



# 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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Emergency: 0423 420 639

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**Website:** [www.johnthebaptist.org.au](http://www.johnthebaptist.org.au)

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

## MASSES THIS WEEK

### PSALTER WEEK 3

Monday - No Mass  
*St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor*

Tuesday - 8:00am  
*The Chair of St Peter, apostle*  
Wednesday - 7:00pm  
*St Polycarp, bishop, martyr*  
Thursday - 9:00am  
Friday - 9:00am  
Saturday - 9:00am

### NEXT SUNDAY

26/27 February  
(8th 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

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 19th & 20th February, 2022

### The Freedom of Forgiveness

Mr and Mrs. Abdallah captured the hearts of the nation when they decided to forgive the drunk driver who killed their children Antony, 13, Angelina, 12, and Sienna Abdallah, eight, and their cousin Veronique Sakr, 11. The four children, who were walking to get ice cream, died at the scene after they were struck by an out-of-control Ute that mounted a footpath in Oatlands, Sydney's west, on February 1, 2020. Driver Samuel William Davidson has pleaded guilty to four counts of manslaughter over the crash. *"My daughter Leana was injured, she was bleeding, and she had to get up and see her brother and her sisters dead in front of her eyes,"* Leilah said. *"Our life has been turned upside down. Our families have been cut into half ... our life has never been the same and will never be the same."* However, the family is sharing their pain in a campaign to have some road rules changed. They also want drivers to take more care on the roads and for passengers to be more accountable. *"Every decision you make will impact generations,"* Leila said. *"Sometimes you can't look back, you just got to hold that pain and the good times and try your best to keep moving forward. We have forgiven him (drunk driver) so we are able to grieve peacefully."*

In today's Gospel Jesus said to his disciples: *"love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly."* Jesus did not ask his disciples to fall in love with their enemies but rather not to let those who hurt them control their behavior and life. Our normal reaction towards those who hurt us is to hurt them back or to hold on to our hatred towards them. In doing that we are unintentionally imprison ourselves in our pain and hatred that we no longer see joy and hope in life. Unfortunately, we often allow others (most often people who we don't like) determine how we feel and act. It is claimed that 3/4 of heart attacks are caused by anger. If you allow someone to make you angry you are allowing them to control even your health. The question of forgiveness is a most crucial one for all of us. That is why it is the most central, novel and challenging aspect of Christ's teaching. He talks about the need to forgive not just seven times but seventy times seven times. He teaches us to pray, *"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."*

Let us pray that with the grace of God we can entrust all of our burden, grudges, hurt and anger in his hand and we will try to be more forgiving and understanding so that we can live our life in peace and love with others.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

2262 In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord recalls the commandment, "You shall not kill," and adds to it the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance. Going further, Christ asks his disciples to turn the other cheek, to love their enemies. He did not defend himself and told Peter to leave his sword in its sheath.

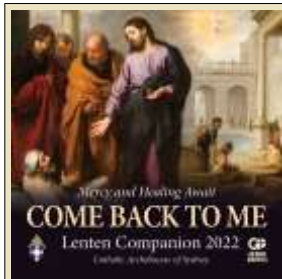
**\* I can forgive, but I can not forget** is only another way of saying, I will not forgive. Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note torn in two and burned up so that it never can be shown against one. *H Beecher*

## NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Places of worship are now allowed to have one person per the 2m<sup>2</sup> 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.**



### Mercy and Healing Await

#### COME BACK TO ME

Lenten Companion 2022

Parishioners please take home a copy of the Lenten Book to read and pray at home with your family, children and friends.

You are also welcome to form your own Lenten Group.

### Ageing Well Masterclass in Liverpool

Practical advice and support to help navigate some of the issues around ageing, including vital information about available services.

**Where:** All Saints Parish Liverpool

**Time:** 10am – 11am from 29 March

Bookings are limited, please register your interest by visiting [www.catholiccare.org/ageingwell](http://www.catholiccare.org/ageingwell)

### JAMBEROO ABBEY ONLINE RETREAT A Lenten Odyssey with Sr Antonia Curtis osb

This retreat is not about entering the murky waters of a fear based compunction. Rather it is about taking the step back to look honestly into our heart and soul and to courageously identify that which blocks our capacity to draw closer to God; it is to be prepared to feel the prick that will come with self knowledge; and it is to come to ourselves in the reality of who we are.

Retreat begins the 1st Sunday of Lent March 6, 2022  
All videos and texts will be available on our website for as long as you need access.

There are 5 conferences - one for each week of Lent. There are also questions for reflection. Take your time as there is no need to complete the conference with the week.

The cost of the retreat is \$250. Pensioners can apply for a reduced price— see website for details.

Register online at:

[jamerooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats](http://jamerooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats)

You will also find many other online retreats on our website.



### Mission Opportunities Overseas.

Palms Australia

*Supporting Sustainable  
International Development Love*

Getting involved in people centred Human Development as an invited guest means humbly putting your person and your skills at the disposal of your trusted hosts. You will be a stranger in the place and for six months a Pilgrim learning the wisdom of local ways.

Palms Australia has 60 years of experience preparing and assisting Australians to learn and pass on their skills in another culture. Is one of [our assignments](#) your opportunity to Reach Beyond?

**Find Out More:** [Enquire Here](#) or Phone: 0422 742 567. Join our [online forum](#) at 5.30pm AEDT on Thursday 17 March, attend and engage with a panel of Palms most experienced Program Participants.

### Schools and Youth Engagement Team at the St Vincent de Paul Society

- This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth Term 1 2022 Newsletter:**  
<https://bit.ly/Term1-2022-Vinnies-Metro-News>
- The **Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP)** for students in Years 4 – 6 is available for those who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. The Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) will nurture students, who undertake the program, to be a light in the world, inspired by the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Gospel values. For more information please visit <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

## Feasts of the Week



### The Chair of St Peter

The actual chair of Peter in Rome, the wooden throne at St. Peter's Basilica, was given to Pope John VIII by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Bald in the year 875. It was enclosed in bronze by the artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini in 1647. This feast day also commemorates the primal authority of St. Peter.

**Feast Day February 22**



### St Polycarp

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.

His *Letter to the Philippians* was a significant foundation of early Christian literature, establishing the role of Apostle Paul and referencing the existence of other texts of the Bible's New Testament. Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia.

Polycarp's dedication to religion ultimately led to his death. He was arrested and killed at the age of 86 by the Romans for refusing to abandon Christianity. He was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155. **Feast Day: February 23**



### 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](mailto: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 Tiana MANUELE who will be baptised here this weekend.

**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



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ENROLMENT 2022

All children who are Baptised and in grade Year 4 or above should have enrolled in the Sacrament of Reconciliation Program.

For those who have enrolled in the program, if you have not yet been informed as to what group your child has been placed in and the day and time your lessons will commence could you please contact Tamara on 0418 844 645.

Thank you

## CATECHIST NEWS:

### YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG TO SHARE YOUR FAITH.

We had a wonderful recruiting drive and were blessed with 4 new helpers who will start their Level One training on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. But we are still in need of **10** catechists to teach the classes. Please check the table to see if you might be available.

School	Day	Time of lesson	Catechist needed
Governor Phillip King Edensor Park Coordinator: Connie Dif 0413 694 007	Tuesdays	9:00am - 9:30am 9:30am - 10:00 am 10:00am - 10:30am	Kindy, Year 1 Year 3 Year 5 Year 6
Bonnyrigg Heights Primary Coordinator: Nina Laureti 0408 465 149	Wednesdays	12:05pm - 12:35pm	Year 2
Cecil Hills Primary Coordinator: Vicky Scutella 0447 310 204	Wednesdays	8:50am - 9:20am	Kindy
Edensor Park Primary Coordinator: Nina Laureti 0408 465 149	Wednesdays	9:00am - 9:30 am	Kindy Year 3 Year 6 Term 1 Only
Green Valley Primary Coordinator: Louise Pace	Wednesdays	2:00pm- 2:30pm	Year 4

**Catechist Opening Mass and Meeting will be on Wednesday 23 Feb 7pm – please try to attend.**

Do something of eternal significance- be a Catechist or helper! We invite you to join this ministry and our wonderful JB Team . Any enquiries please contact Nina Laureti on 0408 465 149.

### Invitation to the live online *Reclaiming Evangelisation Series* with Fr Jacques Philippe

Fr Jacques Philippe, renowned author and speaker on the spiritual life

Wednesday 23 March, 7 – 8:30 PM

'Can we make disciples today? Evangelising with the Holy Spirit'

Please register for these live online events at

[www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)

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



Sick: Alexander (Sandy) ANDERSON, 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: Ferdinando BARILLA, Steve KORDIAK, Neville MIRANDA, Carmen YOUNG, Soledad IBARRA, Faustino AGOO Jr, Brian BENTLEY, Ivan VADNAL, Concesa MENDOZA,

Anniversary: Joakim

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

### The Gift of Joy! A Retreat in the Spirit of Taizé

PRESENTER: Brother Matthew (Taizé community, France)

Rest, pray and reflect in community with the songs and prayers from Taizé in the season of Lent. Workshops, group sharing and personal reflection time will be a part of this retreat.

All welcome, with a special invitation to those aged 18-35.

Accommodation, meals and retreat program included in the cost. Discounted rates apply to those aged 18-35 for shared room or BYO tent accommodation.

WHEN: March 11-13, 2022 , 6pm (Fri) - 12:30 pm (Sunday)

WHERE: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW

COST: Retreat Centre accommodation

Triple plus (3 or more guests) and bathroom: \$200.00

Shared room (2 guests) and bathroom: \$270.00

Own room with ensuite: \$300.00

Camping: (BYO tent): \$140.00

Day rates: \$55 (lunch or dinner) \$70 (lunch and dinner)

Register and pay at: [www.mtcarmel.com.au](http://www.mtcarmel.com.au)

### LENT 2022 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY BRUCE DOWNES

Be inspired, Be refreshed, Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent22>

Call 1300 734 880 for more info



## 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:

### 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Some examples of God's "good measure" toward me and my family are.....
- ♦ I share that "good measure" with others by.....
- ♦ What it means to me to be as merciful as the Father is merciful to us.....

## First reading 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 A reading from the first book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

## Second reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

## The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**John 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel Luke 6:27-38 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

## The Gospel of the Lord



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