



# 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

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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 2

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

St Raymond of Penyafort,  
priest

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

### NEXT SUNDAY

9/10 JANUARY

(The Baptism 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 Epiphany of the Lord (Year B)

2nd & 3rd January, 2021

### Search for the truth

John, an avid golfer, came in from the course one Saturday. His wife, Mary asked him with whom he had played that day. He said, "Oh, no one in particular." She asked, "Why don't you play with Bill anymore?" John replied, "Would you like to play golf with someone who throws his clubs, swears all the time, lies about his scores and won't stop talking while you're trying to play a shot?" "Of course not!" Mary protested. "Neither does Bill." John replied.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the **Epiphany** of the Lord. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek 'epiphancia', meaning 'manifestation'. After Christmas, we continue to ponder at the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Epiphany symbolises 'the baby born to be King' will rule not by force but by love, reigning not from a throne but from a cross.

The Gospel gives us a wonderful picture of the wise men who were searchers for the truth. They left their homeland and their families to follow the star. The significance of this from the scriptural point of view is that Christ came for all people including non Jews. From our point of view the story shows the wise men as people who yearn for the truth by reaching out to seek for it. They were free and flexible. How different they were to Herod who resorted to lies and murder when his plan failed, he became blind and ruthless. Like the wise men we are called to search for the truth which sets us free, i.e. constantly seeking for God in prayers, in the way we face with challenges and in the way we live our life.

Let us pray that like the wise men who were willing to be instructed and guided by Scriptures and able to see and recognise that infant Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah, may we be able to recognise Jesus who "will be with us 'till the end of the world' and make Him present to others.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

528 The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world... In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations...

### Some Comments on what Christmas is:

- \* The season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money.
- \* The visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world.
- \* The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.
- \* The season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!
- \* The season when people give each other presents and family members being present to each other.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021**

Fr Dominic

## NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Up to 300 people is allowed to attend Mass provide the 4m<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



### Gifts of the Magi: Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh

In addition to the honour and status implied by the value of the gifts of the magi, the three gifts were chosen for their special spiritual symbolism about Jesus himself:

**Gold** representing his kingship

**Frankincense** a symbol of his priestly role

**Myrrh** a prefiguring of his death and embalming

This interpretation is made popular in the well-known Christmas carol "We Three Kings".

## The Announcement of Easter & the Moveable Feasts 2021

Know, dear brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the **17th day of February** will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the **4th day of April** you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the **16th day of May** will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the **23rd day of May**, the feast of Pentecost.

On the **6th day of June**, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the **28th day of November**, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. 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.



## 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.



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

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

### 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.



### Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. [Palms Australia](http://www.palms.org.au) will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment.

See [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or



## CatholicCare

**CatholicCare's Home Care Services** for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community.



To learn more call our  
**Home Care  
Team**  
**13 18 19**

connect@catholiccare.org

**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, Francisca GULLO

**Recently Deceased:** Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Francis HIGGANS, Stella Maria TAIMBOOI, Johnson, Emerita VILLANUEVA, Constantino AXIAK

**Death Anniversary:** Marianna FOTI

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



**New Mission Plan  
for the Catholic  
Archdiocese of Sydney**

Please feel free to take a copy of the summarized version of the New Mission Plan. These books can be found on tables between the two entrances of the church.

For an electronic version of either **the summary** or **the full document**, visit:

<https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/vision/#mission-plan>

### Trivia quiz

1. What is the Feast celebrated on the 1st January?
2. On which day does the Lenten season begin?
3. What are the major Feast days of Mary?

### Let's take a break!!



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.

The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a

large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

The New Readers Roster is now available for collection.

## Saints of the Week



### St Raymond Penyafort

St. Raymond was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age, and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honours and entered the Order of the Dominicans.

St. Raymond was very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The brave religious of this Order devoted themselves to saving poor Christians captured by the Moors. Once he went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach about Jesus. King James was a man of great qualities, but he let himself be ruled by passions. There on the Island, too, he was giving bad example. The Saint commanded him to send the woman away. The King said he would, but he did not keep his promise. So St. Raymond decided to leave the Island. The King declared he would punish any ship captain who brought the Saint back to Barcelona. Putting all his trust in God, Saint Raymond spread his cloak upon the water, tied up one corner of it to a stick for a sail, made the Sign of the Cross, stepped onto the cloak, and sailed along for six hours until he reached Barcelona. This miracle moved the King. He was sorry for what he had done, and he became a true follower of St. Raymond. St. Raymond was one hundred years old at the time of his death.

**Feast day: January 7**



## 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 Baptism of the Lord ( Year B)**  
First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11  
Second Reading: I John 5:1-9  
Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The surprises that have come to me so far in my spiritual journey are.....
- ♦ What keeps me searching for Christ is.....
- ♦ The unexpected people who have revealed Christ to me or have guided me on my journey are.....
- ♦ The unexpected places where I have found Christ are.....

## First reading

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,  
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him.

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

## Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

### The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.*'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

### The Gospel of the Lord

## Trivia Answers

1. Mary Mother of God      2. Ash Wednesday      3. The Major Feasts of Mary  
Jan 1 Mary Mother of God; Mar 25 The Annunciation of the Lord; May 24 Our Lady Help of Christians; May 31 The Visitation; Aug 15 The Assumption; Sep 8 Birth of Mary; Dec 8 The Immaculate Conception.

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