



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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Deacon: Rev Mervyn Francis

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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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 4

Monday - 8:00am

*Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr
and Cyprian, bishop, martyr*

Tuesday - 8:00am

*St Robert Bellarmine, bishop,
doctor*

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

St Januarius, bishop, martyr

Friday - 9:10am

*Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon,
priest, martyr Paul Chong Ha
-sang & companions, martyrs*

Saturday - 9:10am

*St Matthew, apostle,
evangelist*

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 21/22 SEPT

*(25th 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
Sunday — 5:00 — 5:15pm

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office
or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639
or Fr Richard 0451 910 634

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 14th & 15th September, 2019

Come Home

“A politician who was losing support started coming to church during the election campaign. There were knowing smiles at his sudden piety. And it never occurred to me, his elder brother, that perhaps he was trying to come home. I simply dismissed him.”

When the ‘Pharisees and teachers of the law’ muttered, *“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them,”* they knew nothing of the inclusive nature of the Kingdom of God. In answering them Jesus introduced what was then a completely revolutionary idea – that God actually sought out sinners with the purpose of bringing them to him; of reconciling them, of gathering them into his kingdom. Furthermore, the shocking idea that it is a more pleasing sight in heaven to see one sinner brought to the worship of God than to see 99 righteous people continuing in such work, was no doubt blasphemous in the sight of the religious leaders but, of course liberating for the sinners eating at the table with Jesus!

Jesus illustrates this idea with three parables designed to show God’s relentless compassion in seeking out the ‘lost’. This cluster of parables – a story about a lost sheep, a lost coin and the lost son/s (Prodigal son), all talk of the pain following the loss of something of value. This causes the deprived so much anguish (even torment) that they do not rest until they have found it, at which point there is a great celebration. Luke stresses the joy that is experienced when someone regains something which has been lost. This human joy pales into insignificance before the joy that God experiences when God recovers what has been lost.

Jesus says: *“Let me assure you that the angels party over each wayward person who turns their life back towards God”*. How can this not be good news? This would have been good news for the sinners gathered at Jesus’ table that day. And it is indeed good news for those of us in need of trusting God again, of recommitting to the life of discipleship, of letting go of the things that hold us back from receiving this warm embrace from God.

Link from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *The mercy of God and Sin*

1846 - The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God’s mercy to sinners. The angel announced to Joseph: “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” The same is true of the Eucharist, the sacrament of redemption: “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

1446 - Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification.

Fr Richard

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



Sick: Anna PEZZUTO, Pamela LEVERS,
Lorna WRIGHTMAN, Horace O'DWYER,
Sylvia HARDING, Frank AZZOPARDI, Joan LOUIS,
Mrs Thi Chuyen HOANG, Fr Jack SOULSBY,
Danilo DE LEON, Janette SMITH, Jessie TREZEVANT,
Jane GALEA, Joseph DEGUARA, Janelle CLIFTON,
Isabelle CROUCHE, Giuseppina LETTIERI,
Claudio Da SILVA, Bozana VUKOV, Diana VUKOV,
Judy VELLA, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI,
Nancy VARTULI, Jessie ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: (Michael) RICHARD Viet Quang Ly,
Francesca JOHNSON, Gail MACMILLIAN

Death Anniversary: Charlie AZZOPARDI, Charlie SARREO

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

Saints of the Week



St Cornelius

A Roman priest, Cornelius was elected Pope to succeed Fabian in an election delayed fourteen months by Decius' persecution of the Christians. The main issue of his pontificate was the treatment to be accorded Christians who had been apostasized during the persecution. He condemned those confessors who were lax in not demanding penance of these Christians and supported St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, against Novatus and his dupe, Felicissimus, whom he had set up as an antibishop to Cyprian, when Novatus came to Rome. On the other hand, he also denounced the Rigorists, headed by Novatian, a Roman priest, who declared that the Church could not pardon the lapsi (the lapsed Christians), and declared himself Pope. However, his declaration was illegitimate, making him an antipope. The two extremes eventually joined forces, and the Novatian movement had quite a vogue in the East. Meanwhile, Cornelius proclaimed that the Church had the authority and the power to forgive repentant lapsi and could readmit them to the sacraments and the Church after they had performed proper penances. A synod of Western bishops in Rome in October 251 upheld Cornelius, condemned the teachings of Novatian, and excommunicated him and his followers. When persecutions of the Christians started up again in 253 under Emperor Gallus, Cornelius was exiled to Centum Cellae (Civita Vecchia), where he died a martyr probably of hardships he was forced to endure.



St Matthew

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ. From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament. Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword. Nothing is recorded of Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

Feast Day September 21

Patron: Bankers



RCIA – INFORMATION NIGHT

The Adults to be welcomed into the Catholic Church through the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA course) will meet in the presbytery on **Thursday 19th**

September at 7:00pm.

If you know of anyone in your family or a friend who could be interested in this program, do not hesitate to contact us.

For enquiries contact with the parish office, Fr Dominic or Fr Richard.

Vocations Camp for Men – “Discover what the Lord wants of you” (Ephesians 5:10)

Join us for a weekend camp of Mass, talks, good food, bush walks, sports and prayer for young men who are seeking an adventure and a deep exploration of their spiritual life. **18 - 20 October 2019** at BXVI Retreat Centre. Time: 5pm (Fri) - 3pm (Sun). Cost: \$75 pp
*Age: 18 – 30. *Registration closes: **16 October 2019**.

For more information and to register, please go to <https://www.vocationcentre.org.au/events/vocations-camp-for-men-2019/>

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES AND TAX RECEIPTS

The new envelopes for next Financial Year and the Taxation receipts for this financial year are now available for collection from the Parish Office.

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 contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or email Leanne at info@johnthebaptist.org.au

STANDING AUTHORITY FOR RECURRENT PERIODIC PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Title: _____ (Mr & Mrs, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) Surname: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Card: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Planned Giving Amount: \$ _____ ☐ Month ☐ Quarter ☐ Year ☐ Tax Receipt Required (30% tax deductibility)

Cardholder's Signature: _____ Date: _____



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 6th October**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Hall.

MEN'S GROUP MEETING will be held on **Friday 20th September at 8:00pm**. The Men's Group meetings will be held every third Friday of the Month at 8:00pm. All men who feel they want to grow in their faith and discuss the scriptures with other men are welcome. For further information please contact Deacon Mervyn on 0405 805 978

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND: *Take the time to step back from everyday distractions and rediscover your relationship!* **8-10 November, 2019 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville** Book online at www.wwme.org.au or alternatively contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan 0409 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com



JB COMMUNITY FAIR - 27TH OCTOBER

Don't miss this year's FAIR—it promises to be bigger and better than ever!

Don't miss the Dodgem cars, Zoomer, Simulator, giant slides, face painting, live entertainment, cakes, as well as lots of things to keep the big kids happy. Other stalls include: Coffee & Cannoli, Pizza, Treasure Trove, Crepes, Gelato, Fairy Floss, showbags and Cultural food from Assyria, India, Italy, Philippines, Tonga, Vietnam, Croatia and Holland. All are welcome!

Wrist bands for the rides will be available after the school holidays. Prepaid wrist bands \$25 for all rides, \$30 on the day and \$5 per single ride.

Parishioners you can help too, by donating any kind of bottles e.g. cordial, soft drinks, sauces etc. for the Fair's bottle stall. Please place them in the basket provided in the meeting room located outside the church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - parking attendants, crowd control, sellers, floaters, setting up and cleaning up, etc. Please sign up on the list provided on the whiteboard outside the Church. Enquiries: Susan 0419 606 683 or Caterina 0416 044 149.



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

| Ministries Next Week 21/22 SEPT | Sat 5.30 pm | Sun 8.00 am | Sun 10 am | Sun 5:30 pm |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| READERS: | M Camilleri J Oliveri | L Barilla T Simpson | G Zangari M Zangari | R Capolupo |
| EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER | A Gorla B Empeigne A Vlahadakis D Vella E Vella M Camilleri | L Tononcelli S Xuereb D Triganza L Barilla R Morellini | T Vartuli S Hambrook H Fenech E Villegas C Porreca T Nguyen | |
| CHURCH COUNTER | F Aloe | J Coiera | T Moriana | |
| CLEANERS: CHURCH | | | | |
| ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER | 22/09/2019 M De Luca | 29/09/2019 J Sultana | 6/10/2019 | 13/10/2019 D Triganza |
| 10AM MORNING TEAS | 22/09/2019 Group 4 | 29/09/2019 Group 5 | 6/10/2019 Group 1 | 13/10/2019 Group 2 |

Upcoming Parish Activities

Save the date!



RECONCILIATION PROGRAM ENROLMENTS

Children who are Baptised and in Grades 3 and above at school are welcome to enrol in the parish reconciliation program.

To enrol your child please complete the online form at <https://www.trybooking.com/BDMFL>

To enrol as a Group Leader to lead a group of children please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/BDMFU>

Online registration closed 9th September 2019 at 5pm

Please bring your Baptism Certificate and \$30 contribution fee to the Enrolment weekend after Mass on either 14 September 5:30pm or 15 September 10am.

If you have any queries or need assistance, please call Core Group Leaders: Tamara Vella on 0424 166 248 or Kylie Farias on 0473 779 338.



CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Confirmation Candidates will be presented with their Confirmation Certificates at the following Masses next weekend.

Groups 2-13 on Saturday 21st September at 5:30pm Mass

Groups 14-12 on Sunday 22nd September at 10:00am Mass.

A reminder to all Group Leaders please return your books to the basket in the meeting room. Thank you

Enquiries: Linda Barilla 9607 4993



CHRIST OUR LIGHT YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (16-35 years)

Are hosting a Talk with Seminarian Ben Saliba (who has worked in our Parish)

Presenter: Ben Saliba

Theme: What are you Searching for?

When: Friday, 27th September 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Where: John the Baptist Parish, Bonnyrigg Heights



Ignite Conference Sydney: October 3-6

The Ignite Conference is one of Australia's most powerful Catholic youth and family conferences. For the first time ever this October 3-6, Ignite Conference will be held in Sydney (Freeman College). The conference draws together a network of high schoolers, young adults, ministry leaders, families, teachers, priests and religious from around the country, sending them out with a passion for mission and authentic faith in Jesus. Students from all Sydney Catholic Schools are offered a 50% discount and special packages for families are available as well. For more information, visit www.sydneycatholicyouth.org/ignite19/ or contact the team at Sydney Catholic Youth on (02) 9307 8152 or info@sydneycatholicyouth.org

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

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

Thursday 3rd October - Ignite Conference

Sunday 27th October - JB Community Fair

Thursday 14th November - First Reconciliation

Further information will be provided closer to the dates.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Sunday:

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ When I consider that God searches for me when I am lost, I think.....
- ♦ I choose life when..... I choose death when.....
- ♦ The lost I must seek are..... I rejoice and celebrate when.....

First reading

A reading from the book of Exodus

Exodus 32:11, 13-14

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!"' the Lord said to Moses, 'I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: "I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever."'

So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

I will rise and go to my father.

50: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

I will rise and go to my father.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

I will rise and go to my father.

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

I will rise and go to my father.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

2 Cor 5:19

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Luke 15:1-32

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:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.'

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, '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

