



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: Victoria Baltazar

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 4

Monday - 9:00am and
7:00pm

*The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Stephen of Hungary

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

St John Eudes, priest

Saturday - 9:00am

St Bernard, abbot, doctor

NEXT SUNDAY

20/21 AUGUST

(21st 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:

Wednesday 7.30pm

Saturday 4:15 – 5:00pm

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office
or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 13th & 14th August, 2022

The fire of Love

Fire is a good symbol for the Holy Spirit. Fire can do many different kinds of things. Fire can make something strong; that is why we char a canoe and fire clay pots. Fire can make something soft. Put a piece of iron into the fire and it turns red and then you can bend it. Fire gives us light as a candle.

In the Gospel today, Jesus expresses a longing to bring fire to the earth and wishes that it was burning already. He touches an elemental human experience that fire means more than simply light and heat. The fire the Jesus wants to see blazing in the world is the fire of God's love enlightening and warming the hearts of all people. Jesus is speaking to men and women who are used to hearing of fire as a sign of the presence of God. They think of Moses at the burning bush, when he was told to take off his shoes for he was on holy ground. They think of the pillar of fire that was the sign of the Lord leading his people from slavery in Egypt into the promised land. They think of the fire that consumed the sacrifice of Elijah in his great battle with the prophets of Baal of Mount Carmel. And now, we think of the flames that came down on the apostles at Pentecost as a visible sign of the Holy Spirit touching and filling their lives. As fire gives light and heat, so Jesus looks to the time when God's love, God's Holy Spirit, will fill our hearts and minds, enabling us to know the truth and live it with courage.

However, in order to bring light and heat to our world, fire has to destroy whatever it burns. Wax, oil, wood are all converted into the energy that gives us light and warmth, and in the process they are destroyed. Fire, therefore, carries this double symbolism. If our hearts are to be filled with the light and love of God's Holy Spirit, something has to give: that is, our selfishness and sin. Jesus realises the struggle that this will cause us. He longs for unity and harmony among his disciples, but knows that this teaching will bring division. Because sin and selfishness are so deeply rooted in the human condition, even the closest relationships will be affected. When the fire of God's love is at work in us, we will feel the pain of letting go whatever is not compatible with a new relationship with God. Let us pray that the fire which Jesus mentioned will change our mind and heart toward God's will.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church.

696 *Fire*. While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions. The prayer of the prophet Elijah, who "arose like fire" and whose "word burned like a torch," brought down fire from heaven on the sacrifice on Mount Carmel.³⁷ This event was a "figure" of the fire of the Holy Spirit, who transforms what he touches. John the Baptist, who goes "before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah," proclaims Christ as the one who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."³⁸ Jesus will say of the Spirit: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!"³⁹ In the form of tongues "as of fire," the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself.⁴⁰ The spiritual tradition has retained this symbolism of fire as one of the most expressive images of the Holy Spirit's actions.⁴¹ "Do not quench the Spirit."⁴²

This weekend we begin National Vocations Awareness Week. Today, we focus on the Lord's call to follow him with our whole hearts. We pray especially that the Lord may bless the Archdiocese with faithful priests and religious brothers and sisters in the consecrated life. We pray also for those called to the Vocation of Holy Matrimony and those living a chaste single life. Please continue to encourage young men and women to respond generously to the Lord's call in their lives.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - Virtual Weekend

Live your best life in love

The Virtual Weekend is conducted by Zoom allowing you to attend from the comfort of your own home.

Date: 19-21 August 2022

Starting Friday, 19 August 2022, 7:00pm (Sydney time)

Through Sunday, 21 August 2022 around 4:00pm.

The Weekend will conclude with Holy Mass

Book online www.wwme.org.au OR contact Booking Couple

Mercy & James Bvirakare, Mobile 0409 183 676

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

What is required to attend virtually: A computer/laptop with video (camera and Microphone) and a good internet connection. If you have small children, you will need to find care for them during the day

RCIA – DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Many adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church each year through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):

1. The non-baptised are suitably prepared are welcomed into the Catholic Church by the reception of the three Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
2. Those from other Christian denominations are received into full communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Any catholic adults (baptised) but not yet confirmed.



The course for the RCIA candidates for next year's Easter Vigil commences after we finalised the enrolments.

For inquiries contact either the parish office, Fr Dominic.

JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CARE

John the Baptist Community Care is a established to support those in need and provide care for people of our community and beyond who are in need, irrespective of their faith or particular situation in life.

Such needs may be financial, social, emotional or spiritual. Finances to support this initiative are raised via the Church Piety Store and Poor Boxes, as well as donations, Plant and Cake/biscuit sales and other fundraisers.

If you are aware of a family in need, or if your own family is in need of support at this time, please phone the parish office on 9823 2572.

A member of the John the Baptist Community Care Group will contact you to discuss your situation.

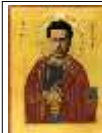
All enquiries will be treated with respect and in confidence.

Feasts of the Week



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into heaven to live with her son Jesus Christ for ever. Human beings having to wait until the end of time for their bodily resurrection, but Mary's body was able to go straight to heaven because her soul hadn't been tainted by original sin. Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on August 15 each year. The Feast is also a Holy Day of Obligation. **Feast Day: August 15**



St Stephen of Hungary

St. Stephen the Great (977-1038), was the son of the Magyar chieftain Geza. Stephen succeeded him as leader in 997. Already raised a Christian, in 996 he wed the daughter of Duke Henry II of Bavaria and devoted much of his reign to the promotion of the Christian faith. He gave his patronage to Church leaders, helped build churches, and was a proponent of the rights of the Holy See. Stephen also crushed the pagan counterreaction to Christianity, forcibly converting the so-called Black Hungarians after their failed rebellion. In recognition of his efforts, Stephen was anointed king of Hungary in 1000, receiving the cross and crown from Pope Sylvester II. The remainder of his reign was taken up with the consolidation of the Christian hold on the region. His crown and regalia became beloved symbols of the Hungarian nation, and Stephen was venerated as the ideal Christian king. Canonized in 1083 by Pope St. Gregory VII, he became the patron saint of Hungary. **Feast Day: August 16**



St Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, was born of noble parentage in Burgundy, France. He was sent at an early age to a college at Chatillon and later did studies of theology and Holy Scripture there. After the death of his mother, fearing the snares and temptations of the world, he resolved to embrace the newly established and very austere institute of the Cistercian Order, of which he was destined to become the greatest ornament. He also persuaded his brothers and several of his friends to follow his example. In 1113, St. Bernard, with thirty young noblemen, presented himself to the holy Abbot, St. Stephen, at Citeaux. After a novitiate spent in great fervor, he made his profession in the following year. His superior soon after, seeing the great progress he had made in the spiritual life, sent him with twelve monks to found a new monastery, which afterward became known as the celebrated Abbey of Clairvaux. St. Bernard was at once appointed Abbot and began that active life which has rendered him the most conspicuous figure in the history of the 12th century. He founded numerous other monasteries, composed a number of works and undertook many journeys for the honor of God. Several Bishoprics were offered him, but he refused them all. The reputation of St. Bernard spread far and wide; even the Popes were governed by his advice. In obedience to the Sovereign Pontiff he traveled through France and Germany, and aroused the greatest enthusiasm for the holy war among the masses of the population. The failure of the expedition raised a great storm against the saint, but he attributed it to the sins of the Crusaders. St. Bernard was eminently endowed with the gift of miracles. He died on August 20, 1153. **Feast Day: August 20**

Mercy towards somebody who has hurt us

Whenever we say *Our Father*, we repeat the phrase "and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus consciously asked us to repeat these words in the most basic Christian prayer. He wants to remind us every day that we need forgiveness. God is always generous with forgiveness and expects us to be equally merciful towards other people. Mercy manifests itself best in our ability to forgive. In doing so, we liberate ourselves from the burden of our pain, and we give a person who hurt us a chance to change since only the experience of mercy can thoroughly transform a person.





Baptisms: If you wish to Baptise your child please contact the parish office to make an appointment with Fr Dominic.

Baptism:

This week, we welcome into the Catholic faith:

Leon Williams

May they always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout their life.



CONFIRMATION will take place on **Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd September at 7:00pm** in the Church.

Enrolments have now ceased.

Any enquiries please contact Linda Barilla on 0409 914 083.



Invites you to our August Men's group meeting
Friday 19th August in the Church Hall at 7:30pm
7:30pm to 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 - Gospel Reflection

Weather permitting, we will have the Gospel reflection 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 jbmng@johnthebaptist.org.au or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520



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.



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.



PARISH HOUSIE VOLUNTEERS:

We are in need of volunteers to help with our Parish Housie at the Liverpool Catholic Club on Saturdays from 12:00pm until 3:30pm. If you can assist in anyway please see Fr Dominic or contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 20th September - Confirmation

Wednesday 21st September - Confirmation

Thursday 22nd September—Confirmation

Thursday 29th September - Ignite Conference

Friday 2nd December - Christmas Carol

Further information will be provided closer to the dates

Ignite Conference 2022

Thursday 29 September - Sunday 2 October
Freeman College Bonnyrigg.

This popular conference was postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-lockdowns, but is back this year, featuring the Holy Sacraments of Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration, inspiring speakers, workshops and dynamic music.

The event is aimed at all ages with a program of interest to primary and high schoolers, young adults, ministry leaders, families, teachers, priests and religious from across the country.

Speakers will include Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Fr Rob Galea and Therese Mills MGL.

\$100 Discount available for the first 50 young adults who register or volunteer from the Archdiocese of Sydney.

EMAIL: John.nguyen@sydneycatholic.org for the Discount Code

Read more about the conference online:

<https://igniteconference.com.au/>



Thank you for supporting the CWF August Parish Appeal

On behalf of this parish, we sincerely thank you for supporting the **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) August 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/cfw



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.

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

Sick: Guiseppina ANDRONACO, 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: Paolo ALVARO, Frank KNOX, Juan TUGANO, Corazon PARAS, Bach DO, Steven SUPLAT, Thip SAKOUNKHU, Tran Ba Loc, Joseph Hop NGUYEN

Anniversary: Amelia ALVARO, Stanley & Stella DUFF, Les PACE, Chona VICTORINO, Kenneth JIANG, Joseph Sac TRAN, Joseph Hai TRAN

Other: 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: Victoria Baltazar
Men's Group: Branko Poljak

For any inquiries, please call the parish office.

Next Sunday:

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Where I experience "great.....anguish" for Jesus' mission to be "accomplished" is.....
- ♦ Faith has brought divisiveness into my life when.....
- ♦ I understand these moments of divisiveness to be proper to good discipleship (and not unhealthy) because.....

First reading

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

'Do not let the prophet die'

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well, where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come to my aid!

39:2-4, 18

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

Lord, come to my aid!

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

Lord, come to my aid!

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

Lord, come to my aid!

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay.

Lord, come to my aid!

Second reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

We should keep running steadily in the race we have started

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and *from now on has taken his place at the right* of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12: 49-53

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

How I wish it were blazing already!

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord

