



# 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**

Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba**

Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis**

Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

**Parish Pastoral Centre:**

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

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**Email:** info@johnthebaptist.org.au

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

**Office Hours:** Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

**Parish Secretary:** Leanne Lang

**Bookkeeper:** Yvonne Smolinski

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

PSALTER 3

*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

*St John Chrysostom, bishop,  
doctor*

Friday - 9:10am

*Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

Saturday - 9:10am

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

**NEXT SUNDAY**

SUNDAY 15/16

SEPTEMBER

(24th 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

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

8th and 9th September, 2018

**"Jesus makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak"**

I remember a quadriplegic who gave a retreat talk from his wheelchair that I will never forget. After giving the story of his life, he said, "Everyone has a disability. Mine is just visible." So true, so true. We all have disabilities. We all need Jesus to make us whole, just like the man who is both deaf and mute in today's gospel, so we can give him praise.

This man was brought to Jesus by the crowd. Jesus takes him aside away from the multitude. Was he doing this to demonstrate that basically an encounter with God in the person of Jesus is a private experience even if it is often mediated by the community? And in this case, what an intimate encounter it was! Jesus "put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle." Spittle is a body fluid that carries the identity of the person. With this man who has some speech impediment, Jesus shares something of his own identity.

And Jesus says, "Ephphatha" (Mk 7:34). The body language of Jesus, including the sigh, and the "Ephphatha" suggest an act of liberation. The people of Israel had expected the messiah to be a liberator – of a political type. But here it seems Jesus wants to avoid public spectacle. The messianic encounter is a private experience. Jesus is the messiah who wants to establish the kingdom of hearts marked by the transformation of individuals.

We are all like this man who was deaf and mute. We do not have a physical disability but something worse – a spiritual disability of deafness and muteness. With all the noise of the world, not only do we have a deafness where God is concerned but we have also lost our ability to have a conversation with God. We are deaf and mute. The result of being deaf and mute spiritually is that our perception of reality is weakened.

We must acknowledge our spiritual disabilities and then, we must turn to Christ who can heal us. Jesus' concern is the real transformation of the hearts of people that happens without force or seduction. He wants our own response to him to be spontaneous and deep. Could we say that in the context of the contemporary indifference and even hostility towards Christian traditions, it is our own personal encounter with Jesus which will make a difference?

**Fr Richard Ddumba**

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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:** Josie HOPE, Alice McGANN, Jane MICALLEF, Zac FENECH, Agostino BADINO, J KIANG, Filomena BUGEJA

**Death Anniversary:** Rose VELLA, Rose AZZOPARDI

**Other:** Melissa KOVAL, Special Intention



We congratulate the family of Noah DUONG who will be baptised here this Sunday 9th September.

#### NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK (NCPW)

commenced on 2nd and concludes on 9th September. The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office has developed 2 new resources in support of NCPW. The **Safeguarding Journey Poster** is on the notice board and **Someone Will Listen to You Postcard** is in the alcove. These resources have been developed with the assistance of children and young people from our parishes in the Archdiocese, for children and young people.

#### 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.



#### 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.

# Saints of the Week



**St John Chrysostom** St. John, named Chrysostom (golden-mouthed) on account of his eloquence, came into the world of Christian parents, about the year 344. He studied rhetoric under Libanius, a pagan, the most famous orator of the age. In 374, he began to lead the life of an anchorite in the mountains near Antioch, but in 386 the poor state of his health forced him to return to Antioch, where he was ordained a priest. In 398, he was elevated to the See of Constantinople and became one of the greatest lights of the Church. But he had enemies in high places. His most powerful enemy, however, was the empress Eudoxia, who was offended by the apostolic freedom of his discourses. Several accusations were brought against him in a pseudo-council, and he was sent into exile. In the midst of his sufferings, like the apostle, St. Paul, whom he so greatly admired, he found the greatest peace and happiness. He had the consolation of knowing that the Pope remained his friend, and did for him what lay in his power. His enemies were not satisfied with the sufferings he had already endured, and they banished him still further, to Pythius, at the very extremity of the Empire. He died on his way there on September 14, 407.

**Feast day: September 13**

**Patronage:** Constantinople, Education, Epilepsy, Lecturer, Orator, Preacher



#### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

**Feast Day: September 14**



**Our Lady of Sorrows** The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels or through Tradition.

Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the passion and death event; rather, it comprised "the seven dolors" or "seven sorrows" of Mary, which were foretold by the Priest Simeon. In all, the prophecy of Simeon that a sword would pierce our Blessed Mother's heart was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with her heart exposed and with seven swords piercing it. More importantly, each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed her fiat, "let it be done unto me according to Thy word," first uttered at the Annunciation.

**Feast Day: September 15**

## 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 7th October.** Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.



### **JB SPRING FAIR 21st October 2018 11am – 4pm**

Looking for **generous sponsors** to offer prizes for our Spring Fair: Please call – Caterina : 0416 044 149

Looking for **volunteers** to make our Spring Fair a wonderful success.

*"Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless"*

Any enquires or volunteers please contact:

Josie: 0407 203 593

Caterina: 0416 044 149

Susan: 0419 606 683

Maria: 0407 662 535

### **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 mob 0488 037 631

Ida Krisnadi mob 0424 637 500

**THANK YOU** to all the Parishioners who gave so generously to our Special Appeal for our struggling farmers. Our Parish raised \$4,00.00, a fantastic effort, which will be sent to Moree to be given to the desperate farmers for food and what ever they may need during this difficult time.

| Ministries<br>Next Week<br>15/16 Sept   | Sat<br>5.30 pm   | Sun<br>8.00 am  | Sun<br>10 am   | Sun<br>5:30 pm |
|---|--|---|--|----------------|
| <b>READERS:</b>                         | A Vlahadakis<br>E Vella  | L Barilla<br>T Simpson                                    | F Holden<br>R Camilleri  |                |
| <b>EXTRA-<br/>ORDINARY<br/>MINISTER</b> | L Topic<br>M Brito<br>J Burgx<br>V Petkovic<br>M Chum<br>B Goria | F Foti<br>F Bushby<br>A Liberatore<br>J Gauchi<br>N Bevan | N Freeman<br>N Dubuisson<br>J Habib<br>T Vartuli<br>E Villegas<br>G Dunn |                |
| <b>CHURCH<br/>COUNTER</b>               | G Adam   | E Villegas  |  |                |
| <b>CLEANERS:<br/>CHURCH</b>             |  |   |  |                |
| <b>ALTAR<br/>SOCIETY<br/>ROSTER</b>     | 16/9/2018  | 23/9/2018   | 30/9/2018  | 7/10/2018      |
|   | S Peters   | S Shabo   | Z Penitani   | M De Luca      |
| <b>10AM<br/>MORNING<br/>TEAS</b>        | 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** 18th 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

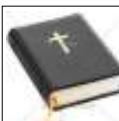
Extraordinary Ministers Linda Barilla 0409 914 083



**JORDAN YOUTH GROUP**  
Jordan Youth Group will be meeting next Saturday 15th September from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Primary school students in Years 5 and 6 are welcome to come together to engage, learn, pray and be involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith. Join us in group discussions, games, activities and reflection.

For further details contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or email: [infor@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:infor@johnthebaptist.org.au)



### **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 13th September 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](mailto:george_dcruz@hotmail.com)

**Thank You** to everyone who gave so generously to our special Father's Day Collection for the Priest's Retirement Appeal. The Parish raised \$328.95.

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### Next Sunday:

#### 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

### Reflection Questions.....

- ◆ I have been tongue-tied and silent when.... Jesus, the Word, has given me courage to proclaim.....
- ◆ I have experienced Jesus' divine power and compassion coursing through me when.....
- ◆ I am compelled to proclaim Jesus' mission to.....

#### First reading

**Isaiah 35:4-7**

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

#### The Word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm

**145:7-10**

#### Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

#### Second reading

**James 2:1-5**

#### A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand

over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

#### The Word of the Lord

#### Gospel Acclamation

**Matthew 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

**Mark 7:31-37**

#### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

#### The Gospel of the Lord

