



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:

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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 4

Monday - 8am

Tuesday - 8am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 6/7 APRIL

(Fifth 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

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

30th & 31st March, 2019

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

In New Zealand, a Maori known as "*Warrior Brown*" because of her violent temper, joined the Salvation Army. While addressing a group of Maoris, she was struck by a potato thrown by one of them. Retrieving it, she returned home, cut it up, planted it and harvested it. On visiting the village again, she *sought* out the man who had thrown the potato and gave him the potatoes she had harvested.

Most of us are familiar with '*The parable of the Prodigal Son*' which is the story of a father who has total unchangeable love. His attitude to his sons is at all times 100% unconditional love. The younger son asks for his share of the inheritance which he converts into cash. He leaves and all goes well for him as he squanders it. Then, money-less he also becomes friend-less. He is reduced to the greatest indignity possible for a Jew i.e. attending pigs, unclean animals. There he "*comes to his senses*." He knows that he must go back to his father. He prepares a speech of apology and a petition for his reinstatement in the household as a mere servant. He had totally underestimated his father who would not only embrace him in forgiveness but also declare a banquet to celebrate his return. What a compassionate father! What a loving God! What a challenge to our conventional way of looking at things. The story teaches us that we are loved for who we are, and not just for the way in which we behave.

The elder son also underestimated his father. This dutiful one is shocked and resented his father's easy pardon for the erring brother. He feels outraged that there is a banquet for the sinner (whom he distanced himself from "*this son of yours*") while he, who in his own eyes was so good, had never been given even a kid goat with which to celebrate. He is so resented that he may be deaf to his father's assurance that "*all that I have is yours*".

We are called to reflect on the attitude of both sons. The younger son who has fallen through human weakness but eventually comes to admit it and repents. And the elder son who holds himself up as paragons of virtue and who self-righteously rejected his brother and resented in his duty while being with his father. Let us pray that we may recognize our failure and sinfulness but we should continue to put our trust in God's unconditional love so that we can be transformed into the compassionate father who is willing to stretch out to welcome all into his loving arms.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

545 Jesus invites sinners to the table of the kingdom: 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.' He invites them to that conversion without which one cannot enter the kingdom, but shows them in word and deed his Father's boundless mercy for them 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'.

**Don't have negative thoughts or things you cannot control.
Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.**

Fr Dominic

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



Sick: Camelia ALTAMURA, 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

Death Anniversary: Mark Lee CAVALLARO

Other: Paul Xeng and Mary Tian SAYAVONGSA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention

PROJECT COMPASSION



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 31st March

Caritas AUSTRALIA

Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis center in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. The Aboriginal-controlled service gives patients the opportunity to stay connected with their culture. They do this through traditional healing practices and income-generating activities, such as making bush balms and soaps. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential health care, employment and training for First Australians like Michaela.

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.



John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Bonnyrigg Heights

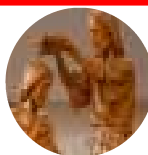
Application packages for enrolment in Kindergarten 2020 are now available from our school office, Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm for those who live within the John the Baptist Parish encompassing the suburbs of Edensor Park, Green Valley, Abbotsbury, Bonnyrigg Heights, Cecil Hills and Elizabeth Hills.

For enquiries- please phone 9823 5042 during the above hours or Email Contact- info@jbbonnyrigg.catholic.edu.au



FREEMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE Year 7, 2021 Enrolling Now

Enrolments packs available from the College Administration Office.
Applications close Monday 8th April, 2019.



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: 5th April & 12th April

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

MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY - Notre Dame Broadway

On Saturday, April 13 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The day will include Mass, time for reflection and reconciliation, lunch and afternoon tea, and inspiring talks from three speakers. The retreat will take place at the University of Notre Dame Australia on Broadway campus. Event is free, registration essential: Sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au or (02) 8204 4189 or Trybooking.com/475522.

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



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

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

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 next Sunday 7th April**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Hall.

CATECHIST EVENTS

CCD Lenten Retreat

10am-2pm, Friday April 12, 2019

Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

They day will feature Spiritual Talks, Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation. Lunch is provided.

RSVP: Tuesday 9th April 2019. Contact CCD on 9307 8330 or email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Transport: For those who wish, a bus will leave St Mary's Cathedral (College Street) at 8am and leave Mulgoa at 2pm.

Cost: \$10. Bookings are essential.

Faith Time

Cross Roads Hotel, Hume Hwy & Camden Valley Way, Casula

10:30am-12:30pm, Friday 5 April, 2019

Faith time is an opportunity to come together to receive relevant faith formation topics, to pray and share together...to be inspired! Priests will be available for Confession. Food and drinks too will be available for purchase. **RSVP: Wednesday 3 April, 2019** via email: Teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

EASTER VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of Volunteers for Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers etc. for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Masses. If you can assist in any way please place your name and contact details on the sign up sheets on the Church

Ministries Next Week 6/7 APRIL	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis E Vella	J Poljak T Simpson	A Bautista C Porreca	R Capolupo
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	J Victorino A Jameson C Araco L Topic T Micali A Gorla	J Finucane Z Xuereb D Triganza L Barilla R Morellini	T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib A Bautista N Laureti	S Cook M Mai G Vanderwert D Pham
CHURCH COUNTER	M Davies			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	07/04/2019 R Marciano	14/04/2019 C Monteleone	21/04/2019 Z Penitani	28/04/2019 S Peters
10AM MORNING TEAS	07/04/2019 Group 1	14/04/2019 Group 2	21/04/2019 Group 3	28/04/2019 Group 4

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!



SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

All parents/guardians of enrolled children must attend the **Parent Information and Enrolment Evening** on **Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 7:00pm** at **John the Baptist Parish Church**.

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

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday 16th June - First Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd June - Parish Feast Day and
30 Years John the Baptist Primary
School

Saturday 29th June - Men's Breakfast

Friday 13th September - Confirmation

Saturday 14th September - Confirmation

Thursday 3rd October - Ignite Conference

Tuesday 12th November - First Reconciliation

Thursday 14th November - First Reconciliation

Further information will be provided closer to the dates.



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.)

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: *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

Communion Antiphon: *You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.*

Next Sunday:

Fifth Sunday of Lent - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I am most prodigious with others when..... Others are most prodigious with me when.....
- ♦ The lavishness of God that I have experienced in my life is.....
- ♦ I love life so much that I..... I have received new life from.....

First reading

Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

33:2-7

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord

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