



# 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

### Fr Dominic Dinh

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Emergency: 0423 420 639

### Fr Benjamin Saliba

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## Office:

9823 2572

## Email:

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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: Victoria Baltazar

## MASSES THIS WEEK

### PSALTER WEEK 4

Monday - No Mass

The Most Holy Name of Mary

Tuesday - 8:00am

St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor

Wednesday - 7:00pm

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Thursday - 9:00am

Our Lady of Sorrows

Friday - 9:00am

Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr and Cyprian, bishop, martyr

Saturday - 9:00am

St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor

## NEXT SUNDAY

17/18 SEPTEMBER

(25th 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

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) 10th & 11th September, 2022

### Find your way home

A young priest was on his way to his newly appointed parish. He drove into town and got lost, so he stopped a teenager and asked for directions to the Catholic Church. While the teenager was pointing out the way to him, he asked the young man: "Are you a catholic?" "Yes I am" the teenager replied proudly, "but I haven't been back to the Church since my First Holy Communion." "Come to the Church this weekend then, and I will show you the way to heaven" said the priest. The teenager looked puzzled, he stared at the priest and said; "but you don't even know the way to the Church."

When we get lost (direction) we often feel frustrated which then becomes insecurity, fear or even despair (if it is the loss of self or meaning of life).

In the parable of the prodigal son we read about a young man who was completely lost and he was unable to make it on his own. The only hope that he still has his father's love (even to be a slave), who never stopped waiting for his return. It is the first and everlasting love of a God who is father as well as mother. It is the fountain of all true human love. Jesus' whole life and preaching had only one aim: to reveal this inexhaustible, unlimited motherly and fatherly love of God and to show the way to let that love guide every part of our daily lives. It is this hope that enables the young man to return home, experiencing the love that always welcomes and always wants to celebrate.

Furthermore, the elder son stays at home but without love and hospitality in his heart. He reacts in anger to his father's acceptance of his younger brother. He can't move out of his inner prison of self righteousness to accept this brother and rejoice with him. The father loves both of his sons and lives in the hope that they will love and accept each other.

Let us pray that by trusting in God's love and forgiveness we will always find a way to return home and reach out to others.



## Catechism of the Catholic Church

1439 The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, the centre of which is the merciful father: the fascination of illusory freedom; the abandonment of the father's house; the extreme misery in which the son finds himself after squandering his fortune; his deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed swine, and worse still, at wanting to feed on the husks the pigs ate; his reflection on all he has lost; his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father; the journey back; the father's generous welcome; the father's joy- all these are characteristic of the process of conversion. The beautiful robe, the ring and the festive banquet are symbols of that new life – pure, worthy and joyful - of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of his family, which is the church. Only the heart of Christ who knows the depth of his Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful way.

## Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal 2022

On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting **Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal**. Through your gift, we are able to continue in our mission to provide care for our growing number of sick and retired priests in the Archdiocese of Sydney. If you missed the special collection you can still donate visit [www.ourfaithworks.org.prif](http://www.ourfaithworks.org.prif) or scan the QR Code.



**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION**

For those who nurtured our faith



## National Catholic Men's Gathering

**MAX2022 in Sydney @ Benedict XVI Retreat Centre: Oct 7-9**

MAX2022 is a National Catholic Gathering of men which is a collaboration between menALIVE and the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation.

The theme this year is—RENEW / REFRESH / RECONNECT. After several years of almost no live events, we are looking forward to gather to listen, learn and long for the fullness of life. We desire to grow into the men we were made to be, better husbands, fathers, and men of God.

Men from all over Australia will join us and there will be nothing this year in Australia like it!

Online registrations open now: <https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MAX2022Syd>

## Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Cagliari Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for January 2023 to work with young people in our Salesian communities with disadvantaged young people in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Australia. Applications close October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Send us an inquiry - [www.cagliari.org.au](http://www.cagliari.org.au) or [lhichaaba@salesians.org.au](mailto:lhichaaba@salesians.org.au)

## St. Mary's Liverpool Class of '72 - 50 Year Reunion

12.00pm Saturday 22 October 2022  
Liverpool Catholic Club

Organisers - Bronwyn Seconi & Karen Hood Contact our Facebook Page "St. Mary's Liverpool'72" or alternatively [bronwynkrauze@bigpond.com](mailto:bronwynkrauze@bigpond.com)

## Embrace the Call to Global Mission



American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 and Register for a Webinar on **Saturday September 24th at 11:30am** where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our **13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th**.



## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

The new roster is now available for collection.

Ministries Next Week 17/18 Sept	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	J Victorino L Krslovic	L Agoo T Simpson	M Aulsebrook J Mataele	A Vanderwert V Arbanas
<b>EUCCHARIST MINISTERS:</b>	D Vella A Pace A Jameson	B O'Connor D Sullivan J Finucane	J Habib N Laureti G Dunn	S Cook M Mai

# Feasts of the Week



## St John Chrysostom

St. John, named Chrysostom (golden-mouthed) on account of his eloquence, came into the world of Christian parents, about the year 344. He studied rhetoric under Libanius, a pagan, the most famous orator of the age. In 374, he began to lead the life of an anchorite in the mountains near Antioch, but in 386 the poor state of his health forced him to return to Antioch, where he was ordained a priest. In 398, he was elevated to the See of Constantinople and became one of the greatest lights of the Church. But he had enemies in high places. His most powerful enemy, however, was the empress Eudoxia, who was offended by the apostolic freedom of his discourses. Several accusations were brought against him in a pseudo-council, and he was sent into exile. In the midst of his sufferings, like the apostle, St. Paul, whom he so greatly admired, he found the greatest peace and happiness. He had the consolation of knowing that the Pope remained his friend, and did for him what lay in his power. His enemies were not satisfied with the sufferings he had already endured, and they banished him still further, to Pythius, at the very extremity of the Empire. He died on his way there on September 14, 407. **Feast September 13**



## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Saviour's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on." To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim. **Feast Day: September 14**



## Our Lady of Sorrows

The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels or through Tradition. Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the passion and death event; rather, it comprised "the seven dolours" or "seven sorrows" of Mary, which were foretold by the Priest Simeon. In all, the prophecy of Simeon that a sword would pierce our Blessed Mother's heart was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with her heart exposed and with seven swords piercing it. More importantly, each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed her fiat, "let it be done unto me according to Thy word," first uttered at the Annunciation. **Feast Day: September 15**



## Sts Cornelius and Cyrian

were 3rd century Christians. St. Cornelius was a pope. At the time, many Christians were being martyred. Some renounced their faith and then later repented. A priest named Novatian said that these Christians should not be allowed back in the Church. Pope St. Cornelius successfully opposed Novatian's position. St. Cyrian was a bishop who also opposed Novatian's views. He offered support and encouragement to Cornelius. He also encouraged him to grow in holiness. Both of these men were martyred for their beliefs. **Feast day: September 16**





**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:

*Isabella Sayseng  
Jasper Pham*



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



## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The Confirmation retreat will be held next **Sunday 11th September commencing at 11:15am.**

For any children that go to Masses outside our parish please make sure you are here by 11:00am. Please pray for these candidates preparing themselves for Confirmation.

## CATECHIST NEWS

I wish to formally thank all the wonderful catechists, helpers and student catechists who have diligently attended and ran their classes continuously now for almost three terms.

There are always **vacancies** at our schools due to work commitments or well earned travel holidays. **We are in need of a Yr 3 or 4 Catechist at Governor Philip King Primary on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:00am. If you are interested please contact Connie Giannone on 0431 694 007.**

**September 14 there is a Mega Training Day** on Classroom management Insights and Upskilling at All Saints Liverpool from 9:45am to 2:00pm.

Why attend the MEGA Training?

1. An opportunity for Catechists to come together and learn from one another
2. First time we are doing MEGA Training for CCD
3. So we can be better at our craft as Catechists and helpers
4. There is always something new to learn.

This is the place of the 1.4 course but is **OPEN TO ALL CATECHIST HELPERS.**

Please register via [office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au) by the 12th September.

Any enquiries regarding the Catechist Ministry please feel free to contact me 0408 465 149.

Together we proclaim the Gospel to little children.  
Nina



## 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 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 Carols

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](mailto:John.nguyen@sydneycatholic.org) for the Discount Code

Read more about the conference online:

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



## 2022 Annual Marriage Mass

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2022? Renew your vows to each other at Annual Marriage Mass celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Anthony Fisher at 10:30am on **Sunday the 16th October at St Mary's Cathedral.** All families welcome!

Please RSVP by the 12th of September at <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/marriage-mass/marriagemass22>.

For any queries, phone 9307 8480.  
email [lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org)



Men put faith on display. To join the men's group or to find out more, email [jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au) or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520.



## 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.

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

Sick: Theresa MERCIECA, Avelino San BUENAVENTURA, Guiseppina ANDRONACO, Mariola, Rita DALLI, Alexander (Sandy) ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, John DEMICOLI, Judy DIVANI, Bozana VUKOV, Lachlan BENSON, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAL, Melda MIZZI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS

Recently Deceased: Jean Jimmy LAFLEUR, Antonio MULTARI, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Giuseppe LETTIERI

Anniversary: Rose VELLA, Aurora LAGAN, Josie HOPE, Steven HEWITT, Alex GROMOF

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne 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:**  
**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year C)**  
First Reading: Amos 8:4-7  
Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8  
Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ When I consider that God searches for me when I am lost, I think.....
- ♦ As I consider the father and his two sons, I am most like..... because.....
- ♦ If I am to be as forgiving and merciful as God is, then I must.....

## First reading

**Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14**

### A reading from the book of Exodus

**The Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened**

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!"' the Lord said to Moses, 'I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: "I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever."'

So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

**50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19**

***I will rise and go to my father.***

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

***I will rise and go to my father.***

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

***I will rise and go to my father.***

O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit.  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

***I will rise and go to my father.***

## Second reading

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**2 Corinthians 5:19**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

**Luke 15:1-32**

### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

**There will be rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.'

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.'

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.'

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.'

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

## The Gospel of the Lord



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