



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 - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Autumn Ember Day
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

6/7 MARCH

(Third 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

Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)
27th & 28th February, 2021

Transfiguration

A black man talks to his friend, a white man: "when I was born I was black, when I grew up I was black, when I am sick I am black, when I go in the sun I am black, when I am cold I am black and when I die I'll be black. But you: when you're born you are pink, when you grow up you are white, when you are sick, you are green, when you go in the sun you turn red, when you are cold you turn blue and when you die you turn purple. And you have the nerve to call me coloured!!!"

In today's Gospel, Mark tells us about Jesus' Transfiguration, not only his external appearance is changed, but also with him are Elijah, the prophet and Moses, the liberator and from the cloud came a voice: "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him." The command, "Listen to him," reinforces Yahweh's exhortation in the book of Deuteronomy (18:15) which identifies Jesus as the bearer of the word of God. In Mark's gospel, the transfiguration is about the revelation granted to the disciples who needed a glimpse of God's glory to prevent them from being scandalized at seeing Jesus' death, soon after he endured the sufferings which he fully accepted for our sake and for our salvation. They had a very limited understanding of what Jesus was about. Jesus took three of his disciples up the mountain so that they can hear his Father's voice calling him "Beloved Son". He wanted to show them that he is truly the Son of God and is himself divine who also needs to be sustained as he continued on his mission. The big temptation is that of Peter who wants to build a tent, a monument to freeze the moment of presence. The poet William Blake said, "He who binds himself to a joy, does the winged life destroy, but he who kisses the joy as it flies, lives in eternity's sunrise."

As God's children, we are meant to experience Jesus' Transfiguration when we celebrate the Sacraments, when we listen to His Word, when we spend time in prayer. Let us pray that we will be strengthened and encouraged in our life journey.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1438 The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in the memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works.)

**Don't have negative thoughts or worry so much about things
you cannot control.**

Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.

**Prayer transforms a person's day "into grace, or better, it transforms us: it
appeases anger, sustains love, multiplies joy, instils the strength to forgive,"
the Pope said during his weekly general audience.**

Fr Dominic

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 Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Penance/ Confession

The Risen Lord instituted this Sacrament on Easter when he showed himself to the Apostles and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. (Jn 20: 22-23) The Church is faithful to this commission, assuring us that God is willing to forgive sins as it looks to the words and actions of Christ who came to "search out and save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). This sacrament: Reconciles us with God and the Church; Restores, if lost through mortal sin, the state of grace; Offers us peace, serenity of conscience and spiritual consolation; and Gives us an increase of spiritual strength for the struggle of Christian living.



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.



Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Did you know that each year the Catholic charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, supports the training of 12,000 seminarians and provides ongoing formation for 8,000 priests. Could you help support a priest or seminarian? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/formation



JB Community Care Fund

Thank you very much for the generosity of our parishioners who kindly donated to our Jesse Tree - a total of \$1,930.00 was raised.

This was used to support families for them to have a brighter Christmas and for the ongoing support of those in need. Please continue to support our Piety Stall as all revenue raised goes towards this worth cause.

If you know of anyone that needs our support please see Fr Dominic or a Community Care contact or place a note in the box at the piety stall or Church.

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.



Some of the Candidates and Catechumens from our parish with their sponsors and family members at St Mary's Cathedral after the Rite of Election last Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers!



Stations of the Cross will be held next Friday 5th March at 6:00pm in the Church. The remaining Fridays in Lent Stations will be held at 7:00pm

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

Please consider becoming a Catechist. We need 4 Catechists to fill all our classes.

Bonnyrigg Heights Primary,
Wednesdays, 12 to 12.30 - Year 1

Governor Phillip King, Edensor Park,
Tuesdays, 9am **Kindy** and **Year 1**, 9.30 - 10am **Year 4**

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



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

We are hoping to resume our Children's Liturgy soon, but we are in need of leaders and helpers for our 8am and 10am Masses. If you can assist in , please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or the parish office on 9823 2572.



Good Samaritan CATHOLIC COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Saturday 20 MARCH 2021
11am – 1pm

The Good Samaritan community extends an invitation to prospective parents and students wishing to enrol for Year 7, 2023.

Phone (02) 9825 9955 info@gscchinchinbrook.catholic.edu.au



ATTENTION EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE

EUCARIST: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

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

Sick: Joseph ACUNA, 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: Bishop Bede HEATHER, Joyce FITZGERALD, Dominic, Leonila BINAY, Enrique RAMOS, Bork HUONG, Tereso RGBUHAY

Anniversary: Martha ABDALLAH, Michael GRIMA

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude.



Second Sunday of Lent
28th February 2021



Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment.



The school faced water shortages that often left staff and students without safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables.

Then Tropical Cyclone Harold damaged the school and its vegetable garden as the threat of COVID-19 loomed. With Caritas Australia's support, the school installed water tanks, provided cyclone-proof building materials, and helped to implement COVID-19 prevention measures.

Margret's school now has enough water for its students and the capacity to cater for more, and is now planning to boost food security through increased agricultural production.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

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



LENTEN DAY FOR WOMEN Series 1

We are delighted to invite you to a series of reflections days for women, commencing with the Lenten retreat. Enrich your Lenten journey through the transformative embrace of scripture, reflection, adoration and prayer. This retreat offers a chance to take a step back from pressing concerns of daily life, to reflect prayerfully on the current state of your relationships, with God, with the people around you, and with the world. The season of Lent, during which we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter, is a great opportunity to make such a retreat.

Speaker: **Fr Daniele Russo**

Please RSVP by Wednesday 3 March 2021

Where: **St Michael's Parish Meadowbank**

When: **Saturday 6 March 2021**

Time: **8:00 am**

Cost: **FREE (A small \$10 donation will assist with catering on the day)**

For more information contact us via email at vocationcentre@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9307 8424

Saints of the Week



Autumn Ember Day - March 5

Ember days have been kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century, and mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. Vatican Council II retained ember days in principle, but

left it to bishops conferences to determine the extent and form of their observance. (The name 'ember' is similar in derivation to the German Quatember, 'quarter day'; the Irish used to speak of Quarter Tense.) The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has now decided that the Australian Church should observe the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance.

On rogation and ember days the practice of the Church is to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to give God public thanks (GNLYC 45).

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 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:

Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ This gospel is filled with hope and glory. This encourages me during my Lenten journey because.....
- ♦ I experience the downs and ups of desert and transfiguration in my own life when.....
- ♦ Where I glimpse God's excessive love for me (see second reading) is.....

First reading

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

115:10, 15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted,'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second reading

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

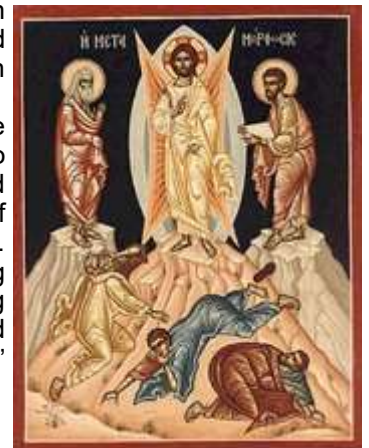
Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord



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