



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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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am 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

*St Gregory the Great, pope,
doctor*

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Spring Ember Day

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
Mary*

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 8/9 SEPTEMBER

*(23rd 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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 1st and 2nd September, 2018

LIVE JESUS IN YOUR HEART

Two little boys were sightseeing in an Egyptian museum. They stood in front of a mummy having a descriptive sign that read: "2549 BC". One boy said, "I wonder what that means?" The other boy nodded saying, "I think I know...it's probably the license number of the car that hit him."

In Jesus' time, the Pharisees were considered as religious leaders of the Jews. They enjoyed a reputation for keeping the law. Jesus himself recognized their position, though he warned the people about the Pharisees' hypocrisy because of the inconsistency between their words and their behaviour. *'they preach but do not practice the law'* (Mt 23:2). Today, in the Gospel, we find them making a big issue out of the fact that the disciples of Jesus eat without washing their hands according to the Jewish custom. And they hold this against Jesus.

In reply, Jesus shows up the scribes and Pharisees for what they are: hypocrites. They profess to honour God, but they are merely paying him lip-service: they teach the law, yet fail to understand what is at its heart. While they accused the disciples of 'defilement' they do not realize that they themselves are defiled by their thoughts and desires, *"the worship they offer is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations."*

Jesus goes on to talk about the importance of the heart. What is important is not what goes into a person but what comes out of them - their behaviour. Our behaviour shows what is inside us. *"It is from within, from peoples' hearts, that evil intentions emerge; fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, envy, slander, pride, folly."*

The ultimate difference between Jesus and the Pharisees was that they looked at the external activity whereas Jesus looked at the heart, the source of the activity. They looked at the fulfillment of law and tradition while Jesus looked to love and commitment. They looked at the letter of the law while he looked at its spirit. Therefore, we are called to look sincerely into our hearts regarding our living faith. May our true worship of God be a loving and intimate relationship with God. And from this comes the joy and the readiness to serve God in our neighbours

Fr Dominic Dinh

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: Jane MICALLEF, Zac FENECH, Agostino BADINO, J KIANG, Filomena BUGEJA

Death Anniversary: Krystyna TOMASZEWSKI, Charles AZZOPARDI, Rose VELLA, Rose AZZOPARDI

Other: Carmelo SARREO, Charles HIGGAN, Arthur and Julia HIGGAN, Maria and Anthony VELLA, Special Intention

Saints of the Week



St Gregory the Great

Pope Gregory was famous for the emphasis he put on missionary work. Pope Gregory made many changes to the Mass, some of which remain today. The position of the Our Father in the Mass remains where Pope Gregory placed it. Pope Gregory was well known for his alms to the poor, and he gave quite generously of the riches donated to the Church by the wealthy people of Rome. He ordered his clergy to go out into the streets to find and care for the poor in person. When a famine struck Rome in the 590s, Pope Gregory ordered the Church to use its assets to feed the poor. Instead of selling the produce of the land, Pope Gregory ordered it shipped to Rome and given away for free. In this way, he saved thousands of people from certain death. He also made certain to dine with a dozen poor people at each meal. Because of his great respect for the poor, it was Pope Gregory and the Church that became the most respected --and obeyed force in Rome and across Italy. Pope Gregory suffered from arthritis in his last years. He died on March 12, 604 AD. He was immediately proclaimed a saint by means of popular acclaim. Saint Gregory's relics remain in St. Peter's Basilica to this day. In 1969, the Second Vatican Council moved Saint Gregory's feast day from March 12 to September 3 so it would not fall during Lent. During Lent, there are no obligatory memorials. **Feast day: September 3**

Family Spirit (by CatholicCare Sydney and Marist180) Could you provide short-term help for long-term memories?

As a new agency combining the strengths of Marist180 and CatholicCare Sydney, Family Spirit urgently need compassionate people to provide short-term foster care. To learn more, come to our information night: Tuesday 4th September 2018, 5.30-8pm, Marist180 36 First Avenue Blacktown NSW 2148. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to secure your place.

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.



Spring Ember Day

EMBER DAYS (from the German Quatember, 'quarter day'; the Irish used to speak of Quarter Tense) have been kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century to mark the beginning of each of the four seasons of the year. They are occasions of special prayer and penance, asking God's blessing on the new season. In Australia, as elsewhere, the practice fell into disuse, however, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference see now as an appropriate time for the Australian Church to begin again to observe the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as Ember Days. These will be special days of prayer to thank God for the many blessings in our lives and to ask God for the needs of all people and especially for the productivity of the earth and of human labour. Our prayer must never be selfish and must therefore be combined with some form of penance which allows us to stand in solidarity with those who suffer.



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace. **Feast Day: September 8**



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.



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 this 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.

DAY RETREAT

September 8, 2018
Praying in the Cloud

Benedictine Abbey, 695 Jamberoo Mountain Road, Jamberoo
10:00am—4:00pm
(with option of Mass at 9:00am and Vespers at 5:00pm)
See Church noticeboard for more information.

CELEBRATION OF FAITH FORMATION RETREAT

Saturday 15th September, 2018
9:00am to 5:00pm

St Joseph Parish Hall, Walz Street, Rockdale
Registration Fee \$30. BYO Lunch. Coffee and Tea provided.

Healing Mass will be held on **Sunday 16th September** from 1:30pm to 5:00pm

Diocese Inquiries: Helen Aldana mov 0488 037 631
Ida Krisnadi mob 0424 637 500



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

Ministries Next Week 8/9 Sept	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull J Victorino	I O'Connor S Hely	M Aulsebrook C Goodyer	
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	D Tomic L Tononcelli G Siciliano A Portolesi S Rapisarda J Oliveri	M Jebrail B O'Connor V Tomac A Esposito M Esposito	C Porreca S Hambrook J Papaleo G Buttell N Laureti D Oliveri	
CHURCH COUNTER	J Oliveri	V Baltazar	Younart	R Demasi
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	16/9/2018	23/9/2018	30/9/2018	7/10/2018
	S Peters	S Shabo	Z Penitani	M De Luca
10AM MORNING TEAS	16/09/2018	23/09/2018	30/09/2018	7/10/2018
	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 1

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

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



You are invited

The Ascension Prayer Community is inviting everyone to our prayer meetings. The meetings start with Praise and Reflection, followed by teaching/sharing, fellowship and much more. So why not come along and join us, to enjoy a time of reflection, teaching, sharing and great fellowship.

When: Thursday 6th September, 2018 @ 7pm
(Meetings take place every fortnight on a Thursday)

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Contact: Susan (02) 9607 5137 or 0415 342 672



SPRING WORKING BEE

Thank you to everyone who attended our Spring Working Bee. Your time and hard work to make the Church and grounds look so great for Spring were much appreciated.

Happy Father's Day to all our Dad's



God our Father,
in your wisdom and love you made all things.
Bless those fathers who have taken upon themselves, the responsibility of parenting.
Bless those who have lost a spouse to death ... or divorce who are parenting their children alone.
Strengthen them by your love that they may be and become the loving, caring persons they are meant to be.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

We are holding a special Father's Day collection this weekend for the Priest's Retirement Foundation Appeal.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.*

Communion Antiphon: *How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.*

Next Sunday:

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The "human tradition[s]" on which I am fixated are..... This affects my relationship with God and others in that.....
- ♦ I tend to judge others about how they live when..... Jesus judges me and I learn that.....
- ♦ Keeping God's commandments helps me to be in right relationships in these ways.....

First reading **Deuteronomy 4:1-26-8** **A reading from the book of Deuteronomy**

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **14:2-5** **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second reading **James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27** **A reading from the letter of St James**

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in

you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **James 1:18** Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruit of his creation
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23** **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord

