for more information.



St Augustine of Hippo is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a former life of loose living, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions. His complete turnaround and conversion has been an inspiration to many who struggle with a particular vice or habit they long to break. This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. After reading the book of the Letters of St. Paul it was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life. He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious priests, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too.
Feast Day: August 28
Patron of brewers



The Passion of St John the Baptist is seen as the last prophet of the Old Testament and the first prophet of the New, St. John has always been an icon of one who not only spoke the truth but also challenged his hearers with a call to action. He knew that truth always demanded a decision.
 John the Baptist was set apart by God from his mother's womb and called by His grace. Even before his birth, he leaped for joy as he came into the presence of the Son of God within Mary's womb. His burden was to awaken the people to this incredible good news, letting them know that the one for whom they had been waiting - the Messiah - would be coming soon. St. John the Baptist also wanted to be sure that the way was prepared for His coming - recognizing the way that had to be prepared was not a road of stones and dirt, but a highway of the heart. He called for people to repent and be baptized, washed of the burdens of this life that they could hear the Words of the Master when He came. On this feast day, however, we are focused on martyrdom, his beheading. He died for the faith for which he lived. The consequences of his heralding the good news and a call to righteousness cost him his life. He was condemned by the decree of King Herod. St. John's martyrdom reminds us that the most important vocation for all Christians, Catholic and Protestant alike, is living out the Gospel. We are called to proclaim the Good News of Christ both in word and deed.
Feast Day: August 29

**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.

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 2nd September.** Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.



We congratulate the family of Zara ALY who will be baptised here this Sunday 26th August.



IMPORTANT CATECHIST MEETING

An important catechist meeting has been organised for **Tuesday 28th August at 7.00pm** in the Church.

New information from CCD and discussion of curriculum needs to be presented. Your input is very important. Please make every effort to attend.

If you are unable to attend please let your coordinator know.

Enquiries: Nina Laureti 0408 465 149



Welcoming Weekend

Ever wondered what the name of the person is that sits behind you at Mass every week for the last year??

Over each of the Father's Day weekend Masses next weekend 1st and 2nd September we will be encouraging everyone to make a name tag for

themselves before they enter the church.

To build community and family connections, we are also asking you to bring along a small plate to share over a cuppa after each Mass and have a chat with someone you don't already know.



ATTENTION READERS: All readers please collect the new Roster from the alcove are in the Church.

Ministries Next Week 1/2 Sept	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	M Camilleri L Krslovic	R Golubic M Jebrail	C Porreca E Villegas	FCC students
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	A Demasi M Pangallo C Araco A Vlahadamis D Vella E Vella	L Barilla R Morellini S Xuereb M Borgia T Simpson	H Fenech G Rapisarda G Zangari R Hibbs M Aulsebrook J Burxgx	
CHURCH COUNTER	M Davies			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	9/9/2018	16/9/2018	23/9/2018	30/9/2018
	D Triganza	S Peters	S Shabo	Z Penitani
10AM MORNING TEAS	9/09/2018	16/09/2018	23/09/2018	30/09/2018
	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!

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.

Volunteers' Dinner: Friday 23rd November

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

Combined Christmas Carols: Friday 7th December



SPRING WORKING BEE

Please come and join us for a working bee to tidy up around the Church and grounds.

We require as many helpers as possible from 7.00am on **Saturday 1st September.**

There will be sign up sheets outside the Church or contact Grant Dunn on 9823 4704 to let us know you are available to help.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST WORKSHOPS

2 workshops have been organised for **all current readers and extraordinary ministers and those interested** in becoming a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

You are expected to attend 1 workshop.

Workshop 1 Friday 14th September 7.00pm in the Church

Workshop 2 Sunday 16th September 11.15am in the JB Gallery

No attendance will be regarded as a discontinuation of the ministry.

Enquiries:

Readers

Nina Laureti 0408 465 149

Extraordinary Ministers

Linda Barilla 0409 914 083



Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

This is a series of 8 informative and engaging half-hour videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be followed by a lively group discussion. If you would like to have a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of your faith, then join us for Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study, you will also help to bring about a profound renewal of our parish as we grow closer to Christ.

When: Thursday 30th August at 7.30pm (Meetings will be held fortnightly)

Where: Parish Hall

For further information or to sign up, text George on 0414 607 513 or email george_dcruz@hotmail.com

Thank You to everyone who prayed for me, sent lovely messages, cards, flowers and gifts during my recent illness. Your kindness and thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. It is wonderful to be back at work, healthy and part of the JB community once again. A special thank you to Linda and Yvonne for doing such a fantastic job while I was absent. Leanne



RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.*

Communion Antiphon: *The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.*

Next Sunday:

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Second Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The daily choices I make that point to my belief in Jesus as the "Holy One of God" are.....
- ♦ My eating and drinking of the Body and Blood of Christ deepens my conviction about how I should live as a follower of the risen Christ in these ways.....
- ♦ My belief is borne out in lived conviction when I.....

First reading **Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18** **A reading from the book of Joshua**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **33:2-3, 16-23** **Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading **Ephesians 5:21-32** **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **cf. John 6:63. 68** Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel **John 6:60-69** **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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