



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
Tuesday - 8:00am
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
St Hilary, bishop. doctor
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

15/16 January
*(2nd Sunday in Ordinary
Time 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 Baptism of the Lord (Year C) 8th & 9th January, 2022

The Baptism

An old gentleman walked into the fashionable florist shop. *"I want a beautiful corsage,"* he said, *"not a big one, but just about the prettiest one you can make."* He smiled broadly. *"It's for my granddaughter, and she's having her first date tomorrow."* The florist was all curious. *"How old is the young lady?"* he asked, eyeing his flowers speculatively. *"Two weeks old,"* replied the grandfather. The florist turned in utter amazement. *"Did you say...a date....a corsage....two weeks old?"* *"Precisely,"* said the old gentleman. *"And I want a corsage that's exactly right. She'll never have a more important date than she has tomorrow. My little granddaughter will be baptized."*

Today is the feast of 'The baptism of the Lord' which marked the beginning of Jesus' mission. He felt the call of the Father to become active as the chosen one he went to John the Baptist for baptism. John knew exactly who he was and did not seem the need to be anything more or less than that. *"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 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; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'"* Jesus confidently listened well to the Father and reached out to fulfill his mission, likewise; John the Baptist knew about his role which was to introduce Jesus to people, he even sent his followers to go with Jesus, and tell others what they should be. At the river of Jordan, the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove and the Son was affirmed by the Father: *"A voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'"* This affirmation is rested on each one of us as sons and daughters of the Father when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray that we may find the strength through our baptism to live out our commitments to follow Jesus and the call of the father in our everyday living.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

535 Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. A crowd of sinners – tax collectors and soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, and prostitutes – come to be baptised by him. 'Then Jesus appears.' The Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, come upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, 'This is my Beloved Son.' This is the manifestation (Epiphany) of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God.



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.**

The Baptism of the Lord. Feast. 9th January

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "*substance of our flesh*" and was recognized "*outwardly like unto ourselves*," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "*Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world.*"

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "*Beloved Son*" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted children of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. — *Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas*



The Sacraments of Initiation: the Foundations of Christian Life

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the sacraments of initiation. A good way to understand these sacraments is not to think about them separately but as the beginning, development and nourishment of a life. In Baptism we are born to a new life in Christ. In Confirmation we are strengthened in faith and in Eucharist we receive the food of eternal life. This also helps us understand why these sacraments are grouped together. These three sacraments help us to live as followers of Jesus Christ.

What is Baptism?

The Rite of Baptism has a long history. Virtually all Christians agree on the importance of Baptism as the beginning of the life of faith. Baptism is rich in meaning and symbolism and can be discussed on a number of levels. Baptism involves welcoming a new member of the Christian Community. It is an action of the Holy Spirit when we are transformed and born anew. Baptism frees us from sin.

Baptism: Welcome to the Church - the Body of Christ

At Baptism we are welcomed into the Church. An important part of the baptismal ceremony is recognising that the baptised person is entering a faith community. Christians do not live out their faith in isolation. On a human level we need others to share our lives with and to help and guide us. There is also a deeper aspect to become part of the Christian community. The Church is more than just a group of people. The Church is the Body of Christ and when we become part of this Body at Baptism we receive a special character that unites us permanently to Christ. A person can only be baptised once as baptism lasts forever.

Baptism in the Early Church

The accounts of Baptism described in Scripture are linked with the forgiveness of sin, the coming of the Holy Spirit

and with new life in Christ. They don't tell us much about how Baptisms were performed. Sometimes were performed outside in large bodies of water, in other instances they occurred inside the home. In the period following the writing of the New Testament, Baptism began to take place on a number of significant forms, especially as Christians began to build Churches.

During the early Church most people seeking Baptism were adults. Before being baptised they received a long training which was called the catechumenate and candidates were called catechumens. Baptism was a serious step. Becoming part of the Christian community brought with it demands and expectations that clashed with the culture of many areas where Christians lived.

When adults were received into the Church their children were also baptised. As more and more people became Christians many children were born to Christians parents. In these cases the children were baptised at a early age because their parents wanted them to be part of the Christian community—the Body of Christ. Why delay the great Sacrament of Baptism and the transformation it brings? Baptism is a great gift that God grants to those who ask for it. In this sense it is only natural for parents to ask for this gift on behalf of their children. *Continue next page=>*



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 Amy LE, Jancida NGUYEN and William SCHRODER who will be baptised here this weekend. May they feel God presence in their life.



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

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



Sick: Jessie ZAMMIT, 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

Anniversary: Maria Dang,

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

As society became more Christian, adult Baptism gradually became rare. The catechumenate all but disappeared and Baptism became a sacrament for infants.

The Baptism of Infants

The Rite of Baptism of Infants today places great importance on the role of the faith community and the parents. This is why many parishes have options to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism as part of the Sunday Eucharist. In this way Baptism is place in the centre of the community's faith life.

The Rite of Baptism can be described in four parts:

1 Reception of the Child: the priest welcomes the family, asks the parents to name the child and invites parents and godparents to join him in making the sign of the Cross on the child's forehead. This recognises the primary role of the parents in the training of the child in the practice of the faith. The godparents help the parents in their role as faith educators.

2 Celebration of God's word: to respond with faith to the action of the Holy Spirit those present are prepared by reading from the Scriptures.

3 Celebration of the Sacrament: after blessing the water, the celebrant calls on the parents and godparents to affirm their faith on behalf of the child. The essential action in Baptism is when the celebrant pours water over the head of the infant while saying I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The infant is anointed with the oil of Chrism as a sign of being part of the body of Christ. The celebration concludes with the infant being clothed in a white garment, a symbol of purity and the family lights a candle from the Easter candle to remind them of the light of the risen Christ.

4 Conclusion: the Baptismal rite concludes with prayers. The Lord's Prayer is said and the mother and father are blessed as the Rite of Baptism recognises that the faith of the infant is nurtured within a faith community, beginning in the family, the domestic church.

Excerpted from 'to Know, Worship and Love' Year 8

Feasts of the Week



St Hilary

They didn't know who they were." This is how Hilary summed up the problem with the Arian heretics of the fourth century.

Hilary, on the other hand, knew very well who he was -- a child of a loving God who had inherited eternal life through belief in the Son of God. He hadn't been raised as a Christian but he had felt a wonder at the gift of life and a desire to find out the meaning of that gift. He first discarded the approach of many people who around him, who believed the purpose of life was only to satisfy desires. He knew he wasn't a beast grazing in a pasture. The philosophers agreed with him. Human beings should rise above desires and live a life of virtue, they said. But Hilary could see in his own heart that humans were meant for even more than living a good life.

If he didn't lead a virtuous life, he would suffer from guilt and be unhappy. His soul seemed to cry out that wasn't enough to justify the enormous gift of life. So Hilary went looking for the gift giver. He was told many things about the divine -- many that we still hear today: that there were many Gods, that God didn't exist but all creation was the result of random acts of nature, that God existed but didn't really care for his creation, that God was in creatures or images. One look in his own soul told him these images of the divine were wrong. God had to be one because no creation could be as great as God. God had to be concerned with God's creation -- otherwise why create it?

Feast Day: January 13

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:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Jesus heard who he was ("Beloved Son") when he prayed: I realise and remember who I am in faith when I.....
- ♦ Having been baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" means to me.....
- ♦ My daily living manifests what I believe about my baptism whenever I.....

First reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servant.

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

Second reading

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to *set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own* and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

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. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



The Gospel of the Lord

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