



# 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 WEEK 3

#### Monday - 8:00am

*The Exultation of the Holy Cross*

#### Tuesday - 8:00am

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

#### Wednesday - 7:00pm

*Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr and Cyprian, bishop, martyr*

#### Thursday - 9:00am

*St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor*

#### Friday - 9:00am

#### Saturday - 9:00am

*St Januarius, bishop, martyr*

#### NEXT SUNDAY

#### 19/20 SEPTEMBER

*(25th 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

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 12th & 13th September, 2020

### FORGIVENESS

At Grace Lutheran Church in Atlanta, worshippers annually celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new one with what they call a “burning service”. Each member of the congregation brings to the altar a paper on which he or she has written failures and mistakes, plus changes to be made during the new year. The paper is dropped into a flaming urn. One year, two men who had once been friends, but had quarrelled over a business deal stood side by side at the altar. After dropping their papers into the urn, they got up, faced each other and shook hands.

In today’s Gospel, the insecure Peter asks: “*Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?*” Seven times seemed to be a very generous number and he expected a pat on the back for it because he knew that Jesus put a high priority on forgiveness. But Jesus answered, “*Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.*” And he went on to tell a parable story about a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

I often meet people who ask why should I forgive others for the wrongs they did to me? We forgive because we have been forgiven and in being forgiven we know that we are loved. When we know that we are loved we can love others and we in turn show it by forgiving them. The person who finds it hard to forgive is because he/she does not feel loved. Peter and Judas both were the great examples of this principle. Peter failed again and again, and particularly at the trial he denied Jesus three times. Yet when Jesus met him after the resurrection he accepted him in love and just said “*Peace be with you.*” And when Jesus asked him, “*Do you love me?*” Peter responded “*You know that I love you.*” It was as if he wanted to say that I love you because I know that you love me, and I know that from the way in which you forgave me. In contrast to Judas who also betrayed Jesus, but he could not accept forgiveness and committed suicide. Everyone who can not accept forgiveness locks him/herself into the past. They carry with them the guilt, the burdens, the hurts of the past and they can’t accept the joys of the present moment.

Let us pray that we can get in touch with our own weakness and sinfulness but always trust in God’s compassion and forgiveness. And may we reach out to show forgiveness to those who have wronged us particularly those whom we see everyday.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

2843 Thus the Lord’s words on forgiveness, the love that loves to the end, become a living reality. The parable of the merciless servant, which crowns the Lord’s teaching on ecclesial communion, ends with the words: ‘So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from the heart. ‘It is there, in fact, ‘in the depths of the heart’, that everything is bound and loosed. It is not in our power not to feel, or to forget, an offence; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.

### Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are the sacraments of healing that can be received more than once. These sacraments are a sign that God is present and active in difficult times, such as when we need to be forgiven or are challenged by illness.

Through these sacraments Jesus continues to **forgive and heal us.**

**Fr Dominic**

## The 100 Person Limit and 4m<sup>2</sup> Rule

The 4m<sup>2</sup> 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 4m<sup>2</sup> rule might have allowed for a greater number.

**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.



### Marriage Enrichment Weekend

*Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!*

**November 20 - 22, 2020**

**at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**

**Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)**

**Alternatively contact Christine & Terry Mahony on**

**0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

If you would like Worldwide Marriage Encounter brochures please see WWME website at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

### Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer.

To learn more about becoming a carer register for our next online information on Thursday, 24th September 2020: 12.30pm

To book call

**CCareline 13 181 9**

[connect@familyspirit.org](mailto:connect@familyspirit.org)

8am – 6pm Monday – Friday



## Faith Matters

**Liturgical colour: Green**

The theological virtue of hope is symbolized by the colour green, just as the burning fire of love is symbolized by red. Green is the colour of growing things, and hope, like them, is always new and always fresh. Liturgically, green is the colour of Ordinary Time, the orderly sequence of weeks through the year, a season in which we are being neither single-mindedly penitent (in purple) nor overwhelmingly joyful (in white).



## Parts of the Mass

### THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,  
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## 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.



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENTS 2020

Parents with children in grade 4 and above are welcome to enrol them in the John the Baptist parish Sacrament program for First Holy Communion.

To enrol children must be in grade 4 and above and have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Due to NSW Health Restrictions there will be a change to the way our sacramental program is run in 2020 so we can follow the parish COVID Safety plan. Lessons will commence week 1 of Term 4 and will be held in the church in small groups. There will be an option to attend a virtual lesson which you can discuss with CORE Group Leaders if required.

You can enrol online from 9am on Thursday 3 September online and choose a lesson time, please visit this website link to enrol your child:

ENROL HERE: <https://www.trybooking.com/654222>

Enrolments close on 16 September 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kylie on 0473 779 338 or Tamara 0424 166 248.

Thank you  
CORE GROUP



**Congratulations** - We congratulate Matthew Smith and Samantha Nowicki who were married here in the parish this weekend. Please keep the happy couple in your prayers.



### 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.



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

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

**Sick:** Gabriel STORNELLI, Janelle CLIFTON, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

**Recently Deceased:** Fr John LANGTRY, Ante KRSLOVIC, Bella CABUTE, Victor GAMO, Lonza BUSUTIL, Joe ZERAFA, Luisa Gabriel CRUZ, Dalton BONNICI, Mauro PICCIOTTO, Giragos BAKALIAN, Simon NGUYEN

**Death Anniversary:** Ghazwan KOREAL

**Other:** Francesco TRIMBOLI, Agnes and Joe TESORERO, Hazem KOREAL, Gazala KOREAL, Goro KHAMMO, Hanie KHOSHABA, Gardeni HANA, Jihad HANA, Hana MANSOR, Saro YONAN. Charlie and Rita SALIBA, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention



## RCIA – DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC?



Many adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church each year through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA): The non-baptised are suitably prepared are welcomed into the Catholic Church by the reception of the three Sacraments of Initiation, namely: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Any Catholic adults (baptised) but not yet confirmed. And those from other Christian denominations are received into full communion with the Catholic Church. The course for the RCIA candidates commences in November 2020.

## FATHER'S DAY THANK YOU

We thank everyone who helped with the livestreaming of our Father's Day Concert, our musicians and singers.

We also thank Branko, Sam, Greg and Fr Richard who shared their experience as fathers.



Speaking of our fathers it is with a sad heart that we say farewell to Fr John Langtry who passed away last Saturday. Fr John was our first Parish Priest here at John the Baptist. He will be missed by many.

A Vigil Mass will take place here this Monday 14th September at 7:00pm. If you would like to come to the Mass please send a text to Fr Dominic or Fr Richard as we need to adhere to the Government's directives regarding restrictions.

Fr John's funeral will be livestreamed this Tuesday 15th September at 11:00am. Please follow our Facebook page for details and the link.

## Saints of the Week



### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Saviour's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on." To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

**Feast Day September 14**

## 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:

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time ( Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I struggle with forgiving when..... because.....
- ♦ Experience God's compassionate forgiveness when..... I offer this compassionate forgiveness to others when.....
- ♦ I have been surprised by the gift of forgiveness when..... This has drawn me to.....

## First reading

Sirach 27:30-28:7

### A reading from the book Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of  
the Lord,  
who keeps strict account of sin.  
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?  
Showing no pity for a man like himself,  
can he then plead for his own sins?  
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death, and live by the  
commandments.  
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your  
neighbour ill-will;  
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook  
the offence.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

102:1-4, 9-12

### *The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

## Second reading

Romans 14:7-9

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

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

## The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia.

## Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

## The Gospel of the Lord



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