



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 1**

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Martha

Thursday - 9:00am

*St Peter Chrysologus, bishop,
doctor*

Friday - 9:00am

St Ignatius of Loyola, priest

Saturday - 9:00am

*St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop,
doctor*

NEXT SUNDAY

1/2 AUGUST

(18th 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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

25th & 26th July, 2020

A Hidden Treasure – God's Kingdom

Mark Twain in Tom Sawyer says that all little boys dream of the possibility of finding buried treasure. Rarely does this ever happen. Tom and Huck did, but the likelihood of doing so for most people is very small.

In our day, we can store treasure in the bank or in a safe deposit box. But in Jesus' day, burying treasure was an extremely common way of safeguarding it. In fact, according to rabbinical law, burying a treasure was the most secure way of protecting it. One's treasure might be stolen by thieves or plundered by foreign invading armies. But if it were hidden skilfully, rarely it be detected.

Jesus likens the kingdom to objects of the greatest value. This value brings a response of total sacrifice and commitment. Jesus' point in the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price is similar to the Parable of the Hidden Treasure. They convey one and the same lesson. And that lesson is the exceptional worth of the kingdom of heaven and the necessity of a whole hearted response. The kingdom of God, Jesus teaches, is worth all and it requires all.

Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. God blesses us with spiritual goods that far outweigh the fleeting joys of any hidden treasure or the most valuable pearl. He alone can satisfy the deepest longing and desires of our heart. Are you willing to part with anything that might keep you from seeking true joy with Jesus?

Catechism of the Catholic Church: *The Freedom of Faith*

160 - To be human, one's response to God by faith must be free, and... therefore nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against his/her will. The act of faith is of its very nature a free act. "God calls us to serve him in spirit and in truth. Consequently we are bound to him in *conscience*, but not coerced... This fact received its fullest manifestation in Christ Jesus." Indeed, Christ invited people to faith and conversion, but never coerced them.

Fr Richard

The 100 Person Limit and 4m2 Rule

The major changes are as follows:

1. The 4m² rule still determines the maximum number of people per building, but there is **now a restriction to 100 even in those large churches** where the 4m² rule might have allowed for a greater number.
2. Baptism, anointing and giving Holy Communion is regarded as of no greater risk than the service of food and drinks in restaurants and clubs which is allowed; with a suitable COVID Safety plan in place, these celebrations are permissible.
3. Congregational singing is still not allowed. Recent health advice has indicated that while droplets quickly fall to the ground, the aerosol emissions during singing promote too great a risk even for those adhering to the specified 1.5m physical distancing requirement.
4. Singers and choirs, however, are permissible, on the following conditions:
 - o singers are to be spaced at least 1.5m apart from each other and at least 4m distanced from the congregation, and
 - o where choirs face each other, they must be at least 4m away from those they are facing.

Members of the congregation are discouraged from mingling before, during or after the service.

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.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new envelopes for the 2020-2021 Financial Year are now available in the Parish office.

TAXATION RECEIPTS

The taxation receipts for the 2019-2020 financial year are also available for collection from the Parish office.

If for any reason you are unable to collect them from the office please let us know and we will post them to you.



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.



CONFIRMATION ENROLMENTS 2020

Enrolments will take place over one weekend only on **Saturday 15th August 6:30 - 7:30pm** and **Sunday 16th August 9:00am to 12:00pm**

You are required to bring a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate together with \$20 contribution fee to successfully enrol for the Sacrament.

For further information please contact Linda Barilla on 9607 4993.



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.



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.

Vinnies is proud to announce the launch of the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) for students in Years 4 – 6, who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/MVFPinfo>

This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools July 2020 Newsletter:** <https://bit.ly/VinniesMetroSchoolsNewsletter2020Term3>

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

Death Anniversary: Louis Roger LEMASSON, Luisa JACA, Guia Miranda DEL VALLE, Mary Joseph HABIB, Casimero CASTOR

Other: Ghazwan KOREAL, Hazem KOREAL, Gazala KOREAL, Goro KHAMMO, Hani KHOSHABA, Gardeni HANA, Hana MANSOR, Saro YONAN, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH



Saints of the Week



St Martha

Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus were evidently close friends of Jesus. He came to their home simply as a welcomed guest. The sisters feel free to call on Jesus at their brother's death, even though a return to Judea at that time seems almost certain death. No doubt Martha was an active sort of person. On one occasion, she prepares the meal for Jesus and possibly his fellow guests and forthrightly states the obvious: All hands should pitch in to help with the dinner.

Martha's great glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world'" (John 11:25-27)

Feast Day: July 29



St Ignatius of Loyola was born in Spain. He was a soldier in the Spanish army in wars against the French. After the military he studied the Saints and decided to be a soldier of the catholic faith. Along with St Francis Xavier and 7 other students, started the Society of Jesus or Jesuits in 1534.

The Society of Jesus found its niche in education. Before Ignatius died in 1556, his order established 35 schools and boasted 1,000 members.

Today, the Society of Jesus is known for its work in educating the youth around the world. Several universities have been founded in the name of Ignatius and in the traditional Jesuit spirit. The Jesuits also perform many other important works around the globe.

Feast Day: July 31



St Alphonsus Liguori Bishop, Doctor of the Church, and founder of the Redemptorist Congregation. He was born in the village of Marianella near Naples, Italy on September 27, 1696. He was raised in a pious home. Educated at the University of Naples, Alphonsus received his doctorate at the age of sixteen. By age

nineteen he was practicing law. Visiting a local hospital for Incurables on August 28, 1723, he had a vision and was told to consecrate his life solely to God. Alphonsus dedicated himself to religious life, even while suffering persecution from his family. He became bishop of Palermo in 1762.

For thirteen years he fed the poor, instructed families, reorganised the seminary and religious houses, taught theology, and wrote. He suffered daily from the pain from rheumatism that was beginning to deform his body. Deposed and excluded from his own congregation, Alphonsus suffered great anguish. But he overcame his depression, and he experienced visions, performed miracle, and gave prophecies.

He died peacefully on August, 1 1787, at Nocera di Pagani, near Naples as the Angelus was ringing. He was beatified in 1816 and canonized in 1839.

Feast Day: August 1

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: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 551-3

Second Reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What I seek most in my life is.....
- ♦ For me, the kingdom of heaven is like.....
- ♦ What motivates me to give all to attain the kingdom of heaven is.....

First reading 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130 Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold.

Lord, I love your commands.

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come and I shall live
for your law is my delight.

Lord, I love your commands.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

Lord, I love your commands.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple.

Lord, I love your commands.

Second reading Romans 8:26-27 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use.

This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord

