



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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Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 2

Monday - 8am

*St Augustine of Canterbury,
bishop*

Tuesday - 8am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

*The Visitation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

Saturday - 9:10am

St Justin, martyr

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 1/2 JUNE

*(The Ascension 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

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office

or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

25th & 26th May, 2019

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Once during a television interview, Mother Teresa was faced with a heckler who said, "You love the poor; that's fine. But how about the immense riches of the Vatican and of the Church, should they be given to the poor?" Mother Teresa's reaction was typical. She looked straight at the interviewer and said, "Sir, you are not a happy man. Something is eating you. You don't have any peace within you." At that he wilted. And she just continued to make him writhe, "You should have some faith."

"And how do I get faith?" he asked. "You should pray."

"But I cannot pray." "Then I'll do it for you. But on your part you should try to give the people around you a smile. A smile touches other people. It brings some of the reality of God into our lives."

Jesus is aware of the harsh realities of the world when he talks in today's gospel about love and peace and about not having fear or trouble in our hearts. "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him." To love God is first of all to accept being loved by Him. When we accept this love we become more free from fear and trouble. Being more free from fear we become more free from compulsion and our way of seeing others begins to change. When our way of seeing changes our behavior also begins to change.

Let us pray that we shall listen well to Jesus' word and may we let the Spirit of God dwell within us and guide us towards better behavior.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1823 Jesus makes charity the new commandment. By loving his own 'to the end', he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive. Whence Jesus says: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.' And again: 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'

A thought for the day

When the people you're dealing with today look at you, they are to see a sign of God's presence to and for them. Pray for the grace to be that sign.

The Holy Spirit

We need the **Holy Spirit** more than ever before

In this day and age, all of us need the Holy Spirit to be true disciples of the Jesus. Given the tide of forces that bog us down, we must invoke the Holy Spirit who teaches and moulds character. When He dwells within us, we can be sure of the gift of God's grace. He is the source of our sanctification. All of us are called to be saints no matter who we are or where we find ourselves. If we ever feel any sort of emptiness, let us always remember that the Holy Spirit fills. He guides, reassures, empowers, and regenerates us. Come Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your faithful.

Fr Dominic

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



Sick: Donna CORDINA, Fr Jack SOULSBY,
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: Milla BENIGNI, Lucy AZZOPARDI,
Santa PROCHILLO

Death Anniversary: Francis VELLA, Paul DEGUARA,
Clara Amparo Del VALLE, Quinton Mario DILAZZARO,
Jimmy FENECH

Other: Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH,
Donna CORDINA Special Intention, Love and Gratitude

PENTECOST SUNDAY: Join us at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. We will be praying that this Pentecost will be a time for the Holy Spirit to fill us with hope and trust and power in the face of the challenges facing our Church and our world. We start with prayer and praise at 11:30am followed by concelebrated Mass with Fr Tony Alex MGL. Fr Tony will be reflecting on the command of Jesus: "He instructed them that they take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff - no bread, no bag, no money in their belt." (Mark 6:8). After a BBQ lunch there will be teaching, adoration, Benediction and prayer for healing until 5:30pm. Enquiries Catholic Charismatic Renewal office: 9810 2499.



You are invited

The Ascension Prayer Community is inviting everyone for a special evening of Praise and Worship and Teaching/Sharing and fellowship.

Speaker on Thursday 30th May, 2019 at 7:00pm is Quyen

Topic: "How Mary teaches me to Pray"

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall

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

Meetings will take place on a fortnightly basis



Heart Women's Conference

Date: 19-21 October 2017

Venue: Fairfield RSL, 14 Anzac Ave, Fairfield NSW 2165

A time to come together as women to be refreshed and renewed in our busy lives. Spoil yourself. Dream again. Feel loved, honoured and cared for. Invite your daughters, mothers, sisters and friends!

Men – What women in your life can you spoil by sending them to Heart 2017?

Register: Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com

Ph: 1300 734 880

Email: heart@TheCatholicGuy.com



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Festival Committee Dinner Dance

A beneficiary night supporting the foundation,
Chris O'Brien Lifehouse-Cancer Research

Friday 21st June 6:30pm at
Conca D'oro

269 Belmore Road, Riverwood NSW 2210
4 course meal-beer, wine and soft drinks provided

Adult-\$100

Children under 10-\$60



For bookings ring: Paul Marchesano-0410 291 629

Email: olmcfestivalcommitteeincorp@gmail.com

Saints of the Week



The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the visit of Mary with Elizabeth as recorded in the Gospel of Luke (Lk 1:39-56). It is also the name of a Christian feast day commemorating this visit, celebrated on May 31

Mary visits her relative Elizabeth; they are both pregnant. Mary is pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth is pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary left Nazareth immediately after the Annunciation and went "into the hill country...into a city of Judah" (Luke 1:39) to attend her cousin Elizabeth. The journey was about 100 miles, and Elizabeth was in the sixth month before Mary came (Luke 1:36). Mary stayed three months and departed just before John was born.

Catholics believe that the purpose of this visit was to bring divine grace to both Elizabeth and her unborn child. Even though he was still in his mother's womb, John became aware of the presence of his Divine Saviour; he leapt for joy as he was cleansed from original sin and filled with divine grace. Elizabeth also responded and recognized the presence of Jesus. Thus Mary, now for the first time, exercised her function as mediatrix between God and man.

Elizabeth remarks to Mary: "And she spoke out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed [art] thou among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of thy womb. And whence [is] this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed [is] she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord (Luke 1:42-55)"

It is also at this point, in response to Elizabeth's remark, that Mary proclaims the Magnificat (My soul doth magnify the Lord), (Luke 1:46-55), for which reason this canticle had traditionally been reserved for this feast day.

Feast Day: May 31



St Justin

St. Justin Martyr (105-165 A.D.) was born a pagan at Flavia Neapolis in Samaria near Jacob's well somewhere between 100-110 A.D. He was well educated and travelled and is known to us mostly by his writings in defence of the faith. He has been

described as "star in the West, leading its Wise Men to the cradle of Bethlehem." Before his conversion he seems to have been enamoured but not satisfied with philosophies like Stoicism and Platonism. Then one day he met an old man on the sea shore and had the Gospel proclaimed to him and realised he could have no true knowledge of God without revelation, which had been given to the prophets. After his conversion, he put his training in philosophy to good use as an evangelist, spending some time in Ephesus and much time in Rome teaching at a Christian philosophy school. It was in Rome where he (and some of his disciples) suffered martyrdom for his bold preaching during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. His Apologies are considered the most important of the 2d century Christian writings of the Fathers of the Early Church. It is difficult not to identify within his testimony an early version of the Catholic Mass. Justin was beheaded by the prefect Rusticus along with six other Christians in Rome.

Feast Day: June 1

Patron: Lecturers

MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE VARROVILLE JUNE RETREATS

June 1 (day retreat) and June 14-16 (weekend retreat)
Please see Church notice board for more information.



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 2nd June**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Hall.



PIETY STORE CAKE STALL

Our annual cake stall will be held next weekend (Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June, 2019.) All proceeds from this sale go towards helping the disadvantaged in our community.

YOUNG ADULT YOUTH GATHERING

Friday 31st May at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall

The theme of the night will be "The Joy of Faith".

MENS MINISTRY NETWORK BREAKFAST AT JOHN THE BAPTIST Saturday 29th June

8am: Registration/Adoration/Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8:30am: Mass
9:15am: Hot Breakfast served
10am: Keynote Speaker Robert Haddad, on "Faith Under Fire"
10:30am: Group discussion, Q & A
11:30am: Closing Prayer
Contact Parish Office: 9823 2572, E: info@johnthebaptist.org.au
Mob: 0411 281 299 Branko Poljak

Ministries Next Week 1/2 JUNE	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Oliveri M Camilleri	R Golubic S Davies	C Goodyer A Bautista	M Abdal R Capolupo
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	A Goria B Empeigne A Vlahadamis D Vella E Vella M Camilleri	B O'Connor D Sullivan J Finucane L Tononcelli S Xuereb	T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib A Bautista N Laureti	G Vanderwert D Pham R Imbert M Abdal
CHURCH COUNTER	M Davies			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	02/06/2019 M De Luca	09/06/2019 S Leonello	16/06/2019 R Marciano	23/06/2019 C Monteleone
10AM MORNING TEAS	02/06/2019 Group 1	09/06/2019 Group 2	16/06/2019 Group 3	23/06/2019 Group 4

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!

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

Sunday 29th September - Annual Catechist Mass at
St Mary's Cathedral

Thursday 3rd October - Ignite Conference

Tuesday 12th November - First Reconciliation

Thursday 14th November - First Reconciliation

Further information will be provided closer to the dates.

SOCIAL WALKING GROUP: If you are interested in joining a group to walk around the local area - nothing too strenuous - for an hour or so on a Tuesday or Friday morning please contact Linda on 9607 4993 or 0409 914 083.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS: Recently a volunteer (not from our Parish) **working alone** had a fall while setting up for services at their Parish, which could have had dire consequences. The incident was reported to Safe Work NSW. Please make sure that as a valuable volunteer and member of our Parish that you **do not work alone** while on Parish property.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Would you like to become a regular contributor to the Parish?

Or would you like to change your contribution method from envelopes to monthly credit card giving?

If so, please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office. Otherwise send an e-mail to Leanne at info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Name..... Telephone No.:

Address:

Email :

I wish to commence Planned Giving Program.

I wish to change from envelopes to Credit Card monthly giving. Current envelope No:.....

(a credit card authority yellow form will need to be completed)

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon: *If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.*

Next Sunday:

The Ascension of the Lord (Year C)

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ This Easter the word of Jesus that I am being called to keep is.....
- ♦ The Holy Spirit is teaching me to.....
- ♦ My love-in-action looks like.....

First reading

Acts 15:12, 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us; and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols; from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

66:2-3, 5-6, 8

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second reading

Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of Apocalypse

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:23-29

A reading from the Holy Gospel according John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord

