



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: 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 - No Mass

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Tuesday - 8:00am

*St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor*

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

18/19 December

*(Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year C)*

Saturday Vigil Mass:
5:30pm

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C) Gaudete Sunday 11th & 12th December, 2021

Rejoice

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card. It said, "*Rest in Peace.*" the owner was very angry and called the florist to complain. He let the florist know in no uncertain terms how angry he was about the obvious mistake. The florist wisely diffused the man's anger when she calmly said, "*Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but just imagine this...somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location!'*".

During Advent the figure of John the Baptist stands out very clearly as someone who knew who he was and knowing exactly what his mission was about. He declared openly to the people "*I baptize you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals.*" From this secure self identity John could say who he was and tell others what they should be and should do. John's cry falls on people's ears and hearts. They received his baptism of repentance and they asked him how this repentance could be applied in their life's situation. '*whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.*' and to the soldiers '*do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.*'

Surely we are very busy preparing for Christmas but how we prepare for it is important! We can be anxious about shopping for gifts and party and get frustrated during this special event or we can feel the peace and joy in preparing our heart to welcome '**Emmanuel-God is with us**'. We can be just focused on ourselves and feel lonely or we can reach out to people and be joyous. It is also a very good chance to reconcile and heal any broken relationship.

In the second reading of today, St Paul, who knows all our anxieties, encourages us not to worry so much about material things but invites us to "*dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds.*" I believe that if we know what our real needs and our priorities are, our lives will be more meaningful and joyous. It is the absence of God in our hearts that makes us feel worried, unhappy and insecure. Let us pray that we can always experience God's presence in our minds and hearts, and let us keep the spirit of pre-Christmas as a time of preparation in JOY AND PEACE.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2439 Rich nations have a grave moral responsibility towards those which are unable to ensure the means of their development by themselves or have been prevented from doing so by tragic historical events. It is a duty in solidarity and charity; it is also an obligation in justice if the prosperity of the rich nations has come from resources that have not been paid for fairly.

NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Places of worship are now allowed to have one person per the 2m² except if they are from the same household.

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.**

Lights of Christmas 2021, St Mary's Cathedral forecourt, 9-25 December



Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral.

Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

Cathedral Christmas Celebration 17 December 2021 11am and 7pm

The St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Sydney Youth Orchestra perform some of the most loved Christmas music at two concerts that have become an annual tradition.

Tickets available online:
www.cathedralchoir.sydney/concerts

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES + CREMATORIA warmly invites you and your family to join us at our special interfaith

Christmas

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
*TO REMEMBER THOSE WE HAVE LOST DURING 2021
AND PAST YEARS.*

**SUNDAY 12TH, 2021
7:30pm at St Mary's Cathedral**

Presided by Bishop Terence Brady,
With live performances.
After the service, please join us to view
the Lights of Christmas.

**All visitors to the Cathedral must check in with a QR
code and wear a mask.**
www.catholiccemeteries.com.au

If you are unable to attend, please join the Livestream from St Mary's Cathedral at www.catholiccemeteries.com.au

HOUSIE VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED



We are in urgent need of Housie Volunteers. If you can spare 3 hours on a Saturday afternoon once a month can you please contact Fr Dominic on 9823 2572. Thank you

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: For those Parishioners who have not collected their Planned Giving Envelopes from the Church they are now be available for collection from the Parish office during office hours. Thank you

Immaculata Mission School 2022

You are invited to spend the first 9 days of 2022 with us as we discover what it means to Be A Saint! Program includes talks on the faith, praise & worship, daily Mass, Adoration & the Rosary, recreation, community & friendship. Families welcome and children's ministry available! Come and join us for an amazing time to grow in faith, and love for God and to make new friends!

When: 1st-9th January, 2022 (Children's ministry available 4th-9th)

Where: New England Girls' School, Armidale, NSW

Cost: \$450 - includes accommodation, food, speakers, talks and activities.

For family rates, additional information and TO REGISTER see:

<http://www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims>



**FAREWELL FOR FR RICHARD,
TONY LO CASCIO, ANNE BLAKE
and RAY WOOPY,**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO GUY
ZANGARI** on investment as a Knight of the
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Sunday 19th December 2021

Fr Richard will celebrate the 10:00am Mass and parishioners are invited to attend and stay for lunch afterwards.

If you wish to attend please complete the form below for catering purposes and hand it to Fr Dominic or the Parish office. Thank you



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.

**FAREWELL FOR FR RICHARD, TONY LO CASCIO, ANNE BLAKE, RAY WOOPY & CONGRATULAIONS TO GUY ZANGARI
Sunday 19th December, 2021**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

No. of people attending: _____

☐ Mass

☐ Lunch



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



We congratulate the families of Elara BRUNETTA and Leon GEORGE who will be baptised here this weekend.



CONFIRMATION THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the group leaders and parents who have prepared the children for the Sacrament of Confirmation and especially our Sacramental Coordinator Linda Barilla and the Core Group, for their tireless commitment and assistance behind the scenes.



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.

CATECHIST NEWS:

"You did not choose me, no, I chose you: and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last". (John 15:16) As we embark on our catechetical journey for 2022, this word proclaims and declares that **YOU** have been **CHOSEN** for this time and season to bring Christ to the little ones. I must acknowledge our 60 catechist/ helpers who teach over 1100 primary school students in **6 of our local public schools**. We recognise their response to their baptismal call to **evangelise**, their **generosity** in volunteering, their **commitment to half hour teaching** every week and their **love for the children** in a mission which is often unseen and unrecognized yet crucial and rewarding.

We congratulate the following catechists who will receive these awards at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 30th January for their years of dedicated service **20 years** – Mrs Vicki Scutella, **25 years** Mrs Nadia Pospischil and Mrs Trudi Simpson.

Due to the Covid situation last year and this year many of our scripture classes were cancelled and the students have missed out on almost a year of scripture. It is sad to announce that we have lost some amazing catechists due to health problems, others have needed to return to work, and the number of Catholic children in the classes has grown considerably. As such there are at least **6 vacancies** in our schools for 2022.

Being a **Helper** is an invaluable service, assisting the Catechist in the classroom and working as a team. The CCD offers all catechists/helpers a variety of support, in the form of training courses to help in what we teach, how to teach and why it has to age appropriate, resources, Retreats and Reflection Days.

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 0447310204 or Connie Giannone 0413694007

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

Sick: Loryn Christina COETZEE, Judy DIVANI, Orlando DAYOAN, Bozana VUKOV, Lachlan BENSON, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Thip SAKOUNKHU, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAL, Melda MIZZI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Nho Ing PUC, Bishop Bill WRIGHT, Monika FULTON

Anniversary: Isidoro Del VALLE

Other: Le GIO, Toma Chau Van LE, Tony CINI, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving for favours received to St. Anthony and St Jude



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 10:00am and 5:30pm



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

If you would like your child to participate in the 5:30pm, Christmas Eve Mass, please attend the following rehearsals **Monday 13th December at 4:00pm and Wednesday 22nd December at 3:45pm**. Both rehearsals will be held in the Church.

If you have any questions please contact Rosalie: 0404 276 332 or Sylvana: 0417 197 357



Wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a wonderful grace filled new year, and **Invites all men to join us for Christmas drinks and a BBQ.**

Friday 17th December at 7:30pm in the Church hall.

This will be followed by that week's Gospel reflection and small group discussions. Bring a friend. It has been a tough year and this will be a nice way to end the year.

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

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

Daniel Araneda – 0411 254 520
Fortunato (Frank) Foti – 0419221947
Odeh Haddad – 0434417628
Jim Jankiewicz – 0432 487 927
Branko Poljak – 0411 281 299



Feasts of the Week



St Lucy Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defence of the faith. Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on. Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them. When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Feast day: December 13



St John of the Cross

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

Feast Day: December 14

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 Breden
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:

Fourth Sunday of Advent - (Year C)

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I believe John the Baptist would tell me to do..... in order to prepare for the Lord's coming.....
- ♦ Heeding John's call to act generously and justly towards other means to me.....
- ♦ Christ's "winnowing fan" is "good news" in that.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

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.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

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

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

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.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

