



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 4

Monday - 8:00am

St Apollinaris, bishop, martyr

Tuesday - 8:00am

*St Lawrence of Brindisi,
priest, doctor*

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Mary Magdalene

Thursday - 9:00am

St Bridget, religious

Friday - 9:00am

St Sharbel Makhluf, priest

Saturday - 9:00am

St James, apostle

NEXT SUNDAY

25/26 JULY

*(17th 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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

18th & 19th July, 2020

Will you rise above the weed?

Things were getting quite noisy in the young couple's apartment on the fifth floor. The neighbours all stood in the hall way, listening to the argument. *"He's certainly going to hit her. We better do something."* A woman exclaimed. *"Yes, yes. And she's not made out of paper either but it's none of our business."* Another added. There were more bangs and crashes; then everything became very quiet. *"We'd better call the police. It could be that..."* just then old Grandpa, who takes no interest in others' chattering, turned up, *"Why don't you let the young couple do what they want to? May be all they're doing is moving the furniture."* *"But, Grandpa, I heard a groan and a moan."* *"So what? All of us groan and moan sometimes."* Just then the door opened and a young couple came out into the hall, the young lady smiled on all the neighbours and seeing so many of them gathered said, *"we owe you all an apology for all the noise we made in our apartment. We were moving the furniture around and we knocked over and broke our big lampshade, and we're just going out to buy a new one."* Grandpa just smiled as the young couple walked past the neighbours, and then the people said: *"What a lovely couple the two of them made!"* It is very easy for us to make a rash judgement according to what we think, and often what we think can be very negative and destructive.

In the Gospel today we find the farmer who has sown good seed in his field being amazed at the sight of weeds in the midst of the good plants as they grow. While the servants quickly wanted to pull them out: *"Do you want us to go and weed them out?"* the owner was very patient and compassionate, *"No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest..."* It is true, that we usually condemn and try to eradicate others when what we see as wrong and not appropriate according to our judgement, without deepening our understanding. That is why Jesus wanted us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect not perfect as the way we see ourselves. The way in which our heavenly Father is perfect is that He sends his rain and his sunshine on the good and on the bad alike. He has the same love for the sinner as he has for the saint; the only difference is that the saint knows that he is forgiven and loved.

God is always patient and compassionate with us, let us be aware of what is going on in us and let us pray for the strength and courage to change ourselves and change the way we see others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

827... All members of the church, including her ministers, must acknowledge that they are sinners. In everyone, the weeds of sin will still be mixed with the good wheat of the gospel until the end of time. Hence the church gathers sinners already caught up in Christ's salvation but still on the way to holiness.

*There is so much good in the worst of us, And so much bad in the best of us,
That it ill behoves any of us, To speak ill of the rest of us.*

R. Stevenson.

Fr Dominic



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 4m² 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.
(A credit card authority form will be sent to you for completion) ☐ No tax deduction necessary

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.

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Terzito will not be open to the public. It will be live streamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville with Mass at **1:30pm on 26th July**. This will be followed by the Rosary and Benediction.

Link: <https://YouTube.be/eDPK0nKXk>

In these difficult times we need to be innovative in our devotions. May our Lady of Terzito continue to bless us and our families.

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: Ruth Elizabeth BEJARANDO BE MALDONADO, Tan LE, Josephine ZERAFA, Pasquale LEONELLO, Maria, Virgilio SERNERO,

Death Anniversary: Ena LANG, Mary THURN, Arthur SCHUBACK, Irena SMOLINSKI, Casimero CASTOR

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.**

TAXATION RECEIPTS

The taxation receipts for the 2019-2020 financial year are available for collection outside the Church.

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.

Saints of the Week



St Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, serving Jesus and his Disciples. She was present at his death and was the first witness to His resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. Jesus saving her gave us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

After the death of Christ, a legend states that she remained among the early Christians. After fourteen years, she spent the remaining years of her life living in solitude, in a cave in France.

Feast Day: July 22



St James

Nothing is known of St. James the Greater's early life. He is the brother of St John the Evangelist (sons of Zebedee and Salome). The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to help distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter than James "the Greater." Saint James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration, and when he and his brother wanted to call fire upon a Samaritan town, both were rebuked by Jesus. Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom as well. He travelled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain. It is said that one day, as he prayed, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did. Later, James returned to Jerusalem and was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. He was the first apostle to die.

Feast Day: July 25

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 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
Men's Group: Branko Poljak - 0411 281 299

Next Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What and who help me discern God's will for my life are.....
- ♦ I experience growth in my being the visible presence of the kingdom of heaven when.....
- ♦ I need to embrace more fully God's "mystery" (see first reading) of my life by.....

First reading

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly;

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned

and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second reading

Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put another parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'



The Gospel of the Lord

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