



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
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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm
Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang
Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 1

Monday - No Mass

*St John the Apostle,
evangelist*

Tuesday - 8:00am

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

*Mary, the Holy Mother of
God*

NEXT SUNDAY

1/2 January

*(The Epiphany of the Lord
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**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year C) 26th December, 2021

Be a loving family

A couple renew their marital vows at their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. At the reception after Mass, the husband is asked by the master of ceremonies, *"If you were given the chance to start life anew, would you marry the same woman?"* Caught by surprise, the husband ponders on the question in silence. While the wife waits for his reply nervously. Then in front of all the guests, he says emphatically, *"Yes, I definitely will!"* On hearing this, the wife bursts into tears. *"these are tears of joy,"* she explains. *"I'm not perfect, but I try my best to be one because of his love."* Love makes perfect!

This Sunday the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the **Holy Family** to highlight the importance of the family, *'the domestic church'*. The word family often associates with members being 'at home' for one another. This is becoming more and more of a problem in our society when we are not at home with ourselves and we spend less time to be together. As a result we find it hard to listen attentively to one another. There are many broken families when husbands and wives are not willing to listen and support one another to overcome their differences in crisis.

In today's Gospel we read about Jesus who got lost in the temple and it was a big relief to both Joseph and Mary when they found him. In response to his mother's gentle chiding *"Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."* Jesus' words seem rather dismissive: *"why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"* while they did not understand what he said to them, Joseph and Mary have shown their willing to respond patiently and lovingly, and Mary *'kept all these things in her heart.'* Patient and love will strengthen the relationship of family members and help them to overcome critical moments.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brings into focus the most important aspect of family life which is love. It has been said that the best gift that parents can give their children is to love one another. The secret of an enduring family life is to put the love of God in every aspect of daily living. It is true that love conquers all, and the love of God will make it possible for every family to overcome all obstacles.

Let us reflect on our own family's conflict and crisis, may Jesus, Mary and Joseph inspire us with their examples and may our families become more loving and more caring.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2204 The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realisation of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a *domestic church*. It is a community of, faith, hope and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the new Testament.

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.**



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.

An invitation to become involved in our Parish!

John the Baptist Catholic Parish is a welcoming, supportive community of believers inspired to live and share the life of Jesus Christ. We are called to make Christ present in our parish, local community and in our world. Our mission is to know Christ and to make him known; to be a community committed to discovering Christ present in each person through our ministry to each other, our service to the wider community, the joyful celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, and our active concern for social justice.

By participating in one or more ministries within the parish, parishioners grow in their love and relationship with God. All Christians are called to share their God-given talents to promote the life of Christ and His Church.

Ministries are involved in all facets of the Parish life, ranging from Liturgical, Faith Development, Administration and Service together with Prayer Groups, Mission and Social Justice.

Please consider becoming active with your faith in a **particular ministry** in 2022. Please speak with Fr Dominic or lay leaders, or contact the Parish Office 9823 2572 for further information.

We are always in need of people to help in our various Parish Ministries. Thank you!

Faith Matters FAMILY

The first and fundamental structure for a "human ecology" is the family . . . founded on marriage, in which the mutual gift of self as husband and wife creates an environment in which children can be born and develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny.

It is necessary to go back to seeing the family as the sanctuary of life. The family is indeed sacred: it is the place in which life - the gift of God - can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life.

*(St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year
[Centessimus Annus], no. 39)*



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.

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

ATTENTION READERS:

The new reader's roster is now available for collection.



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

Sick: 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: Joanna LIE, Joyce SCHEMBRI, Roscoe GARARD, Nho Ing PUC

Anniversary: Charles and Frances HIGGANS

Other: Julia & Arthur HIGGANS, Anthony & Maria VELLA, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving for favours received to St. Anthony and St Jude



Prayer to the Holy Family!



Lord Jesus Christ, who, being made subject to Mary and Joseph, didst consecrate domestic life by Thine ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the assistance of both, may be taught by the example of Thy holy Family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

Feasts of the Week



St John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John's older brother was St. James the Great, another one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Saviour made him the guardian of His Mother. John is known as the author of the Gospel of John and four other books in the New Testament - the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. St. John is called the Apostle of Charity. He died in Ephesus after AD 98, where a stately church was erected over his tomb.

Feast day: December 27



The Holy Innocents

In the New Testament, the Massacre of the Innocents is the incident in the nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew in which Herod the Great, king of Judea, orders the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

Feast day: December 28



Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honour we can give to her. Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honours Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Feast day: January 1

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:

The Epiphany of the Lord - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ As I celebrate and pray about the Christmas mystery, what continues to amaze me about it is.....
- ♦ My daily living—among family, neighbours, and co-workers—makes “known the message” about this mystery when ever I.....
- ♦ If I am to imitate and develop Mary's reflective stance found.....

First reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

127:1-5

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord



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