



# 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 3

**Monday - 8:00am**

*St Henry*

**Tuesday - 8:00am**

**& 7:00pm (Catechist Mass)**

*St Camillus de Lellis, priest*

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

*St Bonaventure, bishop,  
doctor*

**Thursday - 9:00am**

*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

**Friday - 9:00am**

**Saturday - 9:00am**

### NEXT SUNDAY

**18/19 JULY**

*(16th Sunday in Ordinary  
Time 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**

**Fatima First Saturday**

**Communion of**

**Reparation 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**

## 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

11th & 12th July, 2020

# The Seed that Bears Fruit

Kenyan runner Abel Mutai was just a few feet from the finish line, but became confused with the signage and stopped, thinking he had completed the race. A Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez, was right behind him and, realizing what was happening, started shouting at the Kenyan to continue running. Mutai didn't know Spanish and didn't understand. Realizing what was taking place, Fernandez pushed Mutai to victory.

A journalist asked Ivan, "Why did you do that?" Ivan replied, "My dream is that someday we can have a kind of community life where we push and help each other to win." The journalist insisted "But why did you let the Kenyan win?" Ivan replied, "I didn't let him win, he was going to win. The race was his." The journalist insisted, and again asked, "But you could have won!" Ivan looked at him and replied, "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honour in that medal? What would my Mother think of that?"

Like any good story, the parables of Jesus had many levels of meaning. Jesus interpreted this parable of the sower for the missionary ministry of the apostles. He viewed the sower as the missionary preaching to the crowds. Who will welcome the Word of God? This has nothing to do with intelligence or ability to reflect, or interest in religious things: those who are open to hope receive the Word. In the four soils we see the four hearts:

- (1) Some in the crowd reject the message outright (like seeds on the hardened path). They are not interested in the word they have received, perhaps because they cannot see further than their own interests (they are selfish), or perhaps they have taken another direction in life.
- (2) Others receive the message but are immature and quickly lose interest in the face of opposition (like the seeds on rocky soil which the sun burnt). These do not dare to face contradiction and are easily discouraged and cowed: these are soon burnt. Yet to hope means to be firm despite any obstacle. Hope is courage and endurance.
- (3) A third group become Christians but never enjoy spiritual growth, since worries of the world get in the way (like the seeds sown with thorn weeds). They are believers, but the fruits to be harvested along the difficult path seem not to satisfy them. They are dragged down by their aim of winning material success, and hope in the kingdom of God becomes but a flimsy desire for them.
- (4) The last group grows abundantly in Christ, since they willingly place themselves at risk (like seeds in a deep, rich soil that is turned over and over). They bear abundant fruit.

Jesus meant his parables to shock and befuddle his audience for a reason. He told parables to make his audience think. Applied to our modern life, the parable of the sower and the seed still poses a challenge.

### Link in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Parables

546 - Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice: to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough, deeds are required. The parables are like mirrors for man: will he be hard soil or good earth for the kingdom?

**Fr Richard**



## Directives for Churches and Liturgies for the Archdiocese of Sydney under current COVIDSafe restrictions from 1 July 2020

Notice to be posted near church doors and parish websites

From Wednesday 1 July 2020:

- ☐ churches in the Archdiocese shall be reopened and Sunday Masses resumed
- ☐ the maximum number of people allowed in the church at one time shall be determined by dividing the total area in square metres by four ('The four square metre rule'); the maximum number allowed in this church at the one time is therefore 160; the parish priest or designated delegate must supervise this
- ☐ this applies to private prayer, Confessions, Masses, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Eucharistic Adoration, the Divine Office, Rosary in common, Bible study etc.
- ☐ contact details of all those entering the church (name and phone number or email address of one adult in each family) must be recorded, either by registering online or signing up at the door
- ☐ current spatial distancing directions (people are asked to keep least 1½m from each other) and hygiene directions (including hand sanitizing and regularly disinfecting the church) must be observed; attendees are to sit only in marked places, to queue at a distance from others, and to take care when coughing or sneezing
- ☐ congregational singing is still suspended and in the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite in Australia, Holy Communion is normally received in the hand under the form of the Body of Christ only; great care should be taken when exercising the option of Communion on the tongue;
- ☐ those who are unwell or at high risk must not attend (they might ask that Holy Communion be brought to them at home); those over 70 should exercise particular caution
- ☐ as the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule and prudential concerns will prevent many of the faithful attending, all but priests continue for the time being to be dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass; but those who are at low risk of infection and able should do so are exhorted to take all reasonable steps to attend Sunday Mass
- ☐ the faithful who do not attend Sunday Mass should keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, and/or watching Mass on television or online, asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion ('spiritual communion'); they might attend a weekday where possible or pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the week.

**Parishioners who wish to attend Masses are required to provide their contact details (name and phone number or email address of one adult in each family) as they enter the Church.**



### 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 \$10 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.



## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

To become a regular contributor please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office.

Name: ..... Telephone No.: .....

Address: .....  
.....

Email : .....

☐ Yes, Please send me a set of envelopes. ☐ Yes, tax deduction required

☐ Yes, Please organise automatic credit card deductions. ☐ No tax deduction necessary  
(A credit card authority form will be sent to you for completion)

## LIVESTREAMING OF HOLY MASS AND SERVICES

**Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm**

Please go to our Parish YOUTUBE channel - "John the Baptist Parish, Bonnyrigg Heights" to watch our live stream Masses. You may wish to SUBSCRIBE to this channel which will make it easier to access each week.



### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR 2020

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for the children who are currently in Year 3 and above will not be held in November this year but we will be held in Term 1 of next year in accordance with the Government restrictions and if they relax the number of people being able to attend. Dates are yet to be advised. Parents please prepare your children.



### THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR 2020

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion for children who are currently in Year 4 and above who were to make their First Holy Communion in June this year will now make the Sacrament in Term 4 of this year in accordance with the Government restrictions and if they relax the number of people being able to attend. Dates are yet to be advised. Parents please prepare your children.



### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR 2020

The Sacrament of Confirmation for children in Year 6 and above which was to be held in September this year will now be held in Term 4 of this year in accordance with the Government restrictions and if they relax the number of people being able to attend. Dates are yet to be advised. Parents please prepare your children.



**Baptisms:** If you wish to Baptise your child please contact the parish office to make an appointment with either Fr Dominic or Fr Richard.



**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is postponed until further notice.



**PARISH HOUSIE** at Liverpool Catholic Club on Saturday afternoons has been **POSTPONED** until further notice.

**Support our seafarers through the National Sea Sunday Appeal** - This (12 July) is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for those who live and work at sea. There will be a national Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Donations will provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers in these challenging times of COVID-19. Please give generously at [bit.ly/seasundayaustralia](http://bit.ly/seasundayaustralia)

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



**Sick:** Janelle CLIFTON, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Fr Emmanuel SEO, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

**Recently Deceased:** Tan LE, Josephine ZERAFA, Pasquale LEONELLO, Maria, Virgilio SERNERO, Romualgo PUBLICO

**Death Anniversary:** Irena SMOLINSKI, Casimero CASTOR, Agostino CAVALLARO

**Other:** Michael GRIMA, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH Maryann FENECH, All the Souls in Purgatory

## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new envelopes for the 2020-2021 Financial Year are now available outside the Church foyer. **Please ensure you pick up your correct envelope by checking both your name and address.**

**LOST:** The following items are missing from the Church

- Crucifixes from the Altar and Confessional
- Bells from the Sanctuary
- Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Statue from inside the glass cabinet



If anyone knows where they are or if you have borrowed them can you please speak to Fr Dominic, Fr Richard or call the parish office on 9823 2572. Thank you.

## RETURN TO SCRIPTURE TERM 3 CATECHIST VACANCIES

I am delighted to announce that Catechists will be able to return to classes from Week 1 next term. As a consequence of COVID 19 we have some vacancies we need to fill to ensure all the children will receive Jesus' Good news.

The following vacancies are:

Year 1 at 9 to 9.30 am on Wednesdays at Edensor Park  
Year 1 at 8.50 to 9.20 am on Wednesdays at Cecil Hills  
Year 2 at 12:05-12:35pm to 9.20 on Wednesdays at Bonnyrigg Heights

If you are able to assist us with any of these classes, please contact Nina Laureti on 0408 465 149.

## IMPORTANT CATECHIST MEETING

An important Catechist meeting has been scheduled for next **TUESDAY 14TH JULY**. Fr Richard will celebrate Mass at 7pm for us and then we will stay in the Church for important updates and expectations on the return to the scripture classes. All need to be briefed on these new guidelines.

Please let you co-ordinator know if you are attending as notes need to be distributed.

Any other questions please call Nina 0408 465 149.

## MEN'S GROUP MEETING

The next Men's Group Meeting will be held next **Friday 17th July at 8:00pm** in the Parish Hall.

## Saints of the Week



**St Bonaventure**, known as "the seraphic doctor," was born at Bagnoregio, in the Lazio region of central Italy, in 1221. He received the name of Bonaventure in consequence of an exclamation of St. Francis of Assisi, when, in response to the pleading of the child's mother, the saint prayed for John's recovery from a dangerous illness, and, foreseeing the future greatness of the little John, cried out "O Buona ventura - O good fortune!"

At the age of twenty-two St. Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order. Having made his vows, he was sent to Paris to complete his studies. In Paris he became the intimate friend of the great St. Thomas Aquinas. He received the degree of Doctor.

At the age of thirty-five he was chosen General of his Order and restored a perfect calm where peace had been disturbed by internal dissensions. He did much for his Order and composed The Life of St. Francis. He also assisted at the translation of the relics of St. Anthony off Padua. He was nominated Archbishop of York by Pope Clement IV, but he begged not to be forced to accept that dignity. Gregory X obliged him to take upon himself a greater one, that of Cardinal and Bishop of Albano, one of the six suffragan Sees of Rome. Before his death he abdicated his office of General of the Franciscan Order. He died while he was assisting at the Second Council of Lyons, on July 15, 1274.

**Feast Day: July 15**



## 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 - 0408 465 149  
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

## Next Sunday:

### 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time ( Year A)

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The kind of "seed" I am sowing at work or home is..... The harvest that is emerging is.....
- ♦ I hear God's word and come to an understanding heart when.....
- ♦ The new growth I experience from hearing God's word is.....

## First reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

64:10-14

### *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows;  
you level it, soften it with showers;  
you bless its growth.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

## Second reading

Romans 8:18-23

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

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

### The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

IS3:9, Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

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

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

### The Gospel of the Lord



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