



# 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 4

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

#### Christmas Eve

5:30pm, 8:00pm and  
Midnight

#### Friday -

*The Nativity of the Lord*  
8:00am, 9:30am and  
11:00am

#### Saturday - 9:00am

*St Stephen, the first martyr*

### NEXT SUNDAY

#### 26/27 DECEMBER

*(The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph 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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

19th & 20th December, 2020

## Rejoice in God's love

While a man who just arrived from America had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping, his wife had been listening to radio when she heard the announcer says, *"Be very careful and watch driving on M5 now, there is a motorist driving the wrong way!"* His wife rang him on the mobile phone to warn him, and his reply was: *"You tell me, there are hundreds of them here"*.

In today's Gospel we read the story which is written many years after the death and Resurrection of Jesus, which tells of the angel Gabriel coming to visit Mary in the town of Nazareth. It is the story of the definitive love entrance of God into human history. Angel Gabriel announces, *"Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you"* which takes away Mary's fear and makes her declare herself: *"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me."* This was not something that happened just for Mary but something that was for the whole world. God loved the world so much that He sent His only begotten Son that we may have life to the full through Him.

In this fourth week of Advent, we are reminded of what God has done, he has become one of us to share our joys and sorrows. He did not lift us out of our humanity but by joining us to leading us back to God's original plan. Jesus' being with us gave us a dignity that is beyond belief. He is no longer a remote God out there but a God who dwells among us. This is the great meaning of Christmas. It is celebrating a God who so loved us that he came to be with us and in us.

Let us pray that we will experience the joy of God is with us and His love for us as we continue to prepare for His coming in Christmas' celebration.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

488 'God sent forth his Son', but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free cooperation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary'. The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.

## HOME BLESSING

Lord Jesus, come into our home and bless it.

Bless the doors of our home.

May they always be open to the needy and the lonely.

Bless the rooms of our home.

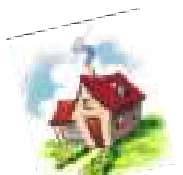
May they always be filled with Your presence

Above all, bless each member of our family.

May their minds be ever open to Your Word.

May their hands be ever outstretched to the needy.

And may their hearts be ever turned toward You.



Fr Dominic

## **NSW eases restrictions to allow 300 in churches with 2m<sup>2</sup> Rule**

Up to 300 people is allowed to attend Mass provide the 2m<sup>2</sup> 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**

### **The Mass as a Sacrifice**

Since the first century of her existence, the Church has considered the Mass a sacrifice. The earliest manual of the liturgy (before 90 A.D.) has this directive for the attendance of Sunday Mass. *"On the Lord's own day, assemble in common to break bread and offer thanks. But first confess your sins so that your sacrifice may be pure. However, no one quarrelling with his brother may join your meeting until they are reconciled; your sacrifice must not be defiled"* (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, 14).

The Mass a true sacrifice because the same Jesus Christ who offered Himself on Calvary now offers Himself on the altar. The Priest is the same, the Victim is the same, and the end or purpose is the same.

- The Priest is the same Jesus Christ whose ordained priest represents and in whose name he offers the Eucharistic Sacrifice.
- The Victim is the same, namely the Saviour in his human nature, with his true Body and Blood, and his human free will. Only the manner of offering is different.
- The end or purpose is the same, namely, to give glory to God, to thank him, to obtain his mercy, and to ask him for our needs.

**COLLECTIONS:** Church collections are now allowed, so we will be having our usual two collections during Mass.

The **new Readers Roster** is now available for collection.

### **Summer Nights 2021**

The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of Covid, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021.

There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week):

Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm) &

Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)

COVID safe dinner is provided each day

For age 16-35 year olds.

The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day.

It will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat centre.

A stage will be brought in to hold all the sessions. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. For more information and to register: [www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au)

### **WISDOM FROM THE TRADITION**

"To say I am made in the image and likeness of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love... Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my love." Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, New Directions, 1972, 60.)



## **Parts of the**

### **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 Aimee STORNELLI and Atilio FRIZZO 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.

### 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](http://www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims) or 0406 372 608

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

**Sick:** Julia CEFAI, Jacinto De SOUSA, 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:** Johnson, Emerita VILLANUEVA, Constantino AXIAK

**Death Anniversary:** Andrew O'DWYER, Yousif BARRETO

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



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



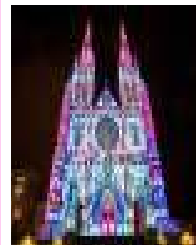
### CHRISTMAS EVE

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.

### Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days

Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ.

The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.



## Saints of the Week



**St Stephen** was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian. As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their practical needs. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church, enabling them to attend more to teaching. Of the seven ordained, Stephen was the oldest and given the title of "archdeacon," the chief among them. Great preaching and miracles were attributed to Stephen. Stephen's popularity created enemies, they accused him of blasphemy, of speaking against God and Moses. Stephen was put on trial, he was charged with predicting that Jesus would destroy the Temple and for preaching against Mosaic law. Stephen was filled with wisdom from heaven. He responded by detailing the history of Israel and outlining the blessings God had bestowed upon his chosen people. As Stephen concluded his defence, he looked up and saw a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "Look, I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." That vision was taken as the final proof of blasphemy to the Jews who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah or Son of God. For them, Jesus could not possibly be beside the Father in Heaven. The crowd rushed upon Stephen and carried him outside of the city to stone him to death. As Stephen was being brutally stoned, he spoke his last words, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Words which echoed the very words of Jesus on the Cross. Following those words, Stephen died, in the Lord.

**Feast day:** December 26



## 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:

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ( Year B)

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ God acts in the lives of David and Mary. I experience God acting in my life when..... through..... by.....
- ♦ God is acting to make the Word flesh in my life today by.....
- ♦ Like Mary, I bear the Word for others when.....

## First reading

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

### A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

88:2-5, 27, 29

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'He will say to me: "You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me."  
I will keep my love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last.'

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## Second reading

Romans 16:25-27

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

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

### The Gospel of the Lord

