



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
Emergency: 0423 420 639

Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba

Email: 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

Website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday - 9:10am

Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

Friday - 9:10am

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

4/5 JANUARY

(The Epiphany of the Lord 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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year A) 28th & 29th December, 2019

“The family of the Trinity Father, Son and Holy Spirit has revealed itself to us in love”

After a young couple brought their new baby home, the wife suggested that her husband should try his hand at changing diapers. “*I’m busy*” he said, “*I’ll do the next one.*” The next time came around and she asked again. The husband narrowed his eyes as he looked at his wife. “*I didn’t mean the next diaper, I meant the next baby.*”

This Sunday the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family to highlight the importance of the family, ‘the domestic church’. The word family often associates with members being ‘at home’ for one another. This is becoming more and more of a problem in our society when we are not at home with ourselves and we spend less time to be together. As a result we find it hard to listen sensitively to one another. There are many broken families when husbands and wives refuse to listen and support one another to overcome their differences in crisis.

In today’s Gospel we read about Joseph and Mary who have to deal with many crisis right from the beginning of their relationship. They both listen to the word of God, treasure it with their hearts then act upon it. They overcame their problems by sticking together, supporting one another and more importantly praying together. I believe when a couple pray together they become more understanding and accepting which in turn improves their relationship and they begin to listen attentively to one another.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brings into focus the most important aspect of family life which is love. It has been said that the best gift that parents can give to their children is to love one another. The secret of an enduring family life is to put the love of God in every aspect of daily living. It is true that love conquers all, and the love of God will make it possible for every family to overcome all obstacles. Let us reflect on our own family’s conflict and crisis, may Jesus, Mary and Joseph inspire us with their examples and may our families become more loving and more caring.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2204 The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realisation of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a domestic *church*. It is a community of faith, hope and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the new Testament.

Trivia quiz (ANSWERS IN THIS BULLETIN)

1. What is the Feast celebrated on the 1st January?
2. On which day does the Lenten season begin?
3. How many active bishops are there in the Archdiocese of Sydney? Name them.

Fr Dominic

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



Sick: Errol O'DWYER, Col PURCELL, Michael PITTAS, Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER, Lorna WRIGHTMAN, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Andrew O'DWYER, Nola CONROY, Anna PEZZUTO, Paul VELLA

Death Anniversary: Marianna FOTI

Other: Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention

Saints of the Week



Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honour we can give to her. Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honours Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Feast day: January 1



The birth of Jesus Christ brings light of God's love into the world. It is a cause of rejoicing for all people.

Letters to God From Children

Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you keep the ones you have now? *Norma 9*

Dear God, I went to a wedding and they kissed right in the church. Is that OK? *Nancy 7*

Dear God, Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. *Joyce 4*

Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all the people in the world. There are only five people in my family and I can never do it. *Sam 6*



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual 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 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



St Basil the Great

St. Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He was one of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. Several of his brothers and sisters are honoured among the saints. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually he decided to become a monk and found a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made bishop of Caesaria. In this post until his death in 379, he continued to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was responsible for the victory of Nicene orthodoxy over Arianism in the Byzantine East, and the denunciation of Arianism at the Council of Constantinople in 381-82 was in large measure due to his efforts. Basil fought simony, aided the victims of drought and famine, strove for a better clergy, insisted on a rigid clerical discipline, fearlessly denounced evil wherever he detected it, and excommunicated those involved in the widespread prostitution traffic in Cappadocia. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity.

Feast day: January 2

Patron of hospital administrators



St Gregory Nazianzen

St. Gregory was a Doctor of the Church, born at Arianus in Asia Minor, probably in 325, and died in 389. He was the son of Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus (329-374.) After his baptism at 30, Gregory gladly accepted his friend Basil's invitation to join him in a newly founded monastery. The solitude was broken when Gregory's father, a bishop, needed help in his diocese and estate. It seems that Gregory was ordained a priest practically by force, and only reluctantly accepted the responsibility. He skillfully avoided a schism that threatened when his own father made compromises with Arianism. At 41, Gregory was chosen suffragan bishop of Caesarea and like his good friend St. Basil, had a hard time fighting against Arianism and opposing the then-Arian emperor, Valens. It was in Constantinople, where he tried to bring back Christians from Arianism, where he began giving the great sermons on the Trinity for which he is famous. His last days were spent in solitude and austerity. He wrote religious poetry, some of it autobiographical, of great depth and beauty. He was acclaimed simply as "the Theologian."

Feast day: January 2



The Most Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, with January 3rd being the feast of the Holy Name. After the Blessed Virgin Mary had conceived her Child by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel appeared to St. Joseph and instructed him that the Child's name should be called Jesus, which means "God Saves".

Feast day: January 3



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 5th January**. Following Mass Fr Dominic and Fr Richard will meet with you in the Parish Hall.

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.



Tap Donation Device

There are two Tap Donation Devices at the Entrance of the church for people who want to use Credit Card or Phone App. Each time you tap, you donate \$5 to our parish. You can tap as many times as you wish but please give the machine 5 seconds to reset. Your donations are very much appreciated.

Ⓢ ATTENTION EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE

EUCARIST: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

Ministries Next Week 4/5 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	L Krslovic A Pace	S Hely M Jebail	N Dubuisson C Porreca	R Capolupo J Nguyen
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	A Gorla B Empeigne A Vlahadamas D Vella E Vella M Camilleri	M Jebail M Esposito Delicia Vella A Liberatore F Foti	S Hambrook H Fenech E Villegas C Porreca T Nguyen M Aulsebrook	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook M Mai
CHURCH COUNTER	M Davies			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	5/01/2020 M De Luca	12/01/2020 S Leonello	19/01/2020 R Marciano	26/01/2020 Z Penitani
10AM MORNING TEAS	5/01/2019 Group 1	12/01/2020 Group 2	19/01/2019 Group 3	26/01/2020 Group 4

Trivia answers

1. Mary Mother of God
2. Ash Wednesday
3. Three. Archbishop Anthony Fisher
Auxiliary Bishops: Terence Brady, Richard Umbers.



OUR PARISH

Mission Statement

Proclaiming: in our daily lives by our words and actions we spread God's love in our families, Parish community, workplace, in the broader community and to the rest of the world.

Inviting: welcome and inspire people to share our faith and to actively participate in the life of the Parish and the wider Church.

Sanctifying: the Parish provides avenues of support for its members through the sacramental life and spiritual growth opportunities.

Transforming: we use our gifts to transform the local and wider community, through engagement in works which create a more just and compassionate society that promotes love and mutual respect.

St John the Baptist Parish
Together we proclaim
"Jesus the Good News"

We are seeking new members for Parish Pastoral Council 2020. (Yellow forms)

Our parish needs Christian leadership to help make decisions about activities, pastoral life and growth of the community. If you are a person from our faith community who can enable others to develop and give life to our parish mission of together, proclaiming, inviting, sanctifying and transforming towards Jesus the Good News. Please consider to nominate yourself or you can nominate someone who have the mentioned gifts. **There are nomination forms at the entrance of the church, please fill it out and return to the office by 15 January 2020.**

On behalf of the parish I would like to thank you to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council who have served the community faithfully since I arrived to the parish two years ago, I hope that you will continue to serve the parish in other meaningful ways.

Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.



RELICS OF SAINTS THERESE, AND HER PARENTS LOUIS AND ZELIE

The National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Therese, and her parents, Louis and Zelie, will be making their way around the Archdiocese of Sydney in February and March 2020.

Please see church noticeboard for venues, dates and times.

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 Breden - 9823 2572
Morning Teas: Teresa Vartuli - 0413 835 250
Jordan Youth Group: Silvana Scamardella - 9823 2572
Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski - 9823 2572
Young Adults: Caitlin Pace - 0490 518 369

Next Sunday:

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I discern God's will for me in these ways.....
- ♦ I grow in holiness by.....
- ♦ I relate to those with whom I may live, work, and have leisure in these holy ways.....

First reading

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a
fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his
own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the
Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

127:1-5

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you
should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and
humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another;
forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has
forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these
clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on
love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,

because it is for this that you were called together as parts of
one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home
with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all
wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns
and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything
except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God
the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the
Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with
gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always,
because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never
drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel
frustrated.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15a, 16a

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

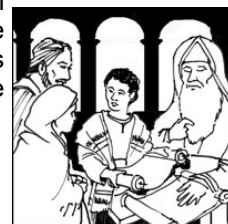
After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to
Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his
mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I
tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do
away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and
his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed
until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had
spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a
dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child
and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for
those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got
up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back
to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had
succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid
to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he
settled in a town called Nazareth. In this
way the words spoken through the
prophets were to be fulfilled:

'He will be called a Nazarene.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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