



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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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 3

Monday - No Mass

*St Thomas Aquinas, priest,
doctor*

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

St John Bosco, priest

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

The Presentation of the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 2/3 FEBRUARY

*(Fourth Sunday in Ordinary
Time 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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

26th & 27th January, 2019

Setting Captives Free to Freedom in Christ

A man joined the priesthood. The order he joined could not speak for 7 years. Then they could only say 2 words. The first 7 years passed and they went into a small room. His 2 words were "too cold". The next 7 years passed and they took him back into the small room and his 2 words were "bad food". The next 7 years passed and they took him back into the small room and his 2 words were "I quit". Good they said, "all you have done is complain."

In today's gospel, Luke narrates his own "solid and ordered account" of the events about Christ. His audience is "Theophilus." Historically speaking, there is no known figure named Theophilus at the time when Luke wrote his account. This Greek name simply means "lover or seeker of God." Therefore, this good news is for all of us and for our salvation.

Before beginning to tell about Jesus' activities, Luke wants to make clear to his readers the force that drives the Prophet of Galilee and the goals he follows. The mission of Jesus is expressed with great force. His mission is a fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour..." This prophecy was made when the Israelites lived in slavery in exile. Hence, Isaiah's prophecy was a call to liberation. Therefore, by using these same words as the basis of his ministry and mission, Christ announces a reign of peace, justice, freedom and love to all those suffering from all kinds of oppression and injustice.

Jesus liberates us from two types of slavery. The first is a personally imposed slavery – a result of our personal sins and mistakes in life. The other type of slavery is that which is imposed on us by the society. The idea is that the social climate fosters sinful attitudes as normal behaviour. These structural or rather institutional attitudes and unjust behaviours which could be socio-cultural, political and economic; do not allow us to live a fulfilled life in this world.

God's Spirit is in Jesus, sending him to the poor, directing his whole life toward those most in need, most oppressed, most humiliated. We his followers need to work in this same direction. Moreover, God's Spirit has been poured on us as well to help us in our personal struggles against the slavery of sin but also to challenge the sinful structures of our society. This is the orientation that God, incarnate in Jesus, wants to impress on human history. The last should be first in knowing a life that is more worthy, more free, more happy, the life that God wants for all His sons and daughters from now on.

Catechism Theme: The Proclamation of the Kingdom (544 -545)

When Jesus proclaimed Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled, he proclaimed the presence of the Kingdom. With his proclamation, Jesus invited everyone to enter, Jew and Gentile alike. To enter the Kingdom, however, we must accept his word. In doing so, we become dependent upon him to lead us to the Father. "The kingdom belongs to 'the poor and lowly,' which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts" (CCC 544). With the proclamation of the Kingdom comes an invitation to receive the Spirit, its guidance and its consolation.

Jesus invites sinners to the table of the kingdom: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." He invites us to that conversion without which one cannot enter the kingdom, but shows us in word and deed his Father's boundless mercy for us and the vast "joy in heaven over one sinner who repents". The supreme proof of his love will be the sacrifice of his own life "for the forgiveness of sins" (CCC 545).

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, Inez BUGEJA, Claudio Da SILVA, Bozana VUKOV, Diana VUKOV, Judy VELLA, Giuse, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Nancy VARTULI, Jessie ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: Ronald William FENTON, Charlie SALIBA, Manuela REGO, Merita AGUDO, Ghazwan KOREAL

Death Anniversary: Maria NAPULI, Charlie BUSUTTIL

Other: Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving, Special Intention



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

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 afternoons 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 contact Nina Laureti on 0408465149 or speak to Fr Dominic or Fr Richard or contact the Parish Office on 98232572.

Saints of the Week



St Thomas Aquinas surpassed all his fellow students in learning and virtue. He entered the order of St Dominic against his parents wishes and persevered in his vocation. He studied under St. Albert the Great and at age 22 began teaching and publishing his first works. At age 31 he received his doctorate. He wrote and preached often and was one of the greatest and influential theologians of all time. He is one of the few Doctors of the Church.

Feast day: January 28

Patron of students and all universities



St John Bosco

Saint John Bosco (Italian: Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco; 16 August 1815 – 31 January 1888), popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System.

A follower of the spirituality and philosophy of Saint Francis de Sales, Bosco was an ardent Marian devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title Mary Help of Christians. He later dedicated his works to De Sales when he founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, based in Turin. Together with Maria Domenica Mazzarello, he founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls. He taught Dominic Savio, of whom he wrote a biography that helped the young boy be canonized.

On 18 April 1869, one year after the construction of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, Don Bosco established the Association of Mary Help of Christians.

In 1876 Bosco founded a movement of laity, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, with the same educational mission to the poor. In 1875, he began to publish the *Salesian Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* has remained in continuous publication, and is currently published in 50 different editions and 30 languages.

Bosco established a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work. Following his beatification in 1929, he was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1934.

Feast day: January 31

Patron of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents



The Presentation of the Lord.

Feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted in Rome during the seventh century. Celebrated forty days after Christmas, commemorating the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child, and recalling the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple. Christ is "the light to enlighten all nations", and so candles are

blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.

Feast Day: February 2



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



PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass next Sunday 3rd February**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.



We congratulate the families of Xander, Pia and Maya OJEDA and Henry GOODYER who will be baptised here this Sunday 27th January.



CHANGES TO MORNING MASSES AT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Monday and Tuesday Mornings at 8:00am starting 4th February

Wednesday Evening 7:00pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Mornings 9:10am

The weekend Masses will remain the same.



DEVOTIONS TO HONOUR OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on **Sunday the 10th February, 2019** (behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church), entrance via St James Avenue, Earlwood, commencing with recitation of the Rosary at

2:30pm followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3:00pm.

The Principal celebrant will be Bishop Terry Brady.

Some parking for disabled people is available in the school grounds and general parking in the nearby Council car park.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fr Dominic would like to hold on the **First Sunday of each Month** a supper after the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and a morning tea after the 8:00am Sunday Mass. If you are able to assist please contact Teresa Vartuli on 0413 835 250.

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

Ministries Next Week 2/3 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis J Victorino	I O'Connor T Simpson	J Habib N Dubuisson	M Abdal A Bento
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	L Tononcelli E Vella M Camilleri A Pace J Victorino A Jameson	F Foti B O'Connor D Sullivan J Finucane S Xuereb	E Villegas C Porreca T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	G Vanderwert D Pham R Imbert M Abdal
CHURCH COUNTER	M Davies			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	4/02/2019 D Triganza	11/02/2019 S Shabo	18/02/2019 A Portolesi	25/02/2019 K Jekki
10AM MORNING TEAS	3/02/2019 Group 1	10/02/2019 Group 2	17/02/2019 Group 3	24/02/2019 Group 4

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!



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.



JORDAN YOUTH GROUP

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



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.



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 31st January @ 7:10pm

(Meetings take place every fortnight on a Thursday)

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall

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

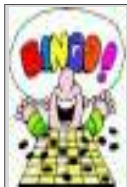
To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2018.

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



PARISH HOUSIE: Every Saturday 2pm – 4:30pm at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

Think about your choices. Gambling More, enjoying less? For free and confidential information and advice about problem gambling, contact **Gambling Help 1800 858 858** www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.*

Communion Antiphon: *Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*

Next Sunday:

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ My manner of living compiles a narrative of Jesus' life and mission in that.....
- ♦ The Isaian prophecy read by Jesus is being fulfilled through me whenever I.....
- ♦ What I observe, treasure, and hand down is.....

First reading

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

18:8-10, 15

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and Life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and Life.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and Life.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and Life.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and Life.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body',

would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

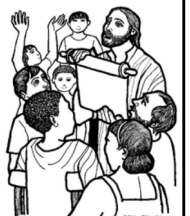
Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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