



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)



Parish Pastoral Centre:
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Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang
Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 3

Monday - No Mass
*St Francis de Sales, bishop,
doctor*

Tuesday - 8:00am
*The Conversion of St Paul,
apostle*

Wednesday - 7:00pm
Australia Day

Thursday - 9:00am
*St Angela Merici, virgin
Sts Timothy and Titus*

Friday - 9:00am
*St Thomas Aquinas, priest,
doctor*

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

29/30 January
*(4th 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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 22nd & 23rd January, 2022

GOD'S SPIRIT LIVES IN US

The Chinese fortune cookie's little slip said this: we have good news and bad news for you. The good news is that you are going to heaven. The bad news is, **today.**

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus going into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. The audience were probably like most of us at our Sunday Liturgy, half dreaming about the past or future, half wanting to hear good message. We find ourselves a bit like St. Augustine who prayed in his earlier days when he was far from saintly, *"Lord make me chaste - but not now."*

The people in the Gospel found it comforting to hear Jesus read that a Saviour would come to *'bring good news to the poor..... to proclaim liberty to captives..... to give sight to the blind and to set down trodden free'*. It is a lovely thought, because they have been waiting for many generations for this day. Jesus then added, *"This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."* This surely caused a stir because Jesus was saying that what you hope for is not in the future but it is already here and now.

The presence of God is here and now. God is to be encountered in this real world. We will never find God if we keep dreaming about the day he will come and set everything the way we want. Jesus did not set everything the way his disciples wanted, but he was present in the human mess of intrigue, betrayal, misunderstanding, selfishness and loving self-sacrifice. If we wish to be with God, we love to be with a God who is in the present moment whether it is a moment of joy or of pain. He is in the present relationships whether they are good ones or not so good ones. We cannot choose the direction of the wind but we can adjust our sails properly so the wind will carry us to wherever we need to go.

Let us pray that we can recognise God in every event of our lives so we can find real joy in the present rather than anticipated fancied future pleasure.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

791 The body's unity does not do away with the diversity of its members: 'In the building of Christ's Body there is engaged a diversity of members and functions. There is only one Spirit who, according to his own richness and the needs of the ministries, gives his different gifts for the welfare of the church. 'The unity of the Mystical Body produces and stimulates charity among the faithful: 'From this it follows that if one member suffers anything, all the members suffer with him, and if one member is honoured, all the members together rejoice.' Finally, the unity of the Mystical Body triumphs over all human divisions: *'For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free; for you are all one in Christ.'*

Love cures people: both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it.

Dr. K Menninger

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.**

Confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation

Confirmation is the second Sacrament of Initiation. Baptism marks the transformation of a person into a child of God and Confirmation signifies the strengthening of faith through the same Spirit received at Baptism. Confirmation is sometimes described as a call to become more like Christ by responding to the call to serve others as full members of the Christian community.

Lumen Gentium, a document from the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), describes the link between Baptism and Confirmation and Christian life.

Incorporated into the Church by Baptism, the faithful are appointed by their Baptismal character to Christian religious worship; reborn as sons and daughters of God, they must confess publicly the faith they have received from God through the Church. By the Sacrament of Confirmation they are more perfectly bound to the Church, and are endowed with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, as true witnesses of Christ, they are more strictly obliged both to spread and to defend the faith by word and deed. *Lumen Gentium* 11.

The close connection between Baptism and Confirmation becomes clear if we examine the complex history of Confirmation in Europe. In early Christian Rome, Baptism was associated with two anointings, one by the priest and the other by the bishop as head of the local church. The Second anointing took place immediately after the Baptism and was followed by the newly baptised person receiving the Eucharist for the first time, thereby completing the initiation of the baptised.

As Christian communities grew in size, it became more difficult for bishops to carry out the anointing and the time between the two rituals became longer and longer. This second anointing gradually became known as Confirmation from the Latin *Confirmare* which means to strengthen. It was identified with an action of the Holy Spirit strengthening the faith of the baptised.

For Churches which follows an Eastern or Byzantine liturgy, the rite of the Confirmation or Chrismation still occurs immediately after Baptism. In these Churches the close link between Baptism and Confirmation has always been maintained.

The Story of Pentecost

The transformation of the first Christians by the Holy Spirit is told in the story of Pentecost. The apostles, led by Peter, began to proclaim the message of Jesus to people from every nation who had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover. One of the keys to understanding Pentecost is to recognise how the disciples of Jesus changed from frightened and timid individuals to fearless proclaimers of the message of Jesus. This is why the Pentecost story is a wonderful illustration from Scripture of the message of Confirmation; the Holy Spirit strengthening the faith of Christians.

To Know, Worship and Love Year 8, p171-173



HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY

A Celebration of Many People, but One Nation

**O God, powerful and
gentle,
you love this southern land
and all its peoples, old and new.
As the Cross shines in our heavens
so may Christ bring light to our nation.
As the waves encircle our shores
so may your mercy enfold us all.
Amen**



Are you studying law?

CatholicCare has an exciting volunteer opportunity for a Law student to gain experience by supporting a solicitor to provide advice on consent matters, record keeping and conflicts of interest.

If you are interested in this opportunity to volunteer with us for one day a week, please call 13 18 18 or

Email: volunteers@catholiccare.org

BE WITH ME TODAY, LORD

EVERY DAY I NEED YOU LORD, BUT THIS DAY ESPECIALLY.
I NEED SOME STRENGTH TO FACE WHATEVER IS TO BE...
THIS DAY MORE THAN ANY DAY I NEED TO FEEL YOU NEAR -
TO FORTIFY MY COURAGE AND TO OVERCOME MY FEAR.
BY MYSELF I CANNOT MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE HOUR.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HUMAN CREATURES NEED A HIGHER
POWER -

TO HELP THEM BEAR WHAT MUST BE BOURNE.

AND SO, DEAR LORD, I PRAY -

HOLD ON TO MY TREMBLING HAND AND BE WITH ME TODAY.

ANONYMOUS



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.

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 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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

The new roster is now available for collection.

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: Joseph HUY, Joanna LIE

Anniversary: Assunta LIBERATORE, Charlie BUSUTTL

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



Feasts of the Week



St Francis de Sales St Francis de Sales was born to a noble family at Chateau de Sales in the Kingdom of Savoy near Geneva, Switzerland on August 21, 1567. He was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Francis was both intelligent and gentle. From a very early age, he desired to serve God. He knew for years he had a vocation to the priesthood, but kept it from his family.

His father wanted him to enter a career in law and politics. In 1580, Francis attended the University of Paris, and at 24 years-old, he received his doctorate in law at the University of Padua. All the time, he never lost his passion for God. He studied theology and practiced mental prayers, but kept quiet about his devotion. To please his father, he also studied fencing and riding. God made this will clear to Francis one day while he was riding. Francis fell from his horse three times that day. Every time he fell, the sword came out of the scabbard, and every time it came out, the sword and scabbard came to rest on the ground in the shape of the Christian cross. After much discussion and disagreement from his father, Francis was ordained to the priesthood and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, in 1593, by the Bishop of Geneva.

Feast Day: January 24



St. Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers, and tent makers. His feast day is on June 29 when he is honoured with Saint Peter, although he is also honoured on other days throughout the year, **January 25, for his conversion**, February 16, for his shipwreck, and November 18



St Angela Merici was an Italian religious educator, who is honoured as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. She founded the Company of St Ursula in 1535 in Brescia, in which women dedication their lives to the service of the Church through education of girls. While making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1524, she stopped on the island of Crete, suddenly fell ill and went blind! Determined not to let a small thing like blindness stop her, she insisted she continue with her journey and visited the Holy sites "seeing" them with her mind and heart! On her return trip, she once again stopped at the exact spot where she went blind, and while praying before a crucifix, her eyesight was miraculously restored to her.

Feast Day: January 27



Sts Timothy and Titus

St. Timothy, born in Galatia in Asia Minor, was baptized and later ordained to the priesthood by St. Paul. The young Galatian became Paul's missionary companion and his most beloved spiritual son. St. Paul showed his trust in this disciple by consecrating him bishop of the great city of Ephesus. St. Timothy was stoned to death thirty years after St. Paul's martyrdom for having denounced the worship of the goddess Diana.

St. Titus, a convert from paganism, was a fellow labourer of St. Paul on many apostolic missions. St. Paul later made him bishop of Crete, a difficult charge because of the character of the inhabitants and the spread of erroneous doctrines on that island. St. Paul's writings tell us that St. Titus rejoiced to discover what was good in others and drew the hearts of men by his wide and affectionate sympathy.

Feast day: January 27



St Thomas Aquinas surpassed all his fellow students in learning and virtue. He entered the order of St Dominic against his parents wishes and persevered in his vocation. He studied under St. Albert the Great and at age 22 began teaching and publishing his first works. At age 31 he received his doctorate. He wrote and preached often and was one of the greatest and influential theologians of all time. He is one of the few Doctors of the Church.

Feast Day: January 28

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:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Gospel: Luke 14:21-30

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Biblical stories or passages which best describe my Christian living are.....
- ♦ The Isaian prophecy read by Jesus is being fulfilled through me whenever I.....
- ♦ Where my faith community needs to improve in order to advance the Isaian prophecy selected by Jesus is.....

First reading

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

18:8-10, 15

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were

to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.



He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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