



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

Emergency: 0423 420 639

Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba

Email: dumbrich@live.com

Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis

Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Pastoral Centre:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Office: 9823 2572 Fax: 9822 9954

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

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 22/23

DECEMBER

*(Fourth 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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

15th & 16th December, 2018

Listen to John the Baptist's Instructions First!

"What happened to you?" said the hospital visitor to the heavily bandaged man sitting up in bed. "I decided to take a ride on the roller coaster. As we came up to the top of the highest loop, I noticed a little sign by the side of the track. I tried to read it but I couldn't make it out." "I decided to go around again, but we went by so quickly I still couldn't read it. By now, I was determined to read that sign so I went round a third time. As we reached the top, I stood up in the car to get a better view." "And did you manage to see what the sign said this time?" asked the visitor. "Yeah. It said, 'Don't stand up in the car.'"

The third Sunday of Advent shows John the Baptist pointing out Jesus, and so increasing the excitement of the coming Messiah. John tells the people that simply being a member of God's assembly is not good enough to please God. And so, the people ask him, "What must we do?" He teaches various groups of people what they must do to prepare; they are willing but need guidance.

Basically John's instruction is not to exploit the weak; if they want to be baptised into the community of the Messiah they must not take advantage of the poor. This is an early example of a beautiful attitude we shall see all through the Gospel of Luke: he is always sensitive to the needs of the weak, and especially the possibilities of the powerful victimising the poor. He is very aware of the dangers of money, so he stresses the danger of tax-collectors squirrelling away funds into their own pockets and of soldiers grousing about their pay. In the modern world, too, money often challenges our relationships: when money is mentioned everything can turn sour.

John the Baptist could act as conscience for his audience. He could see beyond his time and space to something greater - or more specifically, to someone greater. John empowered the people to believe, to see beyond their moral dilemmas and most importantly prepared the people to meet Jesus. Let us also open our eyes to see the possible. A life better. And a life with Christ. Let us trust God will make these things happen. We can hope for a better tomorrow, but remember to follow the instructions first: *'Don't stand up in the car.'*

The **Christmas Novena** begins on 17 December. At this point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. Day 1 pray for Joy, Day 2 for Humility, Day 3 for Faith, Day 4 for Hope, Day 5 for Love, Day 6 for Peace, Day 7 for Forgiveness, Day 8 for Holiness, & Day 9 for Life eternal.

Fr Richard

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



Sick: Fr Paul STENHOUSE, 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: Margaret TAYLOR, Mariella SOTO, Gioakim Van Chuyen NGUYEN

Death Anniversary: Marianna FOTI

Other: Joseph Tsi Sing LAY, Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH Special Intention

Saints of the Week



St Peter Canisius

Born in Holland in 1521. Peter had edited and written several volumes on Church history and theology. A staunch defender of the Church against reformist Protestants in Europe. He was an educator and opened colleges for the Jesuits. He also spread the findings of the Council of Trent to the European Archbishops. Peter died in December 21, 1597. He is known as the Second Apostle of Germany and was named a Doctor of the Church.

Feast day: December 21
Patron of Germany

CHRISTMAS NOVENA PRAYERS

Please take home of copy of the Christmas Novena Prayers.



MEMORIAL BOOK: Parishioners are invited place their loved ones names in the permanent Memorial Book which will be left in the Church for the whole year. Please call or email the Parish Office with their names and date of their death so that we can add them to the Book. Thank you



We congratulate the family of Inessa TOMASETTI who will be baptised here this Sunday 16th December.



JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CALENDAR is available for purchase for \$5.00 from the Piety Store outside the Church.

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.

NEW YEARS EVE VIGIL

31st December, 2018

**St Joseph's Catholic Church,
231 Newbridge Road, Moorebank**

10:00pm Confession

10:30pm Rosary

11:00pm Mass of Thanksgiving

For further information please contact Fr John Iacono, Rosary Village, 1 Tara Close, Yennora, NSW, 2161. Ph: 9721 2608.

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-1

This e-book, which may be downloaded **free of charge** to a computer/tablet/phone, offers the Gospel for every day of the coming Liturgical Year C-1 beginning with the First Sunday of Advent. Each daily Gospel has with it a reflection of some 750 words. The e-book may be passed on for downloading to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher given when he was Bishop of Parramatta.

Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-1 may be accessed at the following: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/



BIBLE STUDY: Every Thursday 10am - 11am

Gathers in the **Church Meeting Room** (after the 9:10am Mass and Rosary).

For further information please contact Meding on 9823 7121 or 0410 177 673.



'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD'

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Every Tuesday at 8pm for 8:15pm start

Give 30 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel. If you are new to the meditation group can you please allow one hour. For further information, contact Frances on 0438 213 313.



Volunteering with CatholicCare

Interested in volunteering to help seniors? Based at our Liverpool office, we need callers to phone people waiting for government funded home care to check on their wellbeing.

Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.



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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

2nd Rite of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 19th December 7:30pm

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

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



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

If you would like your child to participate in the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Mass, please attend the following rehearsals:

Friday 14th December at 3:30pm and

Friday 21st December at 3:30pm.

Both rehearsals will be held in the Church.

If you have any questions please contact Rosalie: 0404 276 332 or Sylvana: 0417 197 357.



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.

After your final Children's Liturgy for the year, please leave your folder and photocopies for 2018 in the Children's Liturgy cupboard. Thank you

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

Ministries Next Week 22/23 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis G Turnbull	T Simpson M Jebail	G Zangari M Zangari	
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	A Jameson C Araco L Topic T Micali A Gorla B Empeigne	D Sullivan J Finucane S Xuereb D Triganza R Morellini	S D'Cruz T Vartuli S Hambrook H Fenech E Villegas C Porreca	S Cook M Mai G Vanderwert D Pham
CHURCH COUNTER	F Aloe	J Coiera		
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	23/12/2018 R Marciano	30/12/2018 M De Luca	6/01/2019 A Portolesi	13/01/2019 R Marciano
10AM MORNING TEAS	23/12/2018 Group 4	30/12/2018 Group 5	6/01/2019 Group 1	13/01/2019 Group 2

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!

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

JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CARE FUND

Over many years, the St Vincent de Paul Conference has supported many deserving families. Although people in need can still obtain support by attending the Vinnies' Centre on the corner of Elizabeth Drive and Humphries Road (Ph: 9823 1222), as from the start of 2018, the work done by the volunteers from this Parish Conference has changed.

Our Parish will now be supporting people at a more local level through the newly established JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CARE FUND. This new initiative does not discriminate and provides care and support for people of our community who are in need, irrespective of religion or their particular situation in life. Their need may be financial, social, or emotional.

The PIETY STORE, managed by parish volunteers will now direct their profits to this community fund and any donations from the POOR BOXES will also be added to this fund.

A contribution from the SPRING FAIR, coupled with the profits from the PIETY STALL, has also supplemented this fund.

A committee consisting of Fr Dominic PP, Tina Dunn, Millie Breden and Jim Finucane plus three other members (to be determined) will oversee the fund and coordinate assistance for those identified as needing support.

Early next year, we are hoping to extend our commitment to aid a national/international cause. It is the intention of the committee that this will focus on a different cause each year.

To date, THE COMMUNITY CARE FUND has raised approximately, \$10,500. From this amount, assistance has been given to:

- Drought relief.....\$1,000
- Mental health support for one of our youth.....\$450

A FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the fund, showing donations and expenditure, will be published every 2 months in the Parish Newsletter.

Now for Christmas!

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



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.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

Communion Antiphon: *Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Advent - (Year C)

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ When the question, "What should we do?" arises in me, I turn to.....
- ♦ What instills expectation in me is.....
- ♦ What I expect is.....
- ♦ The Good News for me is.....

First reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord

Canticle

Isaiah 12

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,

I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,

he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds;

make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

