



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

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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 1

Monday - 8:00am

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday -

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Saturday - 9:00am

St Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

NEXT SUNDAY

2/3 JANUARY

(The Epiphany of the Lord 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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year B) 26th & 27th December, 2020

God's Presence Among Us

There was a little boy, who wanted to meet God. He guessed that the trip would be very long, so he packed his bag with a lot of chocolates, cookies and his favourite mango juice as well. He started his journey, and walked for a long time - even in the hot, blazing sun. Finally, he got tired, and found a park to rest. In the park, he met an old woman sitting all by herself, just staring at some pigeons. The boy, tired and starving, sat down next to her and opened his bag. He was about to open his favourite drink, when he noticed that the old woman looked hungry. So he offered her a cookie. She gratefully accepted it, and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty, that the boy wanted to see it again. So he offered her the mango juice as well. Once again, she gratefully accepted it, and smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there, the whole afternoon - eating and smiling - without saying a word.

Finally, it was getting dark, the boy realized he was too late, and had to rush back home. As he got up to leave, and had taken a few steps, he turned ... ran back and gave the woman a loving hug. When the boy reached the house, his mother was surprised at the deep joy that the child radiated, and asked the reason for it. The boy answered, "I had lunch with God!" Before the mother could say anything, the boy added: "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!" Meanwhile, the old woman also filled with happiness, reached her house, and was asked by her son, on the reason for it. The old woman answered, "I had lunch with God". Before the son could say anything, the woman added: "You know what? He's much younger than I expected!"

Another Christmas has passed. The glow of the season dimly lingers on. While many pack up their lights for another season, others want to hold on, even for the briefest moments, to the promise of Christmas. Peace on earth. Goodwill toward all people. To those who know Christ firmly hold that the Spirit of the season lives on, for that peace and goodwill is Jesus. In Luke's gospel, the Spirit of Christmas not only lingers, it grows stronger. For God favours his child with wisdom and grace. And through his child he favours us all. In the place of God's dwelling, a child is presented and given a mission. In the experience of a child, God gave the world Good News. In the sight of a family, the world saw the presence of God with his people. Yes, the Spirit of the season lingers on. And it grows stronger as long as we hold the Christ Child close to us.

Link from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *The Home of Nazareth*

533 - The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life: The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus - the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us. . . A lesson on family life.

May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character. A lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the "Carpenter's Son", in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work.

Fr Richard

NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Up to 300 people is allowed to attend Mass provide the 4m² 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

FAMILY

The first and fundamental structure for a “human ecology” is the family . . . founded on marriage, in which the mutual gift of self as husband and wife creates an environment in which children can be born and develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny.

It is necessary to go back to seeing the family as the sanctuary of life. The family is indeed sacred: it is the place in which life - the gift of God - can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life.

*(St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year
[Centesimus Annus], no. 39)*



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.

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.

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.



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 family of Claire Emily Tuyet TRAN who will be baptised here this weekend.

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



CatholicCare

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To learn more call our
Home Care Team
13 18 19
con-
nect@catholiccare.org

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



Sick: Bishop Geoffery Robinson, Julia CEFAL, 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, Francis HIGGANS, Francisca GULLO

Recently Deceased: Stella Maria TAIMBOOI, Johnson, Emerita VILLANUEVA, Constantino AXIAK

Death Anniversary: Marianna FOTI

Other: Frank and Josephine ZERAFA, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude, Poljak's family

Saints of the Week



The Holy Innocents

In the New Testament, the Massacre of the Innocents is the incident in the nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew in which Herod the Great, king of Judea, orders the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

Feast day: December 28



Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honour we can give to her. Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honours Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Feast day: January 1



St Basil the Great

St. Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He was one of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually he decided to become a monk and found a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made bishop of Caesarea. In this post until his death in 379, he continued to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity.

Feast day: January 2



St Gregory Nazianzen

St. Gregory was a Doctor of the Church, born at Arianus in Asia Minor, probably in 325, and died in 389. He was the son of Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus (329-374.) After his baptism at 30, Gregory gladly accepted his friend Basil's invitation to join him in a newly founded monastery. The solitude was broken when Gregory's father, a bishop, needed help in his diocese and estate. It seems that Gregory was ordained a priest practically by force, and only reluctantly accepted the responsibility. He skilfully avoided a schism that threatened when his own father made compromises with Arianism. At 41, Gregory was chosen suffragan bishop of Caesarea and like his good friend St. Basil, had a hard time fighting against Arianism and opposing the then-Arian emperor, Valens. It was in Constantinople, where he tried to bring back Christians from Arianism, where he began giving the great sermons on the Trinity for which he is famous. His last days were spent in solitude and austerity. He wrote religious poetry, some of it autobiographical, of great depth and beauty. He was acclaimed simply as "the Theologian."

Feast day: January 2

RCIA: The RCIA sessions will RESUME on Thursday 28th January at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

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:

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Holiness means to me.....
- ♦ I grow in holiness when..... I help others grow in holiness when..... Others help me grow in holiness when.....
- ♦ What keeps me from growing in holiness is.....
- ♦ What increases my desire to grow in holiness is.....

First reading

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

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

127:1-5

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what

will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord



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