



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 WEEK 3

Monday - 8:00am
*St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor*
Tuesday - 8:00am
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

19/20 DECEMBER

(Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year B)

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) 12th & 13th December, 2020

R

ejoice

This third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* for a Latin verb which means “rejoice”. The opening antiphon for this Sunday sets the theme of the entire celebration, JOY. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer let your petitions be made known to God” (Philippians 4: 4 - 6). With the coming of the Christ, our deepest longings and yearnings will be fulfilled.

There is a story about a Zen priest in China when the warlords were plundering villages early in the 20th century. When his village heard that the warlord was headed toward them, all of the people fled to the hills - except one priest. When the warlord arrived, he inquired if anyone was left in the village. The answer was, ‘Only the priest in the temple.’ The warlord commanded, ‘Bring him to me.’ When the priest was brought into his presence, the warlord drew his sword and cried, ‘Do you know who I am? I am he who can run you through with this sword and never bat an eye.’ The Zen priest replied, ‘Do you know who I am? I am he who can be run through with your sword and never bat an eye.’ I wish I had that kind of courageous assurance to face up to the threats in my life, don’t you?

But Advent is most certainly about who God is and what God wants to do in our world and in our lives. John stands as a sign on this Gaudete Sunday. He points out the path to freedom, the way to find lasting joy and happiness through living the lifestyle of self-emptying. We are to live our lives as joyful penitents ever aware of our utter dependency on God’s grace. It is sin which leads us into slavery and thus takes away our joy. Only by being freed from it can we truly be happy. When Jesus increases, Joy Increases. Therefore, Rejoice: Faint not nor fear, His arms are near, He changes not, and you are dear; Only believe and you shall see, That Christ is all in all to you.

Link in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Freedom and Responsibility (1731 - 1733)

As long as freedom has not bound itself definitively to its ultimate good which is God, there is the possibility of choosing between good and evil, and thus of growing in perfection or of failing and sinning. This freedom characterizes properly human acts. It is the basis of praise or blame, merit or reproach. The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to “the slavery of sin.”

Fr Richard

NSW eases restrictions to allow 300 in churches with 2m² Rule

Up to 300 people is allowed to attend Mass provide the 2m² rule is observed

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.

Faith Matters

NATIVITY SCENE

Also known as a creche, this tradition dates back to Saint Francis of Assisi, who is credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223 as a way to make public worship of Jesus part of the Christmas season. The recreation of the birth of Christ, featuring people dressed as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, was meant to bring the Bible to life for a population of believers who were not literate. The use of small figures and elaborate displays was perfected during the 1700s in Naples, Italy. These recreations are featured in churches and homes around the world to this day. Typically, the manger is kept empty and only filled with the baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

Our Archdiocesan Mission Plan: Go Make Disciples

It is a joy to write to you during this Season of Advent, a time of hope and renewal in our tradition, to share with you and your community our Archdiocesan Mission Plan, Go Make Disciples, which invites and supports the renewal of our parishes and other Eucharistic communities here in Sydney.

This dynamic of encounter with Jesus and the invitation that He extends to us to become a disciple on mission takes place throughout our Christian lives. Like the apostle Peter, our journey and the journey of each person in our community and those who are yet to join us can begin by pushing out our boat “a little way” from the shore, before being called to trust Jesus anew by putting out “into the deep” (Luke 5:3-4). Jesus also calls us to ‘let down our nets’ and experience the abundance He makes possible. In time, we are called to weather the storms of life with our eyes fixed on Christ (Matthew 14:29-33) and ultimately to become a fisher (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17) of all nations, filled with the Good News (Matthew 28:18-19).

Our Archdiocesan Mission Plan, Go Make Disciples, has been prepared to support this deepening discipleship and widening outreach in our parishes and other Eucharistic communities. This mission plan is a practical resource for parishes, with the majority of its content focused on strategies and actions that parishes and chaplaincies can implement to strengthen the five foundations for parish renewal (i.e. evangelisation, leadership, community, formation and worship), and resources they can access to support that implementation.

I am more confident than ever that the Church in Sydney will continue to flourish in this new chapter of evangelisation marked by joy, living the commission of Christ to ‘go, make disciples’ with the joy of the Gospel.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney



Parts of the Mass

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.

WEDNESDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2020

Advent Mercy Night



Holy Mass - 7:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration
&
Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:30pm—8:30pm



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



We congratulate the families of Nikolas VLADIKA and Jamie DIOLA who will be baptised here this weekend.

RECONCILIATION ENROLMENT 2021 (YEAR 4 CHILDREN)

If parents would like to enrol their child in our Reconciliation Sacrament program please complete the enrolment form at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMZXM>

Lessons will begin in the week commencing 22 February 2021.

To enrol your child must have received the sacrament of Baptism and be in year 4 or above in 2021. Another program will be held in Term 3 for children in year 3 in 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the Reconciliation or Communion program please call Tamara on 0424 166 248 or Kylie on 0473 779 338.

RCIA: The RCIA sessions will continue on **Thursday 17th December at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.**



Thank you to everyone who assisted at our Parish Working Bee to prepare the Church and grounds for Christmas. It was greatly appreciated.



THE JESSE TREE

This tradition originated from the Old Testament where Isaiah says "A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a Branch will bear fruit". In this year of Covid-19, we have the opportunity to contribute a small donation to the Jesse tree located at the front of our Church. Please consider a money donation which will go to the Community Care Fund for support for people and families in need throughout 2021. A statement of money received and how it will be used will be available in February next year.
JB Community Care

If you know anyone who would like a visit please contact Fr Dominic or the JB Community Care Committee.

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

Sick: Lourdes APO, John Da RIN, Raelene GARCIA, Aileen CLARKE, Melda MIZZI, Gabriel STORNELLI, Janelle CLIFTON, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Emerita VILLANUEVA, Constantino AXIAK, Stephen ENGLISH, Mary GRECH

Death Anniversary: Isidoro del VALLE, Kue Chai LEE, Ngo Hai BUA

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 9:30am and 11:00am

Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral



St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on 10 December with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11pm, concluding on Christmas Day.

Immaculata Mission School 2021: Made for Heaven!

Start the New Year by going deeper in faith through awesome talks, friendship & fellowship, daily Mass & prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship & lots more!

When: 1-5 January, 2021

Where: St James Catholic College, Cygnet Tasmania

Cost per person: \$220

(with basic shared accommodation), \$170 (with no accommodation) - includes food, speakers, activities and youth and children's ministry - all ages, families welcome

Speakers: Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Rob Galea, James Parker, Paul Elarde, Sisters of the Immaculata & lay community.

For more information or to register:

www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims or

0406 372 608



Wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a wonderful grace filled new year, and



Invite all men to our Christmas BBQ on

Friday 18th December at 7:00pm in the Church hall

This month in addition to the Gospel reflection we will have our very own Fr Dominic give his testimony. Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.

To join the men's group or to find out more, email jbmensgroup@gmail.com or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520

Saints of the Week



St John of the Cross

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discolored Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

Feast Day: December 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 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
Men's Group: Branko Poljak - 0411 281 299

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ My good works testifying to the presence of Christ include.....
- ♦ I have experienced the presence of Christ in..... through..... with.....
- ♦ One way I have grown in my relationship with Christ and others is..... One area where I need to do more growing is.....

First reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy

with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord

