



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)



Parish Pastoral Centre:
45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Dominic Dinh
Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au
Emergency: 0423 420 639

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 3

Monday - 8:00am

All Saints

Tuesday - 8:00am

*The Commemoration of all the
Faithful Departed
(All Soul's Day)*

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Martin de Porres, religious

Thursday - 9:00am

St Charles Borromeo, bishop

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

6/7 NOVEMBER

*(32nd Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year B)*

**Saturday Vigil Mass:
5:30pm**

**Sunday Masses:
8:00am & 10:00am**

4th Sunday of the Month:
5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

1st Friday of the Month:
7:00pm Mass in
Vietnamese

Fatima First Saturday
Rosary 7.45am
Adoration 8.30am

Reconciliations:
Saturdays — 4:15—5:00pm
Wednesday — 7:30—8:00pm

Anointing of the Sick
Contact the Parish Office
or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 30th & 31st October, 2021

Love

A famine was on in the land - A beggar on a street corner reached out to the great Russian writer, Tolstoy, who was passing by. Tolstoy stopped, searched for a coin but found none. With real sorrow he said, *"Don't be angry with me, my friend. I have nothing with me."* The beggar's face lighted up as he replied, *"But you called me friend, that is a great gift."*

Love is in the core of the readings today *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* the second is this: *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* If I love God then I have to love God's image as well and we all are created in God's image. But, what is love?

Often we speak about love as if it was a feeling. For instant, a couple who is about to get marry, they will tell others that they are in love and they feel very happy when they are together. But if we wait for a feeling of love before loving, we may never learn to love well. The feeling of love is beautiful and life-giving, but our loving cannot be based in that feeling.

According to Scott Peck, love is a mystery and so cannot be defined. For a loving couple, love attracts two people toward each other, it makes them want to know one another better. To grow in love, firstly we have to be home with ourselves. If we appreciate who we are and believe that we are good inside then we can be at home there. We will be able to bring others into our lives in a free and detached way. We usually relate to others in a cling, grasping or controlling way. Often we use prayer to relate to God in the same way. We tell God how much we love God then we request God to fulfill what we want. We sometimes use our prayers to help us get the things we think will make us secure. Love is a way of being present to reality, being present to ourselves as we are. This puts us in the presence of God as God is and sets us free to be present to others as they are, without desire of reward or fear of punishment.

Let us pray that God will help us to love well so that we will grow to be more understanding and accept people for who they are, good, beautiful but very imperfect.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2196 In response to the question about the first of the commandments, Jesus says: 'The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

If we discovered that we had only five minutes left to say all that we wanted to say, every telephone booth would be occupied by people calling other people to stammer that they loved them.

Christopher Morley

NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Places of worship are now only allowed to have one person per the government regulations.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Masks are now compulsory**, unless you are exempt to wear them.
- **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.**

For We CANNOT KEEP FROM SPEAKING about what we have SEEN & HEARD ACTS 4:20

This week Catholic Mission will share the story of Churai*, who having experienced much heartbreak in childhood, turned to the Mother and Babies Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok when her partner cast her experienced rejection as an adult, abandoned by her partner and pregnant.

Without this program, many vulnerable mothers like Churai will have nowhere to turn when they need love and care the most.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/thailand or by texting 'GIVE' to 0488 854 436. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

*Name and images altered to protect identity



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/thailand



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Through baptism we become part of a family much larger our biological family. It is a family of people 'set apart' by God to be light in the darkness. These set-apart people are called saints. Although we tend to think about saints as holy and pious, and picture them with halos above their heads and ecstatic gazes, true saints are much more accessible. They are men and women like us, who live ordinary lives and struggle with ordinary problems. What makes them saints is their clear and unwavering focus on God and God's people. Some of their lives may look quite different, but most of their lives are remarkably similar to our own.

The saints are our brothers and sisters, calling us to become like them.

You have to trust that every true friendship has no end, that a communion of saints exists among all those, living and dead, who have truly loved God and one another. You know from experience how real this is. Those you have loved deeply and who have died live on in you, not just as memories but as real presences.

The Inner Voice of Love by Henri Nouwen



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. 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.

HOMECOMING

Our life is short opportunity to say 'Yes' to God's love. Our death is a full coming home to that love. Do we desire to come home? It seems that most our efforts are aimed at delaying this home-coming as long as possible.

Writing to the Christians at Philippi, the apostle Paul shows a radically different attitude. He says: 'I want to be gone and be with Christ, and this is by far the stronger desire - and yet for your sake to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need.' Paul's deepest desire is to be completely united with God through Christ and that desire makes him look at death as a 'positive gain'. His other desire, however, is to stay alive in the body and fulfil his mission. That will offer him an opportunity for fruitful work.

We are challenged once again to look at our lives from above. When, indeed, Jesus came to offer us full communion with God, by making us partakers of his death and resurrection, what else can we desire but to leave our mortal bodies and so reach the final goal of our existence? The only reason for staying in this valley of tears can be to continue the mission of Jesus who has sent us into the world as his Father sent him into the world. Looking from above, life is a short, often painful mission, full of occasions to do fruitful work for God's kingdom, and death is the open door that leads us into the hall of celebration where the King himself will serve us.

It all seems such an upside-down way of being! But it's the way of Jesus and the way for us to follow. There is nothing morbid about it. On the contrary, it's a joyful vision of life and death. As long as we are in the body, let us care well for our bodies so that we can bring joy and peace of God's kingdom to those we meet on our journey. But when the time has come for our dying and death let us rejoice that we can go home and be united with the One who calls us the beloved.

Here and Now by Henri Nouwen



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



CONFIRMATION will be held on **Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th December at 7:00pm** in the Church.

The Confirmation Masses have changed since last week. Please see the new Mass dates above.

Enrolments will be held in the Parish Hall on the following days and times:

Saturday 30th October 4:30pm-5:15pm and 6:15pm-7:00pm

Sunday 31st October 9:00am - 11:30am

A completed enrolment form, **a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and \$20.00 are required to successfully enrol.**

Classes will be over 4 weeks in November on a Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon or Thursday afternoon.

Any enquiries please contact Linda Barilla on 0409 914 083.

Note: Due to the nature of the current climate of Covid, meetings and Sacrament Masses may need to change. You will be notified if this is the case.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held in Term One 2022. Please watch this space for more details.

Any questions please call Tamara on 0424 166 248.

MASS UPDATE

All weekend and weekday Masses are back to normal.

Please ensure you comply with the all Government Regulations regarding vaccinations before attending Masses.

This is the link to the Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth Term 4 2021 Newsletter:

bit.ly/VinniesSchoolYouthNewsTerm42021

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



Catholic Mission is seeking applications for a **Donor Relations Officer** role. Full-time or Part-time, the role is based in North Sydney in NSW and incorporates supporting Catholic Dioceses in NSW & ACT. This is an exceptional opportunity to join the international mission agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, which supports children, communities and church leader both in Australia and overseas.

For more information, please visit

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

Sick: Bishop Bill WRIGHT, Judy DIVANI, Orlando DAYOAN, Joe OLIVERI, Bozana VUKOV, Lachlan BENSON, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Thip SAKOUNKHU, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAI, Melda MIZZI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Sylvia BALTAZAR, Elena BALDI, Flor OSOTIO

Anniversary: Mary BUSUTTIL

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH



Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal 2021

Your generosity donations support our sick and retired priests, providing them with appropriate accommodation and assistance with transition into retirement, medical and dental care, pastoral and other practical support – to give them a life of relative comfort and dignity in retirement. To donate visit www.ourfaithourworks.org/prf or scan the QR Code.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

The new roster is now available for collection.

Feasts of the Week



The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

All Souls Day is a holy day set aside for honouring the dead. The day is primarily celebrated in the Catholic Church, but it is also celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few other denominations of Christianity.

According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to one of three places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice. The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go. Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter into heaven. There is scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out... Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin."

Feast Day: November 2



St Martin de Porres was born in Lima Peru on December 9, 1579. He was the illegitimate son to a Spanish gentleman and a freed slave from Panama. He was raised in poverty and bore the stigmas of both his illegitimate birth and his mixed race. He was placed to study with a barber-surgeon, where he learned bloodletting and the administration of medicines.

Compassionate and eager to serve, he began to volunteer with the Dominicans at age 15 and helped care for the sick in the monastery infirmary. He became a Dominican oblate, or lay monastic, in 1601. Although it was not customary then to receive a mulatto into a religious order in Peru, Martin was considered an exception and became a Dominican lay brother in 1610. He was noted for his work on behalf of the poor, establishing an orphanage and a children's hospital. He maintained an austere lifestyle, which included fasting and abstaining from meat. He was friends with St Rose of Lima. He died on 3rd November 1639 and many miracles were said to have occurred after his death.

Feast Day: November 3



St Charles Borromeo

Saint Charles Borromeo was born on October 2, 1538 at the castle of Arona on Lake Maggiore near Milan. He suffered from a speech impediment that made him appear slow to those who did not know him. Despite this challenge, he performed well at school. He earned a doctorate in canon and civil law in 1559. At the age of 22 he was made Archbishop of Milan and became a Cardinal of the Church. Together with Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Philip Neri and others, led the effort to fight the Protestant Reformation. He is credited with the founding of seminaries for the education of priests. He is also celebrated as a Saint of learning and the arts.

Feast Day: November 4

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
Altar Servers - Fr Dominic

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:

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16
Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The differences between Jesus' understanding of love and our cultural vies of love are.....
- ♦ The greatest challenge for me in living these two great commandments is.....
- ♦ In order for me to be "not far from the kingdom of God", I need to address.....

First reading

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

17:2-4, 47, 51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord



Copyright © 1996-2015 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.