



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: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

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 1

Monday - 8am

Tuesday - 8am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 13/14 APRIL

*(Palm Sunday of the Passion
of the Lord 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

6th & 7th April, 2019

Grow through what you go through

A father left 17 ducks as assets for his three sons. When the father passed away, his sons opened up the will. The Will of the father stated that the eldest son should get half of 17 ducks, the middle son should be given $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 17 ducks, and the youngest son should be given $\frac{1}{9}$ th of the 17 ducks. As it is not possible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the sons started to fight with each other. So, they decided to go to a wise man who lived in a cave for advice. The wise man listened patiently about the Will. The wise man, after giving the dilemma some thought, brought a duck of his own and added same to the 17. That increased the total to 18 ducks. Now, he started reading the deceased father's will. Half of 18 = 9. so he gave 9 ducks to the eldest son. $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 18 = 6, so he gave 6 ducks to the middle son. And, $\frac{1}{9}$ th of 18 = 2, so he gave 2 ducks to the youngest son. Now add this up: $9 + 6 + 2 = 17$ and this leaves 1 duck which the wise man took back.

Jesus teaches us that the attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th duck, that is, the common ground. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus. (1) "They caught her." (2) "They brought her." (3) "They made her stand before them all." They say to Jesus, "*Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning.*" Instead of condemning the woman, Jesus finds the 18th duck, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." The accusers go away shamefaced. They know that they are guilty of many things themselves.

Then Jesus speaks with tender respect to the woman who has just escaped execution: "*Neither do I condemn you.*" Although Jesus did not condemn the woman, neither did he excuse what she had done. He encourages her to make her gift of forgiveness the starting point for a new life: "*Go away, and from this moment on, sin no more.*" "Don't sin anymore," was both a pardon and a warning to her. Most importantly, Jesus invited her to return to a sinless life, a life of honour. How many times have we stood "sinless" before the Lord? How many times could we claim honour in the eyes of God? Never? Our past might condemn us, but through faith in God's grace the Father will allow us to be free from sin.

Like the adulterous woman, each of us is spared by the Lord's compassion. Like this woman, we need to hear Jesus' words of forgiveness, his urging to repentance, to be sinners no more. On the other hand, to judge from this gospel story, the worst of the *seven deadly sins* seems to be not lust, but pride. The Pharisees' proud self-righteousness left them feeling no need to ask God for mercy. Like the woman in danger, we need to admit our own sins and pray for mercy rather than condemn others. Even when we fail in our ideals, we trust in the mercy God extends to the sinner.

Catechism Theme: Chastity (2394, 2395)

Jesus invited the woman to return to a chaste life. What is "chastity"? Chastity is the virtue of self-control in sexual matters. Because sexuality includes our psychological, physical, moral, and social worlds, chastity helps us to integrate these areas in a healthy way. Chastity is more than saying "no" to sexual thoughts or desires; chastity points to the goal of sexual expression, the lifelong commitment of marriage. Otherwise, everyone is called to live a chaste life, whether married or not.

Fr Richard

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: Katie ROBINSON, Luciano ZADRO

Death Anniversary: Daniel VELLA, Carmen Del Valle LIM

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

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
7th April**

**Caritas
AUSTRALIA**



Salma was just 18 years old, pregnant and fearful for her life and that of her unborn child, when she featured in Project Compassion 2013. In Bangladesh, maternal and infant mortality rates are tragically high. During her first pregnancy, Salma was very sick and in distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children. Salma is committed to giving her children the education they need to provide them with the future she hoped for.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help reduce infant mortality rates in countries like Bangladesh and provide hope to pregnant women in remote communities for happy and healthy families.

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.



We congratulate the family of Isabelle and Eli ALI who will be baptised here this Sunday 7th April.



We congratulate Blaz Skorin and Thuy Nhu (Natalie) Nguyen who are to be married here this Saturday 6th April.

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.



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.

**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: 12th April

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



THE ASCENSION PRAYER COMMUNITY is organising a bus trip to the Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby on 28th April. Cost is by donation. For further information please contact Susan on 0415 342 672



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

– relationship enrichment for married couples

26th – 28th April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or
Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or
adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

TEMPORARY, PAID JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR CARER

Do you care for a family member or friend and enjoy connecting with others online?

We are seeking Carers from diverse backgrounds and age groups for a few hours a week, for a 10 to 12 week period, to help us test a new online peer support community for carers. If you are a carer, enjoy spending time on the computer or mobile device (for example, connecting with others on social media), and want to earn some extra income working from home, give us a call on 13 18 19 or drop us an email at connect@catholiccare.org

We'd love to hear from you!

Preferred applicants will be required to undertake a National Criminal History Record Check prior to employment and may also require a Working with Children Check.

CatholicCare



PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass this 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 13/14 APRIL	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Pace L Krslovic	L Barilla S Davies	G Zangari M Zangari	M Abdul V Arbanas
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	B Empeigne A Vlahadamis D Vella L Tononcelli E Vella M Camilleri	M Jebrail Delicia Vella A Liveratore F Foti B O'Connor	G Dunn N Dubuisson S D'Cruz T Vartuli S Hambrook H Fenech	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook M Mai
CHURCH COUNTER	J Oliveri	V Baltazar		
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	14/04/2019 C Monteleone	21/04/2019 Z Penitani	28/04/2019 S Peters	05/05/2019 A Portolesi
10AM MORNING TEAS	14/04/2019 Group 2	21/04/2019 Group 3	28/04/2019 Group 4	05/05/2019 Group 1

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 this Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 7:00pm** at John the Baptist Parish Church.

HELP with PALMS decorating - and church working BEE on Saturday 13th April from 8am-1pm.

If you would like to be part of preparing our church and grounds for the Easter masses- especially the Palm Sunday decorating, please come along and help tie up the Palms and tidy up the church! All are welcome- there will be a sign up sheet outside Mass on the weekend- and please remember to sign on when you arrive so parish records can be kept on participation for references etc. ALSO- If you have smaller palms you have trimmed at home, suitable for use during the Mass please leave them in baskets by the door on Saturday morning or help us cut them ready for use by parishioners.

Any queries- contact Grant- 0409 958 744

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.

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: *Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.*

Communion Antiphon: *Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.*

Next Sunday:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Like the gospel scribes and Pharisees, I tend to be self-righteous when.....
- ♦ Those I tend to make an example of are..... The good I came to see in them is.....
- ♦ I remain with Jesus when..... The new life I receive from him is.....

First reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

125:1-6

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

John 8:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according John

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and do not sin any more.'



The Gospel of the Lord

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