



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

PSALTER 2

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Raymond of Penyafort,
priest

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:10am

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

11/12 JANUARY

(The Baptism 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 Epiphany of the Lord (Year A) 4th & 5th January, 2020

Search for the Truth

John, an avid golfer, came in from the course one Saturday. His wife, Mary asked him with whom he had played that day. He said, "Oh, no one in particular." She asked, "Why don't you play with Bill anymore?" John replied, "Would you like to play golf with someone who throws his clubs, swears all the time, lies about his scores and won't stop talking while your trying to play a shot?" "Of course not!" Mary protested. "Neither does Bill." John replied.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek 'Epiphancia', meaning 'Manifestation'. After Christmas, we continue to ponder at the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Epiphany symbolises 'the baby born to be King' will rule not by force but by love, reigning not from a throne but from a cross.

The Gospel gives us a wonderful picture of the wise men who were searchers for the truth. They left their homeland and their families to follow the star to pay homage to the baby Jesus with special gifts. The significance of this from the scriptural point of view is that Christ came for all people including non Jews. From our point of view the story shows the wise men as people who could let go. They were free and flexible. How different they were to Herod who resorted to lies and murder when his plan failed. Like the wise men we are called to search for the truth which sets us free, i.e. constantly seeking for God in prayers, Words, Sacraments and in the way we live our life.

Let us pray that like the wise men who were able to see and recognise that infant as the Christ, the promised Messiah and brought him gifts, we will be able to recognise Jesus in others and share our gifts with them.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

525 Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family.²⁰² Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest.²⁰³ The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

528 The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world ...In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the incarnation. The Magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations...

Your children will not remember you for the material things you provided; but for the feeling that you cherished them. Richard L. Evans



Fr Dominic

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



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

Recently Deceased: Bernadine BASTIANSZ, Andrew O'DWYER, Nola CONROY

Death Anniversary: Wenceslao Del VALLE, Marielta and Cristano CADA, Marianna FOTI

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



A NEW YEAR.. NEW BEGININGS

A new year is about to unfold, with new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences, new adventures with the Lord.
Remember not the former things, the things of this past year.
The Lord will do new things in us, much more than we are aware.
For He will make a way for us, as we put our trust in Him,
And He will guide our every step, by His presence we have within.
What God has placed within our hearts, we find we'll be able to do.
If we look for the opportunities, we'll see the door to go through.
We mustn't let anything hold us back, but rise up and take our place.
And be all that God wants us to be, with a fresh touch of His grace.



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.

Saints of the Week



St Raymond of Penyafort

St. Raymond of Pennafort was born in Spain, St. Raymond was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age, and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honours and entered the Order of the Dominicans. St. Raymond was very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The brave religious of this Order devoted themselves to saving poor Christians captured by the Moors. Once he went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach about Jesus. King James was a man of great qualities, but he let himself be ruled by passions. There on the Island, too, he was giving bad example. The Saint commanded him to send the woman away. The King said he would, but he did not keep his promise. So St. Raymond decided to leave the Island. The King declared he would punish any ship captain who brought the Saint back to Barcelona. Putting all his trust in God, Saint Raymond spread his cloak upon the water, tied up one corner of it to a stick for a sail, made the Sign of the Cross, stepped onto the cloak, and sailed along for six hours until he reached Barcelona. This miracle moved the King. He was sorry for what he had done, and he became a true follower of St. Raymond. St. Raymond was one hundred years old at the time of his death.

Feast day: January 1
Patron of Canonists

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



Condolences Our condolences are extended to O'Dwyer's family on the loss of Andrew O'Dwyer whose funeral Mass will be at Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park on Tuesday 7th January at 10.30am.



Children's prayers: I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there.

* Please God, I want to pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to Fiji tomorrow. Laurie. Aged 10.

* Dear God, my father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my home. Joshua Aged 10.



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.



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.



Ⓜ ATTENTION EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

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

Ministries Next Week 11/12 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	E Vella M Camilleri	J Finucane M Jebrail	J Habib A Bautista	A Vanderwert A Bento
EXTRA- ORDINARY MINISTER	T Vartuli A Pace J Victorino A Jameson C Araco L Topic	B O'Connor D Sullivan J Finucane L Tononcelli S Xuereb	R Hibbs J Habib A Bautista N Laureti G Dunn H Dubuisson	G Vanderwert D Pham R Imbert M Abdal
CHURCH COUNTER	J Oliveri	V Baltazar		
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	12/01/2020 S Leonello	19/01/2020 R Marciano	26/01/2020 Z Penitani	2/02/2020 J Sultana
10AM MORNING TEAS	12/01/2020 Group 2	19/01/2019 Group 3	26/01/2020 Group 4	2/02/2020 Group 1



Our Family - from a parishioner

Our family is a blessing it means so many things, words could never really tell the joy our family brings,

our family is mutual love, the love of dad and mum, showing children how to love and care for one another. Our family is heartfelt pride, the feeling deep and strong that makes us glad to take a part and know that we belong, our family is always home, a place where we can share our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams, for happiness live there.

Our family is a bond of faith that even time can't sever a gift to last throughout our lives, the family of God is forever.

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.

Footprints

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. for each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord. When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma. "Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I needed You most, You leave me." He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you never, ever, during your trials and tests. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you in my arms."



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 Scamardella - 9823 2572
Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski - 9823 2572
Young Adults: Caitlin Pace - 0490 518 369

Next Sunday:
The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)
First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I "search diligently for the child" in my daily life whenever I..... I expect to find him..... I've been surprised to find him.....
- ♦ A key experience in my life that helped me look for Jesus differently is.....
- ♦ For me, Jesus is.....

First reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord

Copyright © 1996-2015 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.

