



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
St John I, pope, martyr
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:00am
St Bernadine of Siena, priest
Saturday - 9:00am
St Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, martyrs

NEXT SUNDAY

21/22 MAY

(Sixth Sunday of Easter 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

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C) 14th & 15th May, 2022

Love One Another

There was a couple who went to a marriage counsellor and complained about each other. The counsellor sat with them but both wanted to speak at the same time, so the marriage counsellor told them to write their complaints on a piece of paper instead of speaking aloud. The woman saw her husband took out his pen and started writing, so she quickly filled out her paper with her complaints. After one page the husband started on a second page, without hesitation she then filled out another page with her complaints. This went on for half an hour, then the marriage counsellor told them to stop and exchange their writings. The woman wanted to read her husband's writing first. When she started to read, her face turned pale and she began to cry because all he wrote was, "I love you! I love you! I love you!..." in all the pages.

Today's gospel records Jesus' last message to his disciples to love one another, "*I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.*" Jesus shows forth the most important part of his teaching. Love is the essence of God. The Father loves the Son. This is the model for Jesus' love for us. This love is unconditional, self-emptying and endures trials and suffering for the sake of the beloved. It calls to give because its nature is to give all, without reservation.

As Jesus has said before, all that he speaks and does are the words and works of his Father. Likewise, the kind of love that he exhibits is the love of the Father for us. Our love in return must resemble Jesus' and must be expressed in fulfilling his commandment. Keeping Jesus' commandment is hard because it turns us inside out, having to relate to God and to one another from our hearts, from the core of our being. It calls us to reach out to love and serve others.

There are examples of Christ-like love in our modern time; such as Father Damian of Molokai, who spent his life among the lepers, caring for them, and contracted leprosy himself. Mother Teresa of Calcutta whom many people know about her dedication in caring for the poorest of the poor. Both father Damian and mother Teresa chose to love others no matter what the consequences may turn out to be. Their lives expressed "*By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.*" By loving one another we, as the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which we ourselves receive.

Let us pray that we can experience God's unconditional love for us so that in turn we will try harder to love others without expecting anything in return. May our love be big enough to accept people for who they are, created in the image of God.



**Life is very simple. What I give out comes back to me.
Today, I choose to give love.** *Louis Hay*

Do you remember....

3 August 1985

The first Parish 'Working Bee' was held in preparation for the opening and first Mass of the Church.

In the following story John and June Maher remember their early days in the Parish, including the Working Bees.

We moved from Cabramatta (where the parish priest at that time was Father Darcy O'Keefe) to a few acres at Kemps Creek in 1972. Parish boundaries were then somewhat vague, and we were advised that our location was a remote corner of South Mount Druitt Parish. As we would have had to pass either St Mary's or Horsley Park churches to reach South Mount Druitt, we initially attached ourselves to St Mary's Parish. However, because of transport considerations when Judy started school in 1975, we became parishioners of Mount Prichard.

We first became aware of the proposed Bonnyrigg parish in a discussion with Father Ed Sedevic and Father Brian Lucas in the Mount Prichard Parish – this was in relation to the change of boundaries that would occur because of the new parish. In the course of ongoing discussions, we became aware that Father John Langtry would be the Parish Priest of Bonnyrigg and that construction of a new high school would begin almost immediately.

This was particularly relevant to us because I had known Father John in the early nineteen fifties and I knew he'd be a great parish priest, and also because Louise was due to enter a high school in 1985 – and Bonnyrigg showed great promise and was more convenient than other alternatives.

Despite some sadness at leaving the thriving Mount Prichard Parish, we joined John the Baptist within a couple of weeks of the first Mass celebrated there by Father John. I had dropped in to renew my acquaintance with Father John a week or so earlier and had found him surveying his new domain from the front verandah of the old homestead which had become the presbytery of the new parish. Built on timber piers, that house may have been comfortable, even semi-grand, in its heyday, but by 1985 it had deteriorated to the extent that it was certainly not the best option for the home of a new parish priest in a new parish.

Nevertheless, Father John adapted admirably to his new surroundings and made the old house quite welcoming for everyone. The kitchen was always good for a cuppa and a yarn or two, it provided the space needed for the planning of the new parish, and a small and intimate Blessed Sacrament Chapel occupied a room in one corner and was frequently visited.

The paddocks surrounding the presbytery have been the subject of much parish folklore, and many people will have their own recollections of the dilapidated chicken sheds, the tall weeds intertwined with broken fences, the land surface made uneven as a result of many past years of rural activity.

Many will also have their own recollections of the great response when the call went out for volunteers to help clear some of these problems – some brought tractors and trucks, others brought mowers and hand tools. There were tradesmen who gave freely of their time and expertise, and there were mums and dads and kids who just brought their bare hands and loads of energy. The spirit amongst the volunteers on these days was inspiring – it seemed that all wanted to be part of this new endeavour and all wanted to make it work. And Fr. John was right in the middle of it all, leading, cajoling, joking, and generally making it all work.

And there were many memorable milestones that occurred during these early days that further enhanced the great spirit that existed in the parish – new buildings were continually being started and completed for the high school, the arrival of the Sisters of Charity, the hall, the first Easter, Fr John's 25th anniversary, the beginning of the primary school, the new church, and the new presbytery (which was completed only after Fr John's sojourn of several months in a caravan on the site!).

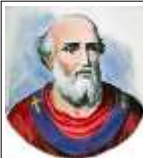
Some of these events and the circumstances surrounding them

stand out in our memory. There is the picture of Fr John, in the middle of a bare paddock which became part of the high school, on the recliner chair presented to him on his 25th anniversary of ordination (1986). There is the arrival on a house-mover of the hall gifted to us by another parish, and the preparation and excitement leading up to the celebration of our first Mass in that hall after its installation. We remember the celebration of the first parish Easter amongst the earthworks surrounding the new hall and the erection of the old wooden cross on that occasion. And we remember the anticipation when the plans for the new church were put up on the wall in the hall for information and comment.

But apart from the milestones, we remember so many day to day activities and the people involved in them – the large number of children at Mass every week, the buzz that they (and everyone else) created in the Church, the occasional priestly admonitions for a bit less noise, Fr John's homilies and his ritual birthday greetings and joke at the end of each weekend Mass – the kids in particular loved those birthday greetings! There was the door-knocking done by the Sisters to invite Catholics to the Church, and the home-based first communion sacramental programme, both of which led to a renewal of faith for many people. There were the multicultural days between the church and the primary school, and the special visits made by Cardinal Freeman at first and later by Cardinal Clancy.



Feasts of the Week



St. John 1 - Pope

A native of Tuscany in Italy, John was elected Pope while he was still an archdeacon upon the death of Pope Hormisdas in 523. What is known is that he succeeded in persuading the Emperor to mitigate his treatment of the Arians and thus avoid

reprisals against the Catholics in Italy. The Pope's visit also brought about the reconciliation of the Western and Eastern Churches.

Feast Day: May 18



St. Bernardine of Siena

A Franciscan friar and preacher, St. Bernardine is known as "the Apostle of Italy" for his efforts to revive the country's Catholic faith during the 15th century. He demonstrated a remarkable concern for the poor as an outgrowth of his love for God.

He always travelled on foot, sometimes speaking for hours in one place, then doing the same in another town.

Feast Day: May 20



St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions

St. Christopher, along with 21 other priests and three lay companions, were martyred between 1915 and 1937, by shooting or hanging, throughout eight Mexican states. The last words heard spoken by Magallanes were from his cell, when he shouted, "I am innocent and I die innocent. I forgive with all my heart those responsible for my death, and I ask God that the shedding of my blood serve the peace of our divided Mexico". Pope John Paul II beatified the Cristero martyrs in 1992 and canonized them in 2000.

Feast day: May 21



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 Mila BALJAK, Lewis NGUYEN and Eliana FERRERI who will be baptised here this weekend.

Children's Liturgy of the Word



What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

During Children's Liturgy of the Word, the children pray together. They hear and respond to the Gospel (simplified for children), in their own time and space, with Children's Liturgy Leaders. The children then return to the Church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

All children who are 4-8 years of age are welcome to attend.

4 years old (accompanied)

5-8 years old (unaccompanied)

Parents are welcome to go to Children's Liturgy with their child.

At John the Baptist Catholic Church, Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the following Mass times.....

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am

(not during school holidays)



All Children's Liturgy Leaders have a Working with Children Clearance.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Can you help? We are in need of helpers and leaders for the 8:00am Mass on Sunday. If you are interested in helping please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or 0410 964 196.



Invites you to our May Men's group meeting
Friday 20th May in the Church Hall at 7pm

7pm-8:30pm - BBQ



We are called to walk together with our Lord, sharing our meals and nurturing our spiritual life. All men are invited to this companionship

8:30 to 9:30pm - Fortunato's presentation on the first Beatitude
- "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

What does poor in spirit mean? Does this describe you?

Weather permitting, we will have the presentation and then the discussion around a fire outside, so bring some warm clothing!

Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.

To join the men's group or to find out more, email jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520.



Thank you for supporting the CWF May Appeal

On behalf of this parish, we sincerely thank you for supporting the **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) May Appeal**. Through your generous gift, we are able to continue in our mission to provide care for the most vulnerable in our community through our CWF agencies and ministries, and to promote the good works of our faith in our seminaries, schools and universities.

For more information, please visit

www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

CATECHIST NEWS

CCD has added more **On-Line (via Zoom) Induction Training** for new Recruits or those who missed out on a particular course.

Here are the details:

Thursdays:

26 May - Unit 1.4,

2 June - Unit 1.5



REGISTRATION is essential.

Two ways to REGISTER.

1. Email CCD Office –

office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au with Full Name, Parish Name, Telephone Number and Email

2. Visit the CCD Website, select the course and

Register - <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/catechist-resources/courses-and-registration/>

Training for Level 1.4 is on Monday June 20 and **level 1.5** on Monday 27 June in the Parish Hall, Bonnyrigg from 6 to 9 pm. Registration is necessary.

- <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/catechist-resources/courses-and-registration/>

Enquiries: Nina Laureti 0408465149



PARISH MORNING TEAS

Our Parish morning teas have commenced following our 8:00am and 10:00am Masses.

We are in need of volunteers to assist with setting up and cleaning up.

If you are interested in helping please call Teresa Vartuli our coordinator on 0413 835 250 and you will be placed on a roster once a month. Thank you.

- This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth Term 2 2022 Newsletter:**

<https://bit.ly/Term2-2022-Metro-School-News>

- The 2022 edition of 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. For more

information please go to <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

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

Sick: Mariola, Rita DALLI, Alexander (Sandy) ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, John DEMICOLI, Judy DIVANI, 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: Margaret JOSEPH, Virginia PANTALEON, Nolasco MENDOZA JNR, Sister Vittorina VELLA, Edgardo NAVARRO, Elsie ANDREAZZA, Loryn Christina COETZEE, Rosa PEROVIC, Jean ZAMMIT

Anniversary: Maria SAFI, Mary TIAN

Other: Akram JOSEPH, Peter TRAN, Paul Xeng SAYAVONGSA, Kenneth JIANG, 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: Rosa Marciano
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:

Sixth Sunday of Easter - (Year C)

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Second Reading: Rev 21:10-14,22-23
Gospel: John 14:23-29

Reflection Questions

- ♦ As I understand it, that which is "new" in Jesus' commandment to love is.....
- ♦ The extent to which Jesus is my norm for loving others is.....
- ♦ The difference in my relationships when I love as Jesus loves is.....

First reading

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They gave an account to the church of all that God had done with them

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

144:8-13

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign.

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age.

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second reading

Apocalypse 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

A vision of the heavenly Jerusalem, the bride of the Lamb

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among

men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

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

John 10:31-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

In the Son of Man, God has been glorified

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.

'My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

