



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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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 - 8am

Tuesday - 8am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Autumn Ember Day

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 2/3 MARCH

(Eighth 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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

23rd & 24th February, 2019

The Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”

A young man in the village had been badly insulted, and he hurried to his pastor to tell him about it, adding that he was going immediately to his offender and avenge his honour. “*Better go home, son,*” said the pastor, kindly. “*But I’ve been insulted!*” protested the young man. “*That’s exactly why you should go home at this time. An insult is like mud.*” “*I know that...and I’m going to clean it up.*” “*Son, there is one thing you might as well learn now than later. Mud brushes off a lot more easily when it is dry.*”

When someone hates you, you have two choices: you can hate them back or you can refuse to hate. When someone hurts you, you can respond in two ways: you can hurt them back or you can refuse to hurt. Some people see life in terms of dog eating dog. David had his chance to kill his enemy before his enemy killed him, as Saul fully intended to do. But he held back and he would not take Saul’s life.

In today’s gospel Jesus makes it clear that if we wish to be his disciples, we must refuse to hate, refuse to hurt. This is why he teaches that we are to love our enemies, and why he enshrines that teaching in the golden rule: “Treat others the way you would like to be treated”. Since we would not want others to hate us or hurt us, we should not adopt hateful or hurtful attitudes towards them.

Now this teaching to love our enemies, to follow the golden rule is the most difficult of all Jesus’ teachings. We all struggle against it. We tend to feel that the people who hurt and hate us do not deserve our love and forgiveness. Instead Jesus says, “*Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Pardon, and you shall be pardoned*”. Jesus’ words challenge us to be more like God. A compassionate God who loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God’s love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

Catechism Theme: Conscience (CCC 1795-1802)

The Golden Rule guides the formation and use of conscience. The ability to see others the same way we see ourselves changes the way we think and act. Both are intertwined. A conscience cannot grow without the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule cannot be exercised without an act of conscience.

A “conscience” is the judgment of the mind about the morality of an action. A person must follow their conscience if the person is absolutely sure they are acting in a moral fashion. (1796, 1800). Prayer, study, and discussion are the means to developing a good conscience. (1798, 1801, 1802) The best way to develop a good conscience is simple, however. Use the Golden Rule.

Fr Richard

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



Sick: Jane GALEA, Joseph DEGUARA, 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: Daniel PORTELLI, Dale HARRIS,

Death Anniversary: Salvatore PREVITERA, Michael CASSAR, John FARRUGIA

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

Saints of the Week



Autumn Ember Day - March 1

Ember days have been kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century, and mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. Vatican Council II retained ember days in principle, but left it to bishops conferences

to determine the extent and form of their observance. (The name 'ember' is similar in derivation to the German Quatember, 'quarter day'; the Irish used to speak of Quarter Tense.) The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has now decided that the Australian Church should observe the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance.

On rogation and ember days the practice of the Church is to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to give God public thanks (GNLYC 45).

DEANERY MENS BREAKFAST AT PANANIA

Calling all Men! We all need the supportive brotherhood of other good men. Come and find out more about men's ministry in the Sydney Archdiocese. Find out how you can start or join a local men's group in your area with support from us. Hosted by St Christopher's Parish Panania, hear from Robert Haddad from Sydney Catholic Schools on his experience of Catholic brotherhood and what helped him connect with his faith as a young man. Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Bishop Tony Randazzo, **Saturday March 16**, 8am Exposition and Adoration, 8:30am Mass celebrated by Bishop Randazzo, 9:30am BBQ breakfast. St Christopher's Parish, 233 Tower Street, Panania. \$10.00 per person.

Register: www.trybooking.com/BAACH

More info: christopher.gordon@sydneycatholic.org

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

"I will not forget you, I have carved you on the palm of my hand." Isaiah 49.

The Family and Life Institute are holding their annual Day of the Unborn Child rally on **Sunday March 24**. This is a day of celebration and remembrance of the dignity of the unborn. It is also a day to remember the millions of unborn children whose lives have been ended by abortion. Join us to witness to the sanctity of human life! **10:30am Mass at St Mary's Cathedral**, **12pm Angelus**, followed by a peaceful procession through the streets of the CBD led by Bishop Tony Randazzo. **1:30pm, Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral**.

Jordan Youth Group Committee

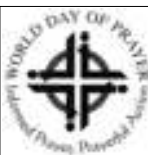
Years 5 & 6 Primary school students & Year 7 High school students are welcome to join the **Jordan Youth Group** in prayer, activities, games, trivia and reflection at John the Baptist Parish Hall commencing

Saturday, March 23rd, 2019. 3.30pm - 5.15pm

Admission is free and Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Our aim is to encourage young people within our community to come together to engage, learn, pray and become involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith.

Letters will be sent out to schools next week.

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact the parish office.



World Day of Prayer -

All Saints Parish Liverpool

All Saints Parish Liverpool invites parishioners and friends to the World Day of Prayer Service at 7pm on **Friday, 1 March 2019** in All Saints

church, and to supper following in Loreto Place. The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement, led by Christian women from different denominations in over 170 countries. They gather on the first Friday of March each year to pray for justice and peace for a specific country. This year, it is Slovenia. World Day of Prayer is a practical way of joining with our local Christian sisters and brothers in a witness of ecumenical spirit. Enquiries and RSVPs: Kim Mannix: 9602 8466 (office hours); kim.allsaints@gmail.com.

Catholic women's organisations partner for International Women's Day Celebrations

Join Catholic Women's League Sydney and Catholic Women's Mentoring for a free special event to celebrate International Women's Day. The evening event will be held at the Polding Centre in Sydney and will include opportunities for networking, a panel discussion and Q&A and the chance to learn about what both organisations can offer Catholic women of Sydney and surrounds.

Date: Friday 8 March 2019

Time: Drinks and Canapes from 5.30pm, Panel from 7pm

Venue: Level 8, Polding Centre, Liverpool St Sydney

RSVP: Register online <http://www.catholicwomensmentoring.org.au/SydneyIWD> or email info@catholicwomensmentoring.org.au

Discernment Retreat for Men 2019

A retreat for men at all stages of their discernment who are considering a vocation to Priesthood. The weekend includes talks, time for personal prayer, sacraments, spiritual guidance, Q&A with seminarians and discussions.

Keynote address by His Grace, Most Rev. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Date: Friday 22 to Sunday 24 March 2019

Time: (Friday 22) 5pm to (Sunday 24) 1pm

Where: Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush

Cost: \$99

Registration is Essential: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSel39KjJXVZ_O9xu2kQn4o8RYbEf07tPIS955JTy_xcpwjAIQ/viewform

Have some questions or simply want to enquire? Call us on (02) 9307 8424 or email vocations@sydneycatholic.org www.vocationcentre.org.au



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 March**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Hall.



We congratulate the families of Alexander GAO and Elvie NASSO who will be baptised here this Sunday 24th February.



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.



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

'Of Life and Love' Marriage Preparation Course: The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is offering marriage preparation courses for engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Each course will be held over 3 consecutive Wednesdays. 2019 dates include: March 13, 20, 27 and October 16, 23, 30. To book online visit <https://www.trybooking.com/ZWSU> or please contact LMFevents@sydneycatholic.org

Healing after Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non-judgemental environment. Rachel's Vineyard offers a confidential voicemail number: 0400092555 or email info@rachelsvineyard.org.au. The retreats for 2019 will be held at Varroville, NSW on April 5-7 and Oct 25-27. brochures are in the church or see the website: www.rachelsvineyard.org.au

Ministries Next Week 2/3 MARCH	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis G Turnbull	T Simpson J Finucane	N Dubuisson E Villegas	M Zangari V Arbas
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	D Pham R Imbert G Vanderwert
CHURCH COUNTER	M Davies			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	4/03/2019 C Monteleone	11/03/2019 J Sultana	17/03/2019 S Peters	24/03/2019 M De Luca
10AM MORNING TEAS	3/03/2019 Group 1	10/03/2019 Group 2	17/03/2019 Group 3	24/03/2019 Group 4

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Do you have a child older than Year 4 who is needing to make the First Holy Communion? If so please contact Tamara Vella on 0424 166 248 or Kylie Farias on 0473 779 338.



OLD PALMS: We are asking parishioners to bring their old palms from the previous year, so that they can be burnt on Shrove Tuesday, to use as ashes on Ash Wednesday. Please leave your palms at the back of the Church. Thank you



LENTEN GROUPS

If any Parishioners are interested in leading a Lenten Group or you wish to join a Lenten group please contact the parish office on 9823 2572 so that we can order the appropriate Lenten Resources. Thank you



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Youth gatherings for young adults (16-35) are held at John the Baptist Parish on Friday nights fortnightly at 7.30pm for an hour. Next gathering: 1st March

We gather to pray, socialize and to support each other.

During LENT, we shall have weekly gatherings for a special youth Lenten program on Fridays at 7.30pm (after the Stations of the Cross). Beginning on Friday, 8th March

We hope you can join us. Bring a friend along!



CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to help with Children's Liturgy at the 10:00am Mass once a month. If you are able to help please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or 0410 964 196. Thank you

MEN'S WEEKEND: All Saints Catholic Senior College, Casula, Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/menalive-liverpool-registration-55619636831>. See noticeboard for more.

The Bishop's Blend: Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? The join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Monday, 11 March 2019 at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** for the Bishop's Blend, a quarterly breakfast series for young professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://thebishopsblendseventhedition.eventbrite.com.au> or contact us at bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.*

Communion Antiphon: *I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.*

Next Sunday:

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Some examples of God's "good measure" toward me and my family are.....
- ♦ I share that "good measure" with others by.....
- ♦ What it means to me to be as merciful as the Father is merciful to us is.....

First reading

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is kind and merciful.

102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful..

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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