



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 2

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday -

9:00am

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

20/21 FEBRUARY

(First Sunday of Lent 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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

13th & 14th February, 2021

Fr Damien

On June 4, 1995, Joseph de Veuster, known to the world as Father Damien, was beatified in Belgium by Pope John Paul II. The priest who devoted his life to serving the exiled victims of Hansen's disease on Moloka'i was, in his day, controversial, a scourge to authorities, and an outcast. His leprosy-ravaged face was an object of morbid fascination.

Father Damien was 33 years old when he landed at Kalaupapa in 1873. At the time of his arrival, the Hawaiian kingdom was staggering under the impact of contact with the outside world. Within a hundred years of the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1778, 90 percent of the people were dead of measles, cholera, typhus, and even colds. For Hawaiians, leprosy was by far the worst of the plagues, for the idea of banishment struck right at the heart of their philosophy of aloha, a love that regards each person as holy. Hawaiians called the disease *mai ho'oko'awale*, the separating sickness.

"Prepare for Moloka'i as for the grave" was a saying of the day. Kalaupapa was a lawless society. The people were bitter, weak, and desperate and had nothing to lose. What sentence passed could be worse than the one already handed to them?

Immediately Fr. Damien began badgering authorities for building supplies, medicine, clothing, food. He slept outside, under a pandanus tree, until every patient had shelter. He visited the sick, built coffins, and buried more than 6,000. An excellent carpenter, Damien built several churches, the last of which was St. Philomena. Its simple but elegant lines and clean surfaces gave the people a focus and ideal for a new way of living. In the midst of the horror, Kalaupapa's little St. Philomena Church became a place of joy. There were processions, hymns, pomp, and glory. Though leprosy attacks the vocal cords, Damien assembled choirs. At times, it took two people to play the organ, so that together there would be 10 fingers to make the music.

At some point, Damien contracted leprosy. He spoke of it as "a shortcut to heaven." When he died, he was buried beneath the tree where he had first slept. He was the only helper at Kalaupapa who contracted the disease (90 percent of Caucasians are immune). In 1936, amid wails and lamentations, his body was exhumed and returned to Belgium.

At the beatification ceremony in Brussels, a relic was presented to a delegation from Hawaii, some of whom were leprosy patients from Kalaupapa. It was the bones of the priest's right hand, the hand that he blessed with. Catholic veneration of relics is consistent with Hawaiian belief in the spiritual power of bones. Following Hawaiian custom, the bones were wrapped in traditional *kapa* (bark cloth), then placed in a box of native koa wood. The relic was welcomed in Honolulu in state ceremonies at Iolani Palace, where Hawaii's kings and queens once reigned. Finally, it came home to Kalaupapa and, with great jubilation, was returned to the grave beneath the tree. More than 500 people flew in by small plane or hiked down the cliffs for the mass and a visit. They recalled the words of the Pope:

"Holiness is not perfection according to human criteria; it is not reserved to a small number of exceptional beings. It is for everyone In your daily life, you are called upon to make choices which sometimes demand extraordinary sacrifices. This is the price of happiness."

Extract from the bibliography of Saint Damien - patron Saint of the Lepers

NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Places of worship are now allowed to have one person per the 2m² with no maximum cap.
Up to 300 people can attend funerals and weddings, providing a 2m² rule is observed.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Masks are no longer compulsory, but you are welcome to wear them if you feel more comfortable.**
- **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

The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday, the day of the year upon which the events actually occurred. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death, and this has become one of the most popular of Catholic devotions.

Vinnies is proud to announce the 2021 edition of the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) for students in Years 4 – 6, who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools January 2021 Newsletter:**

https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/School-Newsletter_Metro_Term-1-2021.pdf



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.

RCIA: The RCIA sessions will continue on **Thursday 18th February at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.**

RCIA – Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults

Please pray for the following Catechumens and Candidates who are preparing to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at Easter this year: Kamol Kunatarakul; Thuan Nguyen; Lillian Lay; Thai Eu; Odeh Haddad; James Phanna & Anna Khamphet.

FOCUS ON OTHERS BRINGS HAPPINESS TO RESIDENTS

A dedicated group of residents from the Scalabrini Village in Austral have been working to help raise funds for our Community Care program.

Under the guidance of one of our parishioners, Anna Condro, who is their Well-being Coordinator, the members of this group propagate and care for plants. They then donate them to be sold to help raise money for our Community Care program.

Anna tells us that working with nature has given them much joy. She also says that their well-being has been further enhanced because working for a purpose helps them focus more on the needs of others than on their own.

We are most grateful to Anna and her team for their selflessness and for their generosity.

Please support their efforts by purchasing one of their plants from the Piety Store \$5 or by donation.



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.



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 Domenica SERGI 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.



Invites you to our February Men's group meeting
Friday 19th February at 7:30pm in the Church hall.

This month, Paul Defina will be sharing his testimony.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. *Proverbs 27:17*

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



LECTORS WORKSHOP: There will be a workshop for Lectors on **Saturday 20th February** following the 9:00am Mass for existing readers and for anyone who is interested in becoming a new reader.

FOUND: If any parishioners have lost a set of keys or an earring please contact the parish office on 9823 2572.

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



Sick: Thip SAKOUNKHU, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAL, Jacinto De SOUSA, John Da RIN, Raelene GARCIA, Melda MIZZI, Gabriel STORNELLI, Janelle CLIFTON, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Leonila BINAY, Enrique RAMOS, Bork HUONG, Tereso RGBUHAY, Corazon DUMAGUING, Paul SCIRIHA, Fr Stephen Barry SWIFT, Toni ABOUD, Fr Isidore ANANTHARAJ, Archbishop Philip WILSON, Michael COFFEY OAM

Anniversary: Daniel MICALI, Antonio and Nancy COSTA

Other: Ghazwan KOREAL, Hazem KOREAL, Gazala HKOREAL, Goro KHAMMO, Hani KHOSHABA, Gardeni HANA, Hana MANSOR, Saro YONAN, Stella and Frank TRIMBOLI, Fr John B CHIANG, Kenneth JIANG, Gung Gia JIANG, Gung Jing KIAM, Tung Chil ANG, Jia Arng MUAI, Jue Soak KIM, Gung Tia PUNG, Gung Hoak PUNG, Gung Jung PUNG, Gung Yeak LANG, Gung Gow ARNG, Kue Chai LEE, Ngo Hai BUAI, Kue Peng KEE, Kue Peng TIA, Kue Peng SIR, Kue Chang GUANG, Kue Jung HONG, Kue Miel TIAN, Kue Miel IM, Kue Miel ANG, Ia Koon TUAN, Tung Wang TIANG, Tung Yue GEE, Til IASOUVANH, Bounlouan SAKUNKHU, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude, and for all the souls in Purgatory



Ash Wednesday Mass times

9:00am and 7:00pm



FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence (from items made with meat - includes all the Fridays of Lent) binds those who have completed their 14th year (CCL 97, 1251-52).



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held during Lent commencing Friday 19th February at 7.00pm in the Church. On Friday 5th March (First Friday of the month) Stations will be held at 6:00pm.



The Ascension prayer community will run a Lenten programme commencing on Thursday 18th February in the Parish meeting room at 7:00pm.

They will be using the booklets from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. For more information please contact Susan on (02) 9607 5137 or 0415 342 672.



Project Compassion Sunday 14th February



Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed **"Be More"**.



As Saint Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Through your generosity and by aspiring to "Be More", you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Thank you for being more!

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

PARISHIONERS: Please take home a copy of the Lenten Companion from the Archdiocese of Sydney

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG TO SHARE YOUR FAITH.

To fill all our classes we are in need of 6 Catechists at: Bonnyrigg Heights Primary, Wednesdays, 12 to 12.30 - Year 1

Cecil Hills Primary, Wednesdays, 8.50 -9.20 Year 2, 9.20 to 10.00 Year 6

GPK Edensor Park, Tuesdays, 9am Kindy and Year 1, 9.30 - 10am am Year 4

Any new Catechist /Helpers will need to do a compulsory Safeguarding Course before you enter the classroom – this can be done via Zoom or face to face at St Joseph's, Moorebank on Monday 15th February. Please see poster in alcove for details.

Do something of eternal significance- be a Catechist or helper! We invite you to join this mission and our wonderful JB Team .

Any enquiries please contact: Nina Laureti 0408465149 Vicki Scutella 0447 310 204 or Connie Dif 0413694007

Catechist meeting will be held Tuesday 16th February commencing at 7pm in the Church. We will also be having our safeguarding refresher course. Please let your coordinator if unable to attend.

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 or 0409 914 083
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:

First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15
Second Reading: I Peter 3:18-22
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The healing for which I need to ask Jesus is.....
- ♦ What Jesus wills for me is..... What I will for others is.....
- ♦ One way I reach out to outcasts is.....

First reading

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

31:1-2, 5,11

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin.

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

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

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my

own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord



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