



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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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

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MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 3

Monday - 8am

The Annunciation of the Lord

Tuesday - 8am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 30/31 MARCH

(Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday — 5:00 — 5:15pm

Wednesday 7:30-8:00pm

(during Lent)

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office

or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

23rd & 24th March, 2019

Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Frank Rizzo (1920 -1991) an American ex-police officer and mayor of Philadelphia once said, "The streets are safe in Philadelphia. It's only the people who make them unsafe." Probably all of us have cried out at some time or another, "What have I done to deserve this?" Occasionally there is an obvious answer - if you drove home blind drunk then we can all tell you what you did to deserve getting smashed up in a car accident. Actions have consequences, and there's not much point complaining. But if you were the one sitting innocently in the bus shelter when the drunk ran into it, then there doesn't seem to be any connection. We still cry out, "What have I done to deserve this?"

Today, Jesus teaches us that suffering and prosperity are not punishments or rewards, but God's grace may eventually be exhausted by those who squander it. The people who approached Jesus to tell him of the murder of the Galilean worshippers were, judging by Jesus' response, apparently assumed that the only way such a thing could happen was that the victims were evil people who deserved God's punishment. Not only does Jesus deny the doctrine, not only does he refute the suggestion that God causes human misery to punish us, but he turns the question back to them and says, "But I tell you that unless you repent, you'll cop a similar fate."

Jesus is doing two very interesting things here. Firstly, he is emphasizing the priority of God's mercy over the inevitability of judgment. He doesn't deny the possibility of judgment, of the fig tree being eventually chopped down, but he does say that it will be given every opportunity to avoid it, including the best of nurture and care. There was (is) still time to change and that change should produce fruit. The time to begin was now! As the parable of the fig tree implies, we not only have a choice. We have a helper. Someone to care for us during our struggles and suffering. Someone greater than us, who came to save us.

And secondly, he is redefining repentance. Repentance means turning around, and we tend to focus on the life we turn away from. The New Testament word translated as repentance is metanoia which is the root of our word metamorphosis which means something like transformation. It is what happens to a caterpillar when it becomes a butterfly, and just like a butterfly, the emphasis is on what it turns into, not what it turned from. So when Jesus says "Repent," he is not so much saying, "Turn from sin," he's saying, "Turn to God."

Repenting of our past ways and following Jesus does not guarantee us safety from disaster, but it certainly opens the way to an abundance of life that is beyond what any disaster can destroy.

Catechism Theme: Suffering and the Test of Faith (CCC 163-165)

Faith gives us the first taste of the afterlife. In faith, we have a vision of life with God. An existence in pure justice and, at the same time, pure mercy. We will know ourselves as we truly are, but through the divine eyes of Love. This time on earth, however, is a time of test. Not just against evil. But for faith. The problem of suffering presents us with such a test. Suffering is more than an intellectual puzzle to be solved. It challenges us to act. Either we reach out in the belief that God will help us on the path. Or, we fade into cynicism. Others have walked the path of test before us. Abraham, Mary, and Jesus himself. If we only look to their example, we can find inspiration and real help. Yes, suffering may shake us. But others have suffered and remained faithful. So can we.

Fr Richard

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



Sick: Danilo DE LEON, Janette SMITH, Jessie TREZEVANT, Jane GALEA, Joseph DEGUARA, Janelle CLIFTON, Isabelle CROUCHE, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Inez BUGEJA, Claudio Da SILVA, Bozana VUKOV, Diana VUKOV, Judy VELLA, Giuse, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Nancy VARTULI, Jessie ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: Luciano ZADRO, Angelina COLUSSO, Charles (Charlie) MIFSUD, Rafaele DEVIVO, David GALEA, Gilbert PASCUA, Elisa Fatima LEMOS

Death Anniversary: Betty BUKIRWA, James REILLY, John McNALLY, Wallace HUDSON

Other: Helena BRODA, Cheslaw, Henryka and Vladyslaw KROL, All Deceased from Broda, Krol and Switek Families, Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
24th March**

**Caritas
AUSTRALIA**



Peter goes to a boarding school in the Solomon Islands which has experienced water shortages for 60 years. Previously, students would have to walk kilometres each day in search of clean water, which was particularly challenging for Peter who is living with a disability. With Caritas Australia's support, the school has created a new reliable water system. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future.

Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



Stations of the Cross During Lent Friday at John the Baptist Church commencing at 7:00pm.

Something to think about.

The traditional focuses in Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The three go together. Prayer is essential to the Christian life because in prayer we open ourselves to the presence of God and God leads us to be more aware of others. One good way to pray is to take the Lenten Sunday Gospel and use it as a basis for prayer throughout the week. The word of God becomes formative in our lives.

Fasting is not popular but it is a way of denying our selfish ambitions and desires and again making us more sensitive to the needs of others. The true Lenten fast is a fast from sin and selfishness and this finds expression in a fast from food and drink.

To be sensitive to others leads us, both individually and as communities, to want to do something for those in need. Almsgiving is about giving freely and generously of what we have and sharing with others whose quality of life may be less than our own.

APRIL RETREATS AT MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE
See Church noticeboard for more details.

Saints of the Week

The Annunciation of the Lord



The Annunciation is a day of celebration for Christians throughout the world. Many religions including the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Greek Orthodox religion, and others hold the Annunciation as a very important day of religious life.

The day commemorates the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her

that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated on 25 March each year. In the Roman Catholic Church, when 25 March falls during the Paschal Triduum, it is transferred, even if it fall on Pascha (Easter). The concurrence of these two feasts is called Kyriopascha.

Feast day: March 25

LENT 2019 WITH BRUCE DOWNES THE CATHOLIC GUY

Be inspired, Be refreshed, Be renewed!
Come on a 40 day journey with me and I know this will be a powerful and prayerful Lenten journey together. Receive a video each Sunday and an inspirational email each day during Lent. This program is FREE and you can sign up here www.TheCatholicGuy.com/Lent
Call 1300 734 880 for more info

Walk the Lenten Journey on your Mobile Phone

In his message for Lent 2019, Pope Francis emphasised that we should "not allow this season of grace to pass in vain." With new content daily, the Lent Calendar App can help those who desire to journey through Lent with purpose. The App includes the daily Gospel, a suggested Lent act, and a multimedia feature to pray and reflect upon. Available as an App on Apple and Android devices, and online at www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3lent

STATIONS
OF THE CROSS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to Stations of the Cross-a mini Pilgrimage for parishioners and friends- to be led

by Father Dominic of St John the Baptist Church with Father Rode of St Thomas Chaldean Church

WHAT: Stations of the Cross followed by shared light lunch (please bring a small plate of food to share)

WHO: JB Primary school parents, Parishioners- (and our friends from Good Shepherd and St Gertrude's parishes)

WHERE: St Joseph's Conference Centre, 30 Tyson Road, Bringelly

WHEN: Tuesday 2nd April. Meet there at 10.45am to start Stations at 11am.

Please ensure you are there by 10.45 am- you may wish to carpool with friends.

St Josephs offers a quiet bushland setting, with marble Stations that we can stop and reflect at during this beautiful Catholic traditional devotion. Afterwards, we will share a light lunch, so please bring a small plate of food to share. A donation may be made to St Josephs Centre on the day if you wish, otherwise there is no cost.

If you are interested, please sign up outside church, or contact Tina Dunn, Family Educator of John the Baptist Primary School on 0439 492920.



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



John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Bonnyrigg Heights

Application packages for enrolment in Kindergarten 2020 are now available from our school office, Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm for those who live within the John the Baptist Parish encompassing the suburbs of Edensor Park, Green Valley, Abbotsbury, Bonnyrigg Heights, Cecil Hills and Elizabeth Hills. For enquiries- please phone 9823 5042 during the above hours or Email Contact- info@jbbonnyrigg.catholic.edu.au

ATTENTION READERS: The new roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

ATTENTION EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

Ministries Next Week 30/31 MAR	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull M Abdal	J Poljak S Hely	M Aulsebrook C Goodyer	M Zangari V Arbanas
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	A Vlahadamis D Vella L Tononcelli8 E Vella M Camilleri A Pace	Delicia Vella A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor D Sullivan	S D'Cruz T Vartuli S Hambrook H Fenech E Villegas C Porreca	
CHURCH COUNTER	M Privitera			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	31/03/2019 S Leonello	07/04/2019 R Marciano	14/04/2019 C Monteleone	21/04/2019 Z Penitani
10AM MORNING TEAS	31/03/2019 Group 5	07-4/2019 Group 1	14/04/2019 Group 2	21/04/2019 Group 3



PIETY STORE

The Piety Store has a number of hand-knitted bunnies for sale in the store, they would make lovely gifts for your little ones this Easter. They have been made by a member of our parish, Marilyn Newell, and gifted to the store for sale. (All monies raised through in the Piety Store, go to support the poor and disadvantaged of our community.)

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SACRAMENT ENROLMENTS 2019

To enrol in the Holy Communion Sacrament Program for 2019 children must be in Grade 4 or above at school this year and have received the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Parishioners who wish to enrol their child to prepare to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in June 2019 please complete the registration form online by **Friday 29 March 2019** by visiting this website:

<https://www.trybooking.com/465541>.

If you need any assistance enrolling or have any questions please call Kylie Farias on 0473 779 338 or Tamara Vella on 0424 166 248 (CORE Leaders).

All parents/guardians of enrolled children must attend the **Parent Information and Enrolment Evening on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 7pm** at John the Baptist parish Church.



JB YOUTH MINISTRY

Young Adults
(16 - 35)



All through LENT, we have weekly gatherings for a special youth LENTEN PROGRAM on Fridays at 7.30pm (after the Stations of the Cross) in the Church

Save the future dates: 15th March, 22nd March, 29th March, 5th April & 12th April

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

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

Monday 15th April - 8:00am Mass
Tuesday 16th April - 8:00am Mass
Wednesday 17th April - 7:00pm Mass
Holy Thursday 18th April - No morning Mass, Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10:30am. Everyone is invited to the Mass.
7:00pm Mass of the Lords Supper
Good Friday 19th April - 10am Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross
3:00pm The Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 20th April - 9:00am Morning Prayer
Easter Vigil 7:00pm Mass
Easter Sunday 21st April - 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE REQUEST FORM

To become a regular contributor please fill this slip and return it to the Parish Office

Name.....Telephone No.:.....

Address:.....

☐ Yes, Tax deduction required

☐ No tax deduction necessary

If you would like to become a regular credit card donor please complete a credit card authority form found in the church bench.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.*

Communion Antiphon: *The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.*

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Lent - (Year C)

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Those who have helped me face my own sinfulness are.....
- ♦ When I hear "repent [or] you will all perish," my first response is..... What I hear Jesus asking of me is.....
- ♦ This Lent God is cultivating and fertilising my life by.....
- ♦ The fruit I hope to bear through my repentance is.....

First reading

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

102:1-4, 6-8, 11

The Lord is kind and merciful.

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 does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."



The Gospel of the Lord

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