



# 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 1

**Monday - 8:00am**

*St Matthew, apostle,  
evangelist*

**Tuesday - 8:00am**

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**  
**Confirmation Mass ONLY**

*St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest*

**Thursday - 9:00am**

**Friday - 9:00am**

**Saturday - 9:00am**

*St Cosmas and Damian,  
martyrs*

#### NEXT SUNDAY

**26/27 SEPTEMBER**

*(26th 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

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

19th & 20th September, 2020

### Generosity over Envy

The story is told of a man who died and went to heaven. St. Peter met him at the pearly gates and asked to examine his qualifications. "We have a point system," St. Peter said, "and only those with enough points can enter." "Points?" the man asked, "I don't know what you're talking about." St. Peter explained, "It's simple. We determine how many points you have by the life you've led. We require a hundred points to get in. Tell me about your life, and I'll add up your points." The man thought for a moment and said, "Well, let's see. I was a faithful member of the church for over forty-seven years. I served as a deacon and an elder, and I taught Sunday School." St. Peter said, "Very good. You get one point."

The man said to himself, "Oh, my! Well, let's see, I was a good husband and a good father. I gave a tithe to the church, and I contributed to all sorts of charities. I helped with various civic projects, and I served on several committees. Doesn't that count for anything?" St. Peter said, "Indeed it does. You get another point." The man's face sank, and he said, "I can see now, I'll never make it. *The only way I'd ever get into this place is by the grace of God.*" St. Peter smiled and said, "And that, my friend, is worth ninety-eight points. Welcome!"

Many are surprised at the parable of the landowner who goes out at different times of the day to hire workers for his vineyard. They find it unfair to give the same reward to everyone, without considering the labour and sacrifices of everyone. Without doubt Jesus has wanted to shock us and shatter the idea we obstinately cling to: *that we have merits that God must recognize*. In this parable, the goodness, generosity and openness of God are evident. All are treated on equal terms and receive one denarius each. A "*denarius*" was a silver Roman coin used as payment for a day's wage. Let them be happy for having been invited to work as they were unemployed.

"Could it be," the owner in the Gospel says, "that you are envious because I am generous?" Envy is certainly a very basic problem that can create all manner of trouble both in the community and in the individual. The vineyard workers, especially those who had worked the longer hours show this fundamental weakness, this selfishness, basis of all sin. Are we envious of the gifts of God to others? Shouldn't we rejoice with our brother or sister if God has been good to them? Why do we always want everything for ourselves and not for others, especially those for whom we don't have a liking? Our response to God's generosity should be the same: generosity.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church Theme: The Person and Society

"All men are called to the same end: God himself." (CCC 1878) God created all of us as individuals and has the greatest personal concern for each one of us. His love established an order that makes the human person the highest value. "... the human person ... is and ought to be the principle, the subject, and the end of all social institutions." (CCC 1881) While society and institutions within society are necessary for the good of all, such are meant to serve the person. They should have limits to insure our freedom. "Charity is the greatest social commandment. It respects others and their rights. It requires the practice of justice, and alone makes us capable of it. Charity inspires a life of self-giving." (CCC 1889)

**Fr Richard**

## 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.

### **ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:**

We wish to advise that our regular Wednesday evening Mass has been cancelled due to Parish Confirmations that evening. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

## Faith Matters

### **Confirmation – How is it distinct from Baptism?**

Confirmation is the sacrament of strengthening and mission, traditionally bestowed on a person who is going to make a public confession of the Christian faith and face possible opposition. In contrast to baptism, which is the sacrament of spiritual birth, Confirmation confers maturity. Hence the one being confirmed is sealed with chrism and the sign of the cross and is strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, enabling that person to be moved by the Spirit in Christian mission. The clearest Biblical images of the effects of this sacrament are the way in which Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Spirit after his Baptism (Mt 4:1) and how the disciples preach the Gospel to the crowds after the descent of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2).



## **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.

### **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



## **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



### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020

The Year 6 children in our parish will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this week. Please keep them and their families 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:** Sebastian AGUIAR, Nellie SUPSUP, Fr John LANGTRY, Ante KRSLOVIC, Bella CABUTE, Engr Victor GAMO, Lonza BUSUTIL, Joe ZERAFA, Luisa Gabriel CRUZ, Dalton BONNICI, Mauro PICCIOTTO, Giragos BAKALIAN

**Death Anniversary:** Steven HEWITT, Josie HOPE, George THURN, Luciano MORASSUT, Giannino MORASSUT, Violet ANDERSON

**Other:** 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.

## Saints of the Week



### St Matthew

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alphaeus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ. From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament. Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword. Nothing is recorded of Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

**Feast Day September 21**



**St Pius of Pietrelcina** the Italian Franciscan priest, better known as "Padre Pio" is known for his suffering, humility and miracles. He was originally named Francesco Forgione and was born in 1887. Francesco had already decided at a young age to dedicate his entire life to God. On January 22, 1903, Francesco donned the Franciscan habit for the first time. He took the name Pio, a modernised Italian form of "Pius," in honour of Pope Pius V. He made his solemn vows four years later, and received priestly ordination in 1910. Shortly after, he first received the Stigmata - Christ's wounds, present in his own flesh. He suffered health problems and was forced to live apart from his Franciscan community for the first six years of his priesthood. In 1916 he managed to re-enter community life at the Friary of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he lived until his death. He handled many duties as a spiritual director and teacher. During 1917-1918, he briefly served in a medical unit of the Italian army. He later offered himself as a spiritual "victim" for an end to the war, accepting suffering as a form of prayer for peace. Once again, he received the wounds of Christ on his body. They would remain with him for 50 years, through a succession of global conflicts. By 1919, word began to spread about his stigmata and people came from far away to examine him. He became popular with the people he encountered and they soon began to attribute supernatural occurrences to him. He was able to levitate and to perform miracles. His popularity became a source of concern for the Church and the Vatican began to restrict his activities. Padre Pio himself was uncomfortable with his newfound popularity but he used this to open a hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo which opened in 1956. Padre Pio died in 1968, and was declared a saint in 2002.

**Feast Day: September 23**



## 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:

### 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time ( Year A)

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The work God calls me to do for the kingdom is..... The "hour" God called me was.....
- ♦ I experience God's unlimited gift of life to me when.....
- ♦ The gifts I have to offer for the growth of the kingdom are.....

## First reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

### The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured.

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

## Second reading

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

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

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results-I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

### The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

### The Gospel of the Lord

