



# St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

## 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](mailto:pp@johnthebaptist.org.au)  
Emergency: 0423 420 639

### Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba

Email: [curate@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:curate@johnthebaptist.org.au)  
Emergency: 0451 910 634

### Parish Pastoral Centre:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Office: 9823 2572

Email: [info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au)

Website: [www.johnthebaptist.org.au](http://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 - 8:00am**

**Tuesday - 8:00am**

*St Francis Xavier, priest*

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

*John Damascene, priest,  
doctor*

**Thursday - 9:10am**

**Friday - 9:10am**

*St Nicholas, bishop*

**Saturday - 9:10am**

*St Ambrose, bishop, doctor*

#### NEXT SUNDAY

### SUNDAY 7/8 DECEMBER

*(Second Sunday of Advent  
Year A)*

**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

## First Sunday of Advent (Year A) 30th November, & 1st December, 2019

# Waiting

Advent is a season of patient waiting, of quiet and joyful expectancy. The word Advent derives from a Latin root, meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. Advent has a two-fold character: recalling the first coming of God's Son to the world and a period of reflection pointing us to Christ's second coming at the end of time. This is a season for prophecy, calling us to conversion, preparation and a constant sense of watchfulness. *"So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming."*

For many people waiting is hard, and they easily become restless and agitated. They want to get out of it by doing something (even silly things). Drivers get upset when waiting in their car during a traffic jam; customers become rude when they have to wait in a long queue at the cashier, many people grumble when they are waiting for transportations. We see this happen everyday! So a contented waiting person is a patient person. The word '**patience**' means the willingness to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in belief that if there is something hidden then it will manifest itself to us. Impatient people are always expecting something to happen the way they want so for them the waiting moment is simply empty. For patient people, waiting means to live actively in the present. It requires an understanding of, what is happening in me in relation to people and what is happening around me.

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christmas-the coming of Christ. But beyond that we look forward to the Second Coming which Christ speaks about in the gospel. *"Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

Let us pray that the Advent season will offer us the opportunity to deepen our understanding of God's love "**Emmanuel**" (*God is with us*) and look to the future with joy while we wait for the fulfilment of time to come.

## Advent Wreath

The origins of the Advent wreath are apparently from Germany. It is one of the pre-Christian practices adopted by Christians. During the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, the Germanic people gathered wreaths of evergreen and lit fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet (or blue) and the fourth could be rose (or pink). In our wreath there are four painted columns with lanterns on the top representing advent candles.

**The First Candle:** A time of expectation and hope.

**The Second Candle:** The peace that is to come.

**The Pink (or Rose) Candle:** for the Third Week: It symbolizes joy for the promise is almost fulfilled.

**The Fourth Candle:** The love of God for mankind

**Fr Dominic**

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



**Sick:** Michael PITTAS, Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER, Lorna WRIGHTMAN, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Paul VELLA

**Recently Deceased:** Ester MARIANO, Fr Paul STENHOUSE msc, Winifred Mary FERNS, Toma Chau Van LE, Grace Lorente ILUSTRISIMO

**Death Anniversary:** David SMOLINSKI, Joseph CAMILLERI, Gabriel SAFI, Vincenzo OLIVERI

**Other:** Charlie SALIBA, Rita SALIBA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention

**RCIA:** The RCIA will continue on **Thursday 5th December at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.**

### Annual Lourdes Day Mass 7 December 2019

The Annual Lourdes Day Mass of the Order of Malta will be celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Fisher and the Chaplains of the Order on Saturday 7 December at 10am in St Mary's Cathedral.

This is a very special event in our calendar, to offer Charism to the sick, the elderly and frail. There will be a Blessing from the Archbishop and Chaplains, and vials of Lourdes water will be distributed.

A reserved area for those in wheelchairs or needing assistance is set aside and access to the Cathedral for wheelchairs is from St. Mary's Rd. Family and friends are welcome.

Parking for the general congregation is in the Enacon Car Park, at the end of Cathedral St. For any enquiries or should you need assistance please contact the Order at: [info@smom.org.au](mailto:info@smom.org.au); [macolmi@bigpond.net.au](mailto:macolmi@bigpond.net.au) or phone 9331 8477.

**Interested in volunteering to lend a helping hand to seniors?** We need people in South West Sydney to visit seniors for a chat over a cup of tea and to help with light housework. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

**Gifts of Faith.** This Christmas give a gift with faith at the Centre. The Catholic charity *Aid to the Church in Need* has produced a **Gifts of Faith** catalogue in support of suffering and persecuted Christians. Copies can be found on the Church tables. Alternatively visit [www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith](http://www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith) or phone 1800 101 201. Order by 9 December to receive your **Gift of Faith** cards and envelopes in time for Christmas.

### A Profoundly Rewarding Mission

Working in Education, Health and Trades? Assist to reduce poverty in overseas communities by sharing your skills. Mutual development assured! **There are five places left** on Palms Australia's January 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Orientation Course. You must apply now for a [position](#) beginning any time in 2020. **Call or text 0422 4PALMS (M-F). [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au)**



### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new envelopes for next 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](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au)

**The Circle of the Wreath:** God Himself, His eternity and His endless mercy, without neither beginning nor end.

**The Green of the Wreath:** Our hope of newness, renewal and eternal life.

**The Candles:** The Light of God that came into the world through Christ to bring newness, life and hope.

**Four Candles:** The four weeks of Advent, representing the four centuries between the time of the Prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

**Three Coloured (purple or blue) Candles:** A period of waiting, expectation and preparation.

**One Pink (or Rose) candle:**

It symbolizes joy for the promise is almost fulfilled.



**FREE Carols by Candlelight** in the grounds of the Liverpool Catholic Club on **Sunday 1st December 2019**. Program starts at 6:45pm, Carols commence 7:30pm. Also, live nativity scene and a pen with nursery animals for the children. Fireworks display to conclude the evening. All welcome.



## Saints of the Week



### St Francis Xavier

St Francis Xavier was a Navarrese-Basque Roman Catholic missionary born in the Kingdom of Navarre on April 7, 1506. He was sent to study at the University of Paris and in 1530, Francis Xavier earned his master's degree, and went on to teach philosophy at the University of Paris. On August 15, 1534, Francis Xavier along with Peter Favre, and several other friends, made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The men planned to travel to the Holy Land to convert non-believers. Francis Xavier started his study of theology that same year and was ordained on June 24, 1537. With St Ignatius Loyola became one of the seven who founded the Society of Jesuits. He preached for 6 months in Africa on his way to Asia where he spent the remainder of his life spreading the Word of God in India, Japan and the Philippines.

**Feast day:** December 3

**Patron of Catholic missions; African missions; Goa, India; China; missionaries.**



### St Ambrose

St Ambrose, also known as Aurelius Ambrosius, is one of the four original doctors of the Church. He was the Bishop of Milan and became one of the most important theological figure of the 4th century. He was a successful lawyer prior to becoming a bishop. As bishop, he donated all of his land and gave his money to the poor. Ambrose authored many of the Church's important writings and hymns. He is credited with composing the repertory Ambrosian chant, also known as the Antiphonal Chant. He is also credited with composing the hymn "Te Deum," which is believed to have been written when he baptized Augustine of Hippo.

**Feast Day:** December 7

**Patron of beekeeper, beggars, learners and Milan**





## 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 1st December**. Following Mass Fr Dominic and Fr Richard will meet with you in the Parish Hall.



**JORDAN YOUTH GROUP:** Primary school students in Years 5,6 & Year 7 High school students are welcome to come together to engage, learn pray and be involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith. Join us in group discussions, games, activities and reflection. **Our final session for the year is on Saturday, 7th December between 3:30-5:15pm.** Please contact the Parish office for more information on [info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au)

## To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2019.

*The community of John the Baptist would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for the commitment and care you have given the children of our Parish. Thank you for sharing your faith with our children and helping them in their journey of faith, to know and love God more. May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your family. God bless you.*

Please let Angela or your co-ordinator know (ASAP) whether you would like to continue being a Children's Liturgy Leader in 2020. If anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or 0410 964 196.



## VOLUNTEERS FOR 2020 SUPPER AND MORNING TEA ROSTERS

Every Saturday following the 5.30pm Vigil and Sunday following 10am Masses a group of volunteers help with setting up and serving at supper/morning tea. If you would like to become a volunteer in 2020 please contact Teresa Vartuli on 0413 835 250 so that your name can be added to the roster. You will only need to attend once a month. Thank you for your support.

**Lights of Christmas** - Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral with a special Opening Night Concert featuring Friar Alessandro, the Voice from Assisi, and internationally acclaimed Australian pianist Vivian Choi. A wonderful free community event starting Thursday, 5 December with the Opening Night Concert from 7.30pm. A Sydney tradition, the Lights of Christmas runs every night until Christmas featuring a range of choirs.



Ministries Next Week 7/8 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	A Vlahadamis G Turnbull	T Simpson J Finucane	N Debuissou E Villegas	R Capolupo A Bento
<b>EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER</b>	A Gorla B Empeigne A Vlahadamis D Vella E Vella M Camilleri	D Sullivan J Finucane L Tononcelli S Xuereb D Triganza	C Porreca T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib A Bautista	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook M Mai
<b>CHURCH COUNTER</b>	J Oliveri	V Baltazar		
<b>CLEANERS: CHURCH</b>				
<b>ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER</b>	8/12/2019 Z Penitani	15/12/2019 R Marciano	22/12/2019 J Sultana	29/12/2019 D Triganza
<b>10AM MORNING TEAS</b>	8/12/2019 Group 2	15/12/2019 Group 3	22/12/2019 Group 4	29/12/2019 Group 5

## Upcoming Parish Activities ..... Save the date!

Freeman, John the Baptist Primary and  
John the Baptist Parish present



## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 2019

**Friday 13th December**

**FOOD TRUCKS from 5.30PM**

**CAROLS @ 7pm**



**MEN'S GROUP MEETING** will be held on **Friday 20th December 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 Branko Poljak 0411 281 299.

## UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Friday 13th December** - Carols by Candlelight

**Wednesday 18th December** - Advent Mercy Night

*Further information will be provided closer to the dates.*

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation:**

Wednesday 18th December 8:30pm

**Christmas Eve:** 5:30pm Children's Mass,  
8:00pm and  
Midnight

**Christmas Day:** 8:00am and  
10:00am



## Parish Contacts:

Parish Pastoral Council Chairman: Jeff Lai - 0409 288 812  
Finance Committee: Tanya Scarvelis - 9823 2572  
Community Care: Tina Dunn - 0439 492 920; Sharon Cook - 0410 494 700  
Readers and Catechists: Nina Laureti - 9823 3277  
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: : Linda Barilla - 9607 4993  
Confirmation: Linda Barilla - 9607 4993  
Reconciliation and First Communion: Tamara Vella - 0424 166 248 and  
Kylie Farias - 0473 779 338

Altar Servers: Fr Richard - 9823 2572  
Children's Liturgy: Angela Galdas - 9606 8403  
Church Linen: Michelle De Luca - 0400 374 277  
Church Cleaners: Ann Gorla - 0425 284 860  
Piety Stall: Millie Breaden - 9823 2572  
Morning Teas: Teresa Vartuli - 0413 835 250  
Jordan Youth Group: Silvana Scarmardella - 9823 2572  
Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski - 9823 2572  
Young Adults: Caitlin Pace - 0490 518 369

**Next Sunday:**  
**Second Sunday of Advent ( Year A)**  
First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9  
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ For me, Jesus' command to "stay awake" means..... challenges me to.....assures me of.....
- ♦ What moves me from unfaithfulness is..... from not paying attention to God's instructions to paying attention is.....
- ♦ I come to God when..... What happens is.....

## First reading

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

**121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9**

### Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel's law it is,  
there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David.

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!'

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good.

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

## Second reading

**Romans 13:11-14**

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**Ps 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

**Matthew 24:37-44**

### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples, 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

