



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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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 Francis Xavier, priest

Tuesday - 9:10am

*John Damascene, priest,
doctor*

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

St Nicholas, bishop

Friday - 9:10am

St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

Saturday - 9:10am

*Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 8/9 DECEMBER

*(Second Sunday of Advent
Year C)*

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

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

1st & 2nd December, 2018

Longing for Christ's Coming

The Church waits for the coming of Jesus at the end of the world. And it waits for his coming at Christmas. This time of waiting is called Advent. The name "Advent" comes from the Latin word "*adventus*" which means "coming". Advent is a season of four weeks in the Church Year devoted to preparation for the Coming of Christ.

The readings for the first two weeks focus our attention to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus at the end of time. This is done so that our minds and hearts are directed to await the Lord Jesus' return in a spirit of devout and joyful expectation. And then, the readings from December 17-24 serve to prepare us more directly for our Lord's birth by focusing on the events leading up to Christmas.

The first Sunday Gospel of the year (and the liturgical year begins in Advent) is also in a way the last Gospel of the previous year. Why is this Gospel passage appointed for the first Sunday of Advent, the turning-point between the years? This is because the birth of Jesus at Christmas, for which we are beginning to prepare, is a significant move towards the fulfilment of the promises of salvation.

"Christmas is coming, and the geese are getting fat ..." runs the old song! But the problem today is that Christmas comes much early with all the shopping and the excitement. We Catholics are not immune to this 'new culture' around us. But we should always remember that Christmas is primarily a religious festival. We have to recognise Christmas for what it truly is – the colossal fact of the incarnation, God as a human baby - with all its implications.

Jesus reminds us how easy it is to get lost in the busy activities of December. He warns us: Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. Without prayer and embracing intentional stillness in the season of Advent it is so easy to feel as if the weeks before Christmas are racing by at a breathless pace.

How can I grow spiritually during Advent as I prepare for the coming of the Lord – this Christmas?

Seek some time for silence

Take time every day to pray to God

Read the Scriptures

Go to Confession and Daily Mass

Show Mercy: Practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Fr Richard

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:



Sick: Bishop Bill WRIGHT, Janelle CLIFTON, Isabelle CROUCHE, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Peter ANDERSON, Col PURCELL, Inez BUGEJA, Claudio Da SILVA, Charlie SALIBA, Bozana VUKOV, Diana VUKOV, Judy VELLA, Giuse, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Nancy VARTULI, Jessie ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: Mariella SOTO, Gioakim Van Chuyen NGUYEN

Death Anniversary: David SMOLINSKI, Joseph CAMILLERI, Mary REILLY, Kue Chai LEE, Ngo Hai BUA, Gabriel SAFI

Other: Iuminada MENDOZA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH Special Intention



"To the parishioners of John the Baptist, My name is Benjamin Saliba and I have just completed my third year of study at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd for the Archdiocese of Sydney. I was born and raised in Bankstown, having undertaken my primary education at St Felix, and high school education at La Salle Catholic College. I studied a communications degree at the University of Western Sydney, graduating in 2005. Having worked in a dynamic industry as an Architectural consultant for nearly 10 years, I then began to do missionary work in the Philippines during my Christmas Holidays, completing a total of four missions from 2013-2016. This is where I started to take seriously what God was calling me to in my life. In 2016, I made the decision to join the seminary and further discern a calling to the Priesthood. I look forward to participating in parish events and meeting you all after mass each week as we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ."

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A CATECHIST/HELPER?

Faith is pure gift; a gift received and a gift given. A catechist is right there at the centre of this exchange of gifts. Our children are the future. We as parents, catechists, teachers, clergy and Religious need to be instruments of God giving the gift of faith to them, to help them understand that God is always there for them. I encourage you to become these instruments of God's love.

What is involved? You are invited by the Church to share our faith with over **1100** children in our **6 public schools** who receive **30 minutes of Scripture** each week during the school term. Classes are on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday mornings and afternoon and Friday mornings.

What do I need? A willingness to share your faith life and a Working with Children Check (WWCC)

What help will I get? Support and encouragement from our vibrant group of 65 catechists who share their faith interests and goals. CCD provides practical training courses including compulsory safeguarding training to help you to develop teaching skills and to make the best use of your own gifts. Training will start weeks 2 and 3 of Term 1, 2019.

Each Catechist has a Teacher's Manual containing easy to follow lesson plans and each child receives a Student Activity Book. We use the "Christ Our Light and Life" Curriculum.

We do not expect you to teach as soon as you begin. You will be invited to start as a helper. A helper assists a Catechist in class and is not required to give a lesson; then, when you feel ready and have begun training you may like to start to prepare lessons and teach.

Due to work and family commitments and some catechists teaching 2 or 3 classes we need **6 catechists to cover all classes in 2019.**

I personally thank the wonderful JB Catechist Team and pray that God will continue to bless them in bringing the hope and joy of Jesus to the children entrusted in our care.

If you would like more information about the mission of a Catechist or Helper, please speak to Fr Dominic or Fr Richard or contact the Parish Office on 98232572 or JB Coordinator Nina Laureti 0408465149.

Saints of the Week



St Francis Xavier was a Navarrese-Basque Roman Catholic missionary born in the Kingdom of Navarre on April 7, 1506. He was sent to study at the University of Paris and in 1530, Francis Xavier earned his master's degree, and went on to teach philosophy at the University of Paris. On August 15, 1534, Francis Xavier along with Peter Favre, and several other friends, made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The men planned to travel to the Holy Land to convert non-believers. Francis Xavier started his study of theology that same year and was ordained on June 24, 1537. With St Ignatius Loyola became one of the seven who founded the Society of Jesuits. He preached for 6 months in Africa on his way to Asia where he spent the remainder of his life spreading the Word of God in India, Japan and the Philippines.

Feast day: December 3

Patron of Catholic missions; African missions; Goa, India; China; missionaries.



St Ambrose, also known as Aurelius Ambrosius, is one of the four original doctors of the Church. He was the Bishop of Milan and became one of the most important theological figure of the 4th century. He was a successful lawyer prior to becoming a bishop. As bishop, he donated all of his land and gave his money to the poor. Ambrose authored many of the Church's important writings and hymns. He is credited with composing the repertory Ambrosian chant, also known as the Antiphonal Chant. He is also credited with composing the hymn "Te Deum," which is believed to have been written when he baptized Augustine of Hippo.

Feast Day: December 7

Patron of beekeeper, beggars, learners and Milan



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the conception of the Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her son Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church teaches that God acted upon Mary in the first moment of her conception keeping her "immaculate"

Feast Day: December 8

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

The Thursday night fortnightly Bible Study will resume in 2019.

To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2018.

The community of John the Baptist would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for the commitment and care you have given the children of our Parish. Thank you for sharing your faith with our children and helping them in their journey of faith, to know and love God more.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your family. God bless you.

Please let Angela or your co-ordinator know (ASAP) whether you would like to continue being a Children's Liturgy Leader in 2019. We are especially in need of Leaders and helpers for the 10am Mass in 2019. If anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or 0410 964 196.





PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass this Sunday 2nd December**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.

"COME - we want to hear from you!"

Please come along to a parish dialogue session on **Tuesday 4th December at 6:30pm - 7:30pm in the Parish Hall**. All are welcome and all contributions are valued and will be included in the submissions from our Parish. These will assist in the planning of discussions for the bishops at Plenary 2020. Any enquiries—Tina Dunn, Family Educator 0439 492 920.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

2nd Rite of Reconciliation:

Tuesday 11th December 7:30-8:30pm

Wednesday 19th December 7:30pm

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm Children's Mass, 8:00pm and Midnight

Christmas Day: 8:00am and 10:00am



This year we will not be collecting foodstuffs for Parish Hampers. However, if you wish to donate to a Christmas appeal, please consider a donation to THE COMMUNITY CARE FUND through the PARISH POOR BOXES in the Church and Piety Store. Be assured that all money donated to this fund will be utilised solely for community needs that and transparency will be a priority.

In conclusion, if you know of any person in need this Christmas, or at any other time, please contact Fr Dominic, the parish office, or any member of the committee.

Thank you for your continued support of others.

John the Baptist Community Care Committee

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On behalf of the **Jordan Youth** group committee, we would like to thank our Years 5 and 6 students who have attended our sessions this year. Please join us on **Saturday, 8th December 3:30-5:30pm** for the last meeting of the year.



VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2019 MORNING TEA ROSTER



Every Sunday after the 10:00am Mass a group of Volunteers help with the setting up and serving at our morning tea. If you would like become a volunteer in 2019 please contact Teresa Vartuli on 0413 835 250 so that your name can be added to our roster. You will only need to attend once a month. Thank you for your support.

Ministries Next Week 8/9 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	E Vella J Oliveri	R Golubic M Jebail	N Dubuisson A Bautista	M Abdal V Arbanas
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	C Araco L Topic T Micali A Gorla B Empeigne A Vlahadakis	J Finucane S Xuereb D Triganza L Barilla R Morellini	S Hambrook H Fenech E Villegas C Porreca T Nguyen M Aulsebrook	R Imbert N Abdal S Cook M Mai
CHURCH COUNTER	J Oliveri	V Baltazar	Younart	
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	9/12/2018 S Peters	16/12/2018 Z Penitani	23/12/2018 R Marciano	30/12/2018 M De Luca
10AM MORNING TEAS	9/12/2018 Group 2	16/12/2018 Group 3	23/12/2018 Group 3	30/12/2018 Group 5

Upcoming Parish Activities

Save the date!

Year 6 Graduation Mass 18th December at 6:30pm.

Combined Christmas Carols: Friday 7th December

Carols by Candlelight



5.30pm Freeman Oval
(Enter Via Gloucester St & Mount St)

Hosted by: Freeman Catholic College,
John the Baptist Primary and John the Baptist Parish

**Friday 7th
December 2018**

Carols
from
7pm

- Food Trucks from 5.30pm
- Bring a Picnic Blanket
- Candles and Glow Sticks
- Kids Born

ALCOHOL FREE
EVENT

All proceeds are to go to
Sebastian Aguilar
of Year 6 from John the Baptist
Primary School



Youth Rally

FREE BBQ,
socializing,
activities and a
short introduction
on ...

**2nd
December**

**Held after
5:30pm Youth
Mass**

WHO AM I? WHERE
DO I COME FROM?

Do you have
questions about
your Faith?
Searching for facts
and answers?

We aspire to deliver an
ENJOYABLE, FACTUAL
and **SIMPLE** way that one
in their own way and time,
will be able to build a
relationship with **CHRIST**,
and understand who they are
and where they come from.

St. John the Baptist Parish
Bonnyrigg

So please join us to celebrate
all that is beautiful in life!

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

Next Sunday:

Second Sunday of Advent - (Year C)

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ When I observe wars, poverty, natural disasters, I become more.....
- ♦ Advent call me to grow in Gospel living by.....
- ♦ I experience sharing already in Christ's "great glory" in that.....

First reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The-Lord-our-integrity.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul..

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and law.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants,

as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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