



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 2

Monday - No Mass

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

*St Raymond of Penyafort,
priest*

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

8/9 January

*(The Baptism 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 Epiphany of the Lord (Year C) 1st & 2nd January, 2022

God's Revelation

John, an avid golfer, came home from the golf course one Saturday. His wife, Mary asked him with whom he had played that day. He said, "Oh, no one in particular." She asked, "Why don't you play with Bill anymore?" John replied, "Would you like to play golf with someone who throws his clubs, swears all the time, lies about his scores and won't stop talking while your trying to play a shot?" "Of course not!" Mary protested. "Neither does Bill." John replied.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek 'epiphancia', meaning 'manifestation'. After Christmas, we continue to ponder at the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Epiphany symbolises 'the baby born to be King' will rule not by force but by love, reigning not from a throne but from a cross.

The Gospel gives us a wonderful picture of the wise men who were searchers for the truth. They left their homeland and their families to follow the star to discover the birth of God's Son in Bethlehem. The significance of this from the scriptural point of view is that Christ came for **all** people including the non-Jews. From our point of view the story shows the wise men as people who yearn for the truth by reaching out to seek for it. They were free and flexible. How different they were to Herod who resorted to lies and murder when his plan failed? Like the wise men we are called to search for the truth which sets us free, i.e. constantly seeking for God in prayers, in the way we live our life.

Let us pray that like the wise men who were able to see and recognise that infant Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah, may we be able to recognise Jesus who "will be with us 'till the end of the world' and make Him present to others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

528 *The Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world... In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the incarnation. the magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations.

Thought of the week

**Your children will not remember you for the material things
you provided
but for the feeling that you cherished them.**

Richard L. Evans

Happy New Year 2022

NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

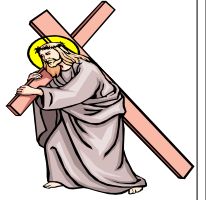
Places of worship are now allowed to have one person per the 2m² except if they are from the same household.

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.**

Footprints

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord. When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma. "Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I needed You most, You leave me." He whispered, **"My precious child, I love you and will never leave you never, ever, during your trials and tests. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you in my arms."**



The Epiphany of the Lord. Solemnity, 2nd January

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent.

Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — *Pius Parsch*

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles (*Ceremonial of Bishops*). It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts.



Our Family - from a parishioner.

Our family is a blessing it means so many things,
words could never really tell the joy our family brings,
our family is mutual love, the love of dad and mother,
showing children how to love and care for one another.



Our family is heartfelt pride, the feeling deep and strong
that makes us glad to take a part and know that we belong,

our family is always home, a place where we can share
our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams, for happiness live there.

Our family is a bond of faith that even time can't sever
a gift to last throughout our lives, the family of God is forever.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING



Let us pray. God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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.



We congratulate the families of Kiara SELDERBEEK and Layla BUI who will be baptised here this weekend.



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.

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

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

Children's prayers: I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there.

* Please God, I want to pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to Fiji tomorrow. Laurie. Aged 10.

* Dear God, my father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my home. Joshua Aged 10.



The Context of the Synoptic Gospels: the Gospel of Luke

The author of the Gospel of Luke is thought to have been a Syrian, from the city of Antioch, who was a physician and friend and fellow traveller of St Paul named Luke. His gospel may have been written around the time of the destruction of the Jewish Temple, between AD 65 and 80. It is almost impossible to know where it was written, but scholars have suggested one of the cities in Greece, perhaps Corinth. Luke is clearly writing for Gentile Christians. The person to whom his gospel is addressed has a Greek name, Theophilus, and he declares throughout the gospel that the salvation of Christ is offered to non-Jews. The author is clearly deeply influenced by the OT, even though he seldom quotes it directly. Luke is writing in a period of great expansion for the infant Church. The early Christians have accepted that the Second Coming of Christ may not occur for a long time, and they have learned to concentrate on issues of day-to-day Christian life, work, Christian love and prayer. The most important theme of Luke's gospel is that Jesus is Saviour for all, Gentiles, outcasts and sinners alike.

Feasts of the Week



St Raymond of Penyafort

St. Raymond was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age, and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honours and entered the Order of the Dominicans.

St. Raymond was very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The brave religious of this Order devoted themselves to saving poor Christians captured by the Moors. Once he went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach about Jesus. King James was a man of great qualities, but he let himself be ruled by passions. There on the Island, too, he was giving bad example. The Saint commanded him to send the woman away. The King said he would, but he did not keep his promise. So St. Raymond decided to leave the Island. The King declared he would punish any ship captain who brought the Saint back to Barcelona. Putting all his trust in God, Saint Raymond spread his cloak upon the water, tied up one corner of it to a stick for a sail, made the Sign of the Cross, stepped onto the cloak, and sailed along for six hours until he reached Barcelona. This miracle moved the King. He was sorry for what he had done, and he became a true follower of St. Raymond. St. Raymond was one hundred years old at the time of his death.

Feast Day: January 7

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: Tony YENCO, Joanna LIE, Joyce SCHEMBRI, Roscoe GARARD

Anniversary: Wenceslao Del VALLE,

Other: Laya HANNA, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving for favours received to St. Anthony and St Jude



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 Baptism of the Lord - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Some examples when I have been like the Magi with a driving desire to find Christ are.....
- ♦ My daily living shines like a star and draws others to Christ whenever I.....
- ♦ To pay Christ homage today (as did the Magi in their day) means to me.....

First reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.



The Gospel of the Lord

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