



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
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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 4

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - No Mass

Christmas Eve

5:30pm, 8:00pm and

Midnight

Saturday - Christmas

Day

8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm

The Nativity of the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY

25/26 December

(The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

18th & 19th December, 2021

Love

Mother Teresa visited an elderly man in a dark and dirty old shed. She found an oil lamp sitting in the corner of the shed. After cleansing it, she lit it and said to the elderly man, "why don't you use this lamp to brighten this place?" "I never have any visits from anyone; therefore there is no point to use it." Answered the man, "we'll continue to visit you if you promise to light this lamp every day." Ten years later, mother Teresa received a note saying "I have kept my promise that I lit the lamp every day 'till the day I die." Visitations are signs of love. We all want to visit the people whom we love. Very often something happens in our visits. A new relationship is set up. A new plan is hatched, a problem is solved. A grief is consoled, a joy is enhanced, or an understanding is deepened. From the four Gospels we read about many places, families, and people whom Jesus visited that he brought healing, reconciling, and even restored life back from the dead. His visitations gave hope, peace and joy to many who believed.

Today's Gospel records a very special visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. The story is often used to point out Mary's charity, her reaching out to the need of another. I believe that pregnant women often experience mixed feelings such as joy, anxiety, worry, excitement etc. and they need to talk to someone especially someone who has had the same kind of experience (not the husband). This story is about Mary's humanness. After knowing Elizabeth was pregnant, Mary wanted to be with her cousin to share her mixed feelings and also to share the wonder and joy of the new life within her, while Elizabeth was carrying John, the precursor. Mary was also carrying the saviour of the world. As the mothers met the child in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy. She declared "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb...Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." Then as it was mentioned 'Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then went back home.'

There is a sense in which each of us carries the Lord within us and we are called to be a precursor of Christ. When we meet one another in either planned or chance visits we can support one another in pain and grief, strengthen one another in despair and guide one another in confusion. Let us pray that we'll always be conscious of Christ's presence in us especially through the Sacrament of the Eucharist which we received in Holy Mass so that we can bring his healing presence to our families, work place and to the world.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

495 Called in the gospels 'the mother of Jesus', Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as 'the mother of my Lord'. In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly 'Mother of God'.

Churches are open to all people regardless of vaccination status.

- There is now no density limit for churches.
- Masks are no longer compulsory while inside a church, though they are still strongly encouraged in settings where social distancing is not possible.
- All members of the congregation are permitted to sing.
- QR Codes and our established check-in procedures, however, are to continue, as is the case with pubs, hairdressers, gyms etc. (The government website can seem confusing on this point, but the **attached** Public Health Order makes it clear that check-in procedures are to continue for places of worship.)



Last minute Christmas gifts that made a lasting impact



You can make a big difference to the lives of people living in poverty this Christmas.

While it has been a difficult and burdensome year for communities around the world, the season of Advent prepares us for the coming of Jesus Christ; a time of celebration, joy and hope.

Despite the challenges this year has brought, we hope that you will consider purchasing a Global Gift this Christmas – a gift that makes a real difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

A Global Gift is a gift that delivers twice the joy, and packs double the impact. Through the Global Gifts website, you can purchase digital Christmas cards for your family and friends, with the proceeds going towards supporting the world's most vulnerable.

This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. A Global Gift can provide life-changing essentials like clean water, nutritious food and an education to those doing it tough this year.

Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts today.



Give the gift of a brighter future to mother like Maria this Christmas



For years Maria, a young mother living in northern Tanzania, struggled to earn an income and provide enough food to feed her family.

Unable to read, write or count, her opportunities to make a living were limited. Her farm often produced poor harvests due to water scarcity, and Maria was forced to travel long distances to collect water.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Maria was able to join the A+ program and participate in training about sustainable farming, literacy and numeracy, gender awareness, hygiene and sanitation.

With her new skills, Maria is now able to produce enough food to feed her family, earn a sustainable income, and has even become a leader in her community.

When you support a mother like Maria, it has the power to uplift her entire family. This Christmas, give a family like Maria's the gift of a brighter future.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/christmas-appeal or call 1800 024 413 toll free to support vulnerable families doing it tough this year.

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/>

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

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>

The Christmas Crib

The representation of the scene of the nativity is a tradition that is almost a thousand years old. In the year 1223 St Francis decided to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way. His aim was to help people to better call to mind the poor surroundings in which Jesus was born and to make the wondrous event of the incarnation more real to the people of the time. In the town of Greccio, with the help of a local land-owner, a nativity scene was set up with a stable, animals and straw. People came at night from the town with candles and torches to attend holy Mass by the crib and seeing the scene, be reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger.

(Extract from: CTS Essentials leaflet: *The Crib & other Christmas traditions*).



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.



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



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.



We congratulate the families of Leonardo GARZANITI and Chihen NGUYEN who will be baptised here this weekend.

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 be 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



Condolences Our condolences are extended to Jean Garard and extended family on the loss of her husband Roscoe. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

Sick: Joanna LIE, John DEMICOLI, 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: Joyce SCHEMBRI, Roscoe GARARD, Nho Ing PUC, Monika FULTON

Anniversary: Andrew O'DWYER, Stella TRIMBOLI, Marianna FOTI

Other: PHANXICO, Xavier, Maria, Catarina, Anne, Grandparents, Terrence SYKES, 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



FAREWELL



Today we farewell four very important members of the John the Baptist Parish family.



FR RICHARD
Our Assistant Priest



TONY LO CASCIO
Principal
John the Baptist Primary



ANNE BLAKE
Acting Principal
John the Baptist Primary



RAY WOOPY
Principal
Freeman Catholic College



We thank them for their dedicated service and wish them well for the future.



CONGRATULATIONS TO GUY ZANGARI

on his investment as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 29th November.



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:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - (Year C)

First Reading: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Like Elizabeth, where I have been astounded to find the Lord's presence is.....
- ♦ Like Mary, my believing is a blessing (for me and others) because.....
- ♦ Like Mary, I am giving birth to the Christ for others whenever I.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his
power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Micah 5:1-4

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:39-44

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

