



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 1

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Hilary, bishop, doctor

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

16/17 JANUARY

(2nd Sunday in Ordinary

Time 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 Baptism of the Lord (Year B)

9th & 10th January, 2021

Jesus' Baptism & Ours

A family was converting to the Catholic faith and the father was talking to his oldest son about the boy's upcoming baptism. Wanting him to understand the significance of the event, he took great care to communicate with him. While they were talking, the boy's younger brother, a little four-year-old, left the room. He seemed visibly upset so the father followed him to see what was wrong. Tearfully, the little guy confessed, "I want to be alphabetized with my brother."

Every newborn child is a gift of joy and hope, and each baby (or adult) that is baptised is a miracle of faith and the celebration for the family of God. Today's gospel passage emphasizes that when Jesus had received baptism from John in the river Jordan, "the heavens were opened" to him. On the day of Jesus' baptism, we continue to contemplate the heavens opened. The manifestation of the son of God on earth marks the beginning of the great time of mercy, after sin had closed to the heavens, raising itself as a barrier between the human being and the Creator.

With the birth of Jesus, the heavens open! God gives us in Christ the guarantee of an indestructible love. From the moment the Word became flesh it is therefore possible to see the open heavens. It was possible for the shepherds of Bethlehem, the Magi of the East, for the Baptist, for Jesus' Apostles, and for Saint Stephen – the first martyr who exclaimed: "Behold, I see the heavens opened!" (Acts, 7:56). And it is possible for each of us if we allow ourselves to be suffused with God's love, which is given to us for the first time in baptism by means of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus accepts to share our condition, our poverty. Sharing is the true way to love. Obviously, baptism was not necessary for Jesus because "He was like us in all things, except sin" (Heb 4: 15). Nevertheless, by his baptism, Jesus showed his solidarity with sinful people in their need. Jesus does not want to dissociate himself from us. He considers us brothers and sisters and he shares with us. And so, he makes us sons and daughters together with him of God the Father. This is the revelation and source of true love. Let us allow ourselves to be invaded by God's love!

Link in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Meaning of Baptism

537 - Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection... Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him. Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons & daughters of God.

Fr Richard

NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Up to 100 people is allowed to attend Mass provide the 4m² rule is observed.
The upper limit for outdoor weddings and funerals in Sydney is now 100 attendees.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Masks are compulsory in most indoor settings including churches.**
- **Parishioners who wish to attend Masses are required to provide their contact details as they enter the Church. Registration forms are available on tables at the entrance of the Church.**
- **You could also use the QR Code option to register before entering the Church.**

Faith Matters

Recognizing the role of godparents

Every person being baptized must have a sponsor, traditionally called a godparent. You must have at least one sponsor, but usually infants get one of each gender and often from each side of the family.

The role of godparents has a very practical history. Godparents took over rearing children orphaned when their parents died prematurely. Today, being a godparent carries with it no legal right or ecclesiastical authority to the custody of children. Being a godparent, besides giving Christmas and birthday gifts every year, really means actively giving good Christian witness and example and being a role model and support by regularly and faithfully practicing the religion.

To be a godparent, the person must be a fully initiated Catholic, one who is baptized and has received the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation. In order to be of sufficient maturity and capacity, the godparent must be at least 16 years of age. And very importantly, it should be a person "who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on" or, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states,
"the godparents must be firm believers."



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.



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.

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



Trivia quiz

1. Where was Jesus baptized?
2. The name "Jesus" means ____.
3. What does the name Christ mean?
4. What is the primary sacrament for the forgiveness of sins?

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 Valentino Rosario RUSSO 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 RESUME on Thursday 28th January at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Pope Francis proclaims 2021 "Year of St Joseph"

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as **Patron of the Universal Church**. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed 2021 a "Year of Saint Joseph".



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



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Could you please let the Parish Secretary know if any names can be taken off our prayers for the sick. Thank you!

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

Sick: 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, Francisca GULLO

Recently Deceased: Carmen MUSCAT, Joseph, Bishop Geoffrey ROBINSON, Frances HIGGANS, Stella Maria TAIMBOOI, Johnson, Emerita VILLANUEVA, Constantino AXIAK

Death Anniversary: Wenceslao DEL VALLE, Lossia DAWOOD, Joseph PACE, Charlie SALIBA

Other: Malia Asopesio PAUNGA, Frank and Josephine ZERAFA, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving to St Anthony & for Maria



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>



The next men's group meeting will be Friday 15th January 2021 starting at 7.30pm in the Hall.

You can't change the past, but you can learn from it and change the future, start the new year by being closer to your faith.



Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.

Friends:

If you know someone who may be interested in joining this group, let us know and we will add them to the mailing list.

To know more contact: **Daniel Araneda – 0411 254 520**
or Branko Poljak – 0411 281 299

Saints of the Week



St Hilary

"They didn't know who they were." This is how Hilary summed up the problem with the Arian heretics of the fourth century.

Hilary, on the other hand, knew very well who he was -- a child of a loving God who had inherited eternal life through belief in the Son of God. He hadn't been raised as a Christian but he had felt a wonder at the gift of life and a desire to find out the meaning of that gift. He first discarded the approach of many people who around him, who believed the purpose of life was only to satisfy desires. He knew he wasn't a beast grazing in a pasture. The philosophers agreed with him. Human beings should rise above desires and live a life of virtue, they said. But Hilary could see in his own heart that humans were meant for even more than living a good life.

If he didn't lead a virtuous life, he would suffer from guilt and be unhappy. His soul seemed to cry out that wasn't enough to justify the enormous gift of life. So Hilary went looking for the gift giver. He was told many things about the divine -- many that we still hear today: that there were many Gods, that God didn't exist but all creation was the result of random acts of nature, that God existed but didn't really care for his creation, that God was in creatures or images. One look in his own soul told him these images of the divine were wrong. God had to be one because no creation could be as great as God. God had to be concerned with God's creation -- otherwise why create it?

Feast day: January 13

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:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I have grown in my understanding of baptism in that.....
- ♦ What Jesus' being called the beloved Son means for me is.....
- ♦ For me, the greatest challenge of my baptism is..... The greatest blessing is.....

First reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

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.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Second reading

1 John 5:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by

God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf. John 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:7-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Trivia Answers

- 1.The River Jordan
- 2.God saves
- 3.Anointed
- 4.Baptism



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