



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 4

Monday - No Mass

St John Bosco, priest

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

The Presentation of the Lord

Thursday - 9:00am

St Blaise, bishop, martyr

St Ansgar, bishop

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

St Agatha, virgin, martyr

NEXT SUNDAY

5/6 February

(5th 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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 29th & 30th January, 2022

LOVE TRANSFORMS OUR MIND AND HEART

After a wedding anniversary celebration, a man was walking in his garden. He stood by the moon-drenched pool, tossing pebbles into the water and watching circles form. How like a circle is my love for my wife, he thought. It, too, has no beginning and no ending. The next day, he went to a goldsmith and directed him to make a gold circle to fit his wife's finger. When the man slipped the finished ring on his wife's finger, he told her, *"This circle, which has no beginning and no ending, is a pledge of my love for you, which is also eternal."* And down through the ages, the giving of a wedding ring has sealed the vows of marriage and symbolised the purity and endlessness of love in marriage.



Today's second reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians is used by many couples in their marriage ceremony as an expression of their love for one another. It reads *"Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful....is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes."* If there is love in our hearts we will see love in others, and the way we see them will be very different.

In St. Luke's gospel, Jesus stressed that God's love is big enough for everyone and we are being loved by Him. When we accept this love we are free from fear and being free from fear we become free from compulsion thus the way we see others and our problems begins to change. As the result our behaviour also begins to change. The people in today's Gospel believed that they are favoured by God, they were so excited when Jesus announced the 'Good News' but the moment he mentioned the two pagans (a widow at Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian) who have won God's favour, they were enraged and they 'intending to throw him down the cliff'. Bias, extreme view, hatred and anger can stop people from seeing the beauty, wonder and goodness in others, but love can open people's mind and heart to appreciate the wonders around them.

Let us pray that we will always be aware of God's love for us so that we will live our life joyfully and be free to love others the way Jesus loved us.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1822 Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.

Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: "I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which I shall be. Yesterday it's dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it."



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 Significance of the Eucharist

- * The Eucharist is the most significant celebration in the Church's liturgy. It is the source and basis of all Catholic life. In one celebration, it encompasses the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- * The Eucharist is a celebration of praise and thanksgiving to the Father, remembering and celebrating the actions of Jesus Christ, and given power by the Holy Spirit. The whole assembly worships and celebrates the liturgy in the unity of the Spirit: everyone has a function and ministry.
- * This celebration is based on the belief that the Eucharist is a sacrifice making present the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the real presence of Christ under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist makes present again the sacrifice that Jesus made when he offered his life for humanity.
- * The Last Supper in the Scripture is presented as a unique event, but in fact one activity which typified Jesus' ministry was the constant sharing of meals with men and women of all types and levels of society. Food is necessary for life, it comforts people; and it draws them together. Spiritual food does the same, at a different level.

Symbols and symbolic actions

Symbols and symbolic actions have been used throughout the centuries in Christian liturgy and art to represent ideas contained in the sacraments. The bread and wine are symbols of nourishment. In many cultures, bread is the main support of life: consecrated bread becomes the body of Christ and thus the main support of spiritual life. Similarly, wine is the main drink used at meals in many cultures: consecrated wine is the blood of Jesus Christ, to ancient and to modern people, blood is associated with life; the consecrated wine is essential nourishment to the spiritual life. This nourishment can be individual; but the communal nature of the Eucharist also means that it is a symbol of communal nourishment. Breaking of the bread, and taking the cup (the body and blood of Christ) and sharing it (the Christian community) are both symbolic actions.



Living the Eucharist

Catholic believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is not complete unless it is lived out in their lives. Leaving the church, Catholics take Jesus with them, into their daily lives. Thus their lives become an extension of sharing in the Eucharist.

Summary

When a community celebrates the Eucharist, it
Takes part in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
Takes stock of its own sinfulness, and resolves to change
Listens to the Word of God
Gives praise to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit
Draws on God's grace
Shares the body and blood of Christ
Looks forward to the coming of God's kingdom
Goes forward to continue the mission of Jesus by serving others in the community.

To Know, Worship and Love Yr. 10, p157-158

A woman went to a doctor's office and seen by one of the new doctors. But after 4 minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked her what the problem was, and when she explained, he had her sit down and relax in another room. He then marched down to the new doctor office and demanded. "what's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children, 8 grandchildren, and you told her she was PREGNANT???" The new doctor smiled and said: "Cured her hiccups though, didn't I?"



"It is not enough to love the children, it is necessary that they are aware that they are loved."

St. John Bosco



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

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



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 family of Amelia LE who will be baptised here this weekend.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ENROLMENT 2022

All children who are Baptised and in grade Year 4 or above are welcome to enrol in the Sacrament of Reconciliation Program. An information evening will be held on **Thursday 17th February at 7:00pm in the Church.**

To enrol your child please scan the QR Code or visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BXAJG> and complete the enrolment form by 9 February 2022.

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 this 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: Carmen YOUNG, Soledad IBARRA,

Faustino AGOO Jr, Brian BENTLEY, Ivan VADNAL,
Concesa MENDOZA, Joseph HUY, Joanna LIE

Anniversary:

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 John Bosco (Italian: Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco; 16 August 1815 – 31 January 1888), popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he

dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System. A follower of the spirituality and philosophy of Saint Francis de Sales, Bosco was an ardent Marian devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title Mary Help of Christians. He later dedicated his works to De Sales when he founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, based in Turin. Together with Maria Domenica Mazzarello, he founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls. He taught Dominic Savio, of whom he wrote a biography that helped the young boy be canonized. On 18 April 1869, one year after the construction of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, Don Bosco established the Association of Mary Help of Christians. In 1876 Bosco founded a movement of laity, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, with the same educational mission to the poor. In 1875, he began to publish the *Salesian Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* has remained in continuous publication, and is currently published in 50 different editions and 30 languages. Bosco established a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work. Following his beatification in 1929, he was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1934.

Feast Day: January 31



The Presentation of the Lord

Feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted in Rome during the seventh century. Celebrated forty days after Christmas, commemorating the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child, and recalling the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple. Christ is "the light to enlighten all nations", and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession. **Feast Day: February 2**



St Agatha also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. She was born around 231 in Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women

choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her. One of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge. To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. She suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus sent her off to prison a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her. Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Saviour, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture. This evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers. After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

Feast Day: February 5

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:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The prophetic words of Jesus which amaze me and which I embrace wholeheartedly are.....
- ♦ The prophetic words of Jesus which are upsetting and which I am resisting are.....
- ♦ I am sustained in living Jesus' words, especially when they are countercultural, by.....

First reading

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying:

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

'So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.

'I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you –
it is the Lord who speaks.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

70:1-6, 15, 17

I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me.

I will sing of your salvation.

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.

I will sing of your salvation.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help.

I will sing of your salvation.

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.

I will sing of your salvation.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

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

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and

knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

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 4:21-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'

But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside." And he went on, "I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country."

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord

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