



# 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**

Email: [info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au)

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 1

**Monday - 8:00am**

*Sts Philip and James, apostles*

**Tuesday - 8:00am**

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

**Thursday - 9:00am**

**Friday - 9:00am**

**Saturday - 9:00am**

### NEXT SUNDAY

**8/9 MAY**

*(Sixth Sunday of Easter  
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**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

1st & 2nd May, 2021



There is a '**Poem of the Cock**' found in Carmen Bernos de Gasztold, Prayers from the Ark. This is the prayer of the rooster: "Do not forget, Lord, it is I who make the sun rise. I am Your servant but, with the dignity of my calling, I need some glitter and ostentation. Noblesse oblige... All the same, I am Your servant, only... do not forget, Lord, I make the sun rise. Amen". What does it mean to be a Christian? Where do we draw strength to follow a demanding life of a Christian?

In John's gospel, we find a famous line, "**I am the vine, you are the branches.**" This statement from Jesus describes the relationship between God and his people. In the first place, the vine represented the people of Israel. Planted from selected stock, cared for the Lord, it should have produced fruits of justice. But this stage of history in which the kingdom of God was identified with the Jewish people ended with the coming of Jesus. Now the true vine has taken root. Christ is the trunk from which the branches sprout, that is to say, all people who live by him. But he is also the entire plant, trunk and branches together: the Christians are really the body of Christ. Each of us has to consider how he/she is joined with Jesus through faith, prayer, and keeping his word.

Staying connected to Christ has a high price. Sometimes it costs us the respect of the world. Sometimes it costs us relationships with others. Sometimes it costs us a sense comfort and community. But the price of life without Christ is much higher. Imagine what life would be like without faith, without good Christians spouses and friends, without a prayer life and worship to sustain us, without the goodness and Christian charity of others to help along the way. Imagine a life without Christ! Even if we have to walk by ourselves, even if we have to be loners in the name of Jesus, we will never be truly alone.

### Catechism Theme: "Apart from me you can do nothing"

2074 - Jesus says: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." The fruit referred to in this saying is the holiness of a life made fruitful by union with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of his mysteries, and keep his commandments, the Savior himself comes to love, in us, his Father and his brethren. His person becomes, through his Spirit, the living and interior rule of our activity.

**Fr Richard**

## NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Places of worship are now allowed to have one person per the 2m<sup>2</sup> with no maximum cap. From Monday, 29 March, no cap on numbers at funerals and weddings, provided a 2m<sup>2</sup> 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

### May: The Month of Mary

In our observance of the Marian month we should take into account the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Our pious exercises could emphasize Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost with which the Church begins. The pious exercises connected with the month of May can easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. "During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the *Month of May*, APRIL 29, 1965).



Our Parish **HOUSIE TEAM** is also in need of some new members to assist once a month at the Liverpool Catholic Club. The Parish Housie which is run on Saturday afternoons between 2pm and 4.30pm is our main form of **fundraising for our future new church** and is resuming on Saturday 13th March. **Prizes total at least \$6700 each week! IT is also a great social opportunity for catching up with friends!**

Duties include selling bingo books, reconciling cash and prizes- someone else calls the numbers and games- so please consider if you would love to contribute to the parish and community in this way- Contact Grant 0409 958744 or the parish office on 9823 2572.

This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth April 2021 Newsletter**: <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Vinnies-Metro-Schools-Youth-Newsletter-Term-2-2021.pdf>



### Volunteer Bookkeeper Position: Assisting poverty reduction

(15 hours per week). Please see Church noticeboard for details.



**Mother's Day Gifts For Sale  
this Weekend - GRAB A  
GIFT FOR MUM  
or a special WOMAN  
in your life!**

There will be a Mother's Day gift stall outside the church this weekend after masses. You may purchase gifts from as little as \$2, \$5 or 3 for \$10.

The proceeds of this stall will be donated to the Parish Community Fund and be used for good causes and those in need. Thank you for your support.



### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF SYDNEY

OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS



## Parish Appeal

Your donation supports the work of charitable agencies in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

**1 and 2 May 2021**

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) May Appeal is happening this weekend and we need your help. COVID-19 has taken an especial toll on the most vulnerable in Sydney - including those now facing homelessness, single mothers, those struggling with mental health, and our local Aboriginal communities.

Special envelopes are available at the parish. Alternatively, you can learn more and donate securely at [www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf)  
Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.





**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 **Sophija Rose Virga** who will be baptised here this weekend.



**CONFIRMATION** will take place on **Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th September at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please keep watching this space for changes and updates.

Any enquiries please contact Linda Barilla on 0409 914 083.



### Jordan Youth Group Resumes!

Students in year 5, 6 & 7 come together to engage, learn, pray and be involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith. Join us for discussions, games, activities and reflection.

We gather on a Saturday once a month: 3.30pm - 5.15pm .

We resume on Saturday, 22nd May in the Parish hall.

Register your child today: either fill up the **form** in the Church foyer or call the Parish office.



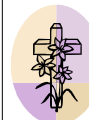
**The World Apostolate of Fatima (Sydney Archdiocesan Committee)**, invites you to our May Celebration in honour of Our Lady of Fatima, interceding for Peace in the World and the Welfare of Australia. It will take place in St. Mary's Cathedral on

Saturday May 15th commencing at 11.30 am with entrance procession in the Cathedral. Programme includes, Litany of Loreto, Consecration, Rosary, concluding with Holy Mass.

For further enquiries call us on 9984-8988 or Mob. 0403478994.

### ASCENSION PRAYER COMMUNITY

Invites you to a prayer meeting on **Thursday, 6th of May** in the Church Meeting room at 7pm. Fr Dominic will be speaking on prayer. You are all welcome!



### MEMORIAL MASS FOR MARIA DEFINA

You are warmly invited to attend the one month Memorial Mass for Maria Defina to be held in our parish Church this Thursday 6th May commencing at 7:00pm.

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



**Sick:** Bozana VUKOV, Joyce SCHEMBRI, Bernadette DIMACALE, Lachlan BENSON, Rowena SANCHEZ, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Thip SAKOUNKHU, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAL, John Da RIN, Raelene GARCIA, Melda MIZZI, Gabriel STORNELLI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Garapati Ashok KUMAR

**Recently Deceased:** Aileen CLARKE, Wilma ONG, Glenda MARASIGAN, Etelka KOMAROMI, Maria DEFINA, Ten Fong MU, Carlito MARCELLA, Joselito DIONISIO, Cardinal Edward Idris CASSIDY, Fr Reg WILSON, Fr Michael MCCARTHY, Fr Phillip CROTTY, Herminia LLANA

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



We wish to advise that there is a Scam going around. It is a fake message from Fr Dominic through What's App asking for parishioners to purchase gift cards. If you receive one of these messages, **please do not open or respond**. Fairfield Police has been notified.

### Bicentenary Mass to honour arrival of first priests in Australia

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is celebrating a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday, 9 May 2021 at 10.30am** to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first official Priests to Australia, Fr John Joseph Therry and Fr Philip Conolly.

### Vocations Weekend with the MGL Sisters: 14-16 May

The Missionaries of God's Love Sisters invite young women (18-35) to a vocations weekend of prayer, input, sisterhood and sharing. This weekend is aimed at helping you discern your direction in life. RSVP to Therese on 0432 228 250.

### Emmanuel Pentecost Retreat - Saturday 22nd-Sunday 23rd May 2021

The Emmanuel Community in Sydney welcomes you to join us for our Pentecost Retreat in 2021! The theme is "Be Filled", inspired by Acts 13:52. This retreat is an open event for all aged over 18 and is designed to enflame our hearts and receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles and Mary did at the first Pentecost.

Location: Mount Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville  
247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW 2566

Cost: \$130 Adults or \$100 Students – including all meals and twin share accommodation.

Registration is now open. Book by clicking on the link below  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BQOMO>

For more information please email [emmanuel Sydney events@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuel Sydney events@gmail.com)



### 50TH ANNUAL MEMBER MASS & COMMUNION LUNCHEON

The 50th Annual Member Mass will be celebrated at All Saints' Catholic Church Liverpool on Sunday 16 May 2021. Mass will commence at 11am.

At the conclusion of the Mass a luncheon will be served in the Grand Ballroom of the Club followed by entertainment. Admittance to the luncheon is by ticket only- \$45.00 per member - Bookings are essential, tickets can be purchased at the Rear Reception or book online at [www.liverpoolcatholic.com.au](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.com.au)

## Saints of the Week



### Sts Philip and James

Why do we celebrate the feasts of St. Philip and St. James the Less on the same day?

Because they were both apostles? No, we celebrate them on the same day because their relics were brought to Rome together on the same day in early May.

James the lesser was, chosen by Jesus Christ to be one of the twelve pillars of the Church. We find him listed in the gospels as James the son of Alphaeus.

We know Philip best from the Gospel of John, chapter one. Jesus himself calls Philip, saying, "Follow me." And Philip did follow. He heard the call Jesus issues to each of us and followed.

**Feast Day:** May 3

## Parish Ministries:

Parish Pastoral Council Chairman: Jeff Lai  
Finance Committee: Tanya Scarvelis  
Community Care: Tina Dunn & Sharon Cook  
Readers and Catechists: Nina Laureti  
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: : Linda Barilla  
Confirmation: Linda Barilla  
Reconciliation and First Communion: Tamara Vella & Kylie Farias  
Altar Servers - Fr Richard

Children's Liturgy: Angela Galdas  
Church Linen: Michelle De Luca  
Church Cleaners: Ann Gorla  
Piety Stall: Millie Breaden  
Morning Teas: Teresa Vartuli  
Jordan Youth Group: Silvana Scamardella  
Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski  
Men's Group: Branko Poljak

**For any inquiries, Please call the parish office.**

## Next Sunday:

### Sixth Sunday of Easter ( Year B)

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I "remain" in Christ by .....
- ♦ When I contrast the fruit of my life when I remain in Christ to what happens in my life when I am cut off from Christ I see that.....
- ♦ What needs to be pruned in me in order for me to "bear more fruit is.....

## First reading

**Acts 9:26-31**

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

**21:26-28, 30-32**

### *I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

*I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him;  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

*I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.  
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
'These things the Lord has done.'

*I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

## Second reading

**1 John 3:18-24**

### A reading from the first letter of St John

My children,  
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active;  
only by this can we be certain  
that we are children of the truth  
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,  
whatever accusations it may raise against us,  
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive,

because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another  
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

### The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**John 15:4-5**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

**John 15:1-8**

### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the vinedresser.  
Every branch in me that bears no fruit  
he cuts away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit  
he prunes to make it bear even more.  
You are pruned already,  
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.  
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.  
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,  
but must remain part of the vine,  
neither can you unless you remain in me.  
I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,  
bears fruit in plenty;  
for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me  
is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;  
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,  
and they are burnt.  
If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask what you will  
and you shall get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you should  
bear much fruit,  
and then you will be my disciples.'

### The Gospel of the Lord



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