



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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9823 2572

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Website:

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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Victoria Baltazar

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 3

Monday - No Mass

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Wednesday 7:00pm

St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor

Thursday - 9:00am

Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

17/18 DECEMBER

(Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year A)

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

10th & 11th December, 2022

Faith & Trust

The minister of aged care services went to visit a nursing home. He walked up to a lady in a wheel chair and said, “*Madam, do you know who I am?*” (expecting the old woman would have seen him on TV or newspaper during the earlier election) she answered, pointing toward the enquiry desk, “*No sir, I do not know who you are but if you go to that desk they can tell you*”.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist while in prison, sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*” John was imprisoned for speaking out against the king's adulterous act. While suffering in prison he probably wondered why the Messiah did nothing to get rid of the injustice, or punishing the cruel and evil king. John's notion of the Messiah was similar to the Jews at the time. He comes as a Judge who will reward the good and punish the bad. We often have the same idea about God. Let us reflect on what Jesus has to say. “*The blind see again and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.....happy is the one who does not lose faith in me.*” Such are the actions that Jesus undertakes! His identity is clear for all who have eyes and ears to see it. We often get discouraged when our prayers to God go seemingly unanswered or at least not happening the way we expected, if we reflect on what Jesus was about then we should experience more hope, joy, peace in whatever situation we are in.



Let us pray that ‘**we do not lose faith**’ but continue to deepen our faith and trust in Jesus, so that we can show his face to the world as we prepare for Christmas.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

719 John the Baptist is ‘more than a prophet’. In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the ‘voice’ of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John “came to bear witness to the light”. In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfils the longing of the angels. ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God....Behold, the Lamb of God.

**“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”** Mt 11:10

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

PRESENTED BY **paynterdixon**

8-25 DECEMBER 2022

Festivities begin at 7pm with:
Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment





You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home

Palms' [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program (January 7 – 11) will **"focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church"** as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the [many requests Palms has from communities](#) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

Dear Parishioners,

Our Jesse Tree in the Church this year will benefit those families in flood affected areas of Sydney. If you would like to take an envelope and make a cash donation, you can leave it in the basket during Mass times only, place it in the collection, give to Father or those in the Piety Stall.

There are many families affected by floods this year and all assistance is greatly appreciated. **OUR FAMILY can HELP THEIR FAMILIES.** If YOU or ANYONE you know is in difficult circumstances this Christmas, please let Fr Dominic know via parish email or phone 9823 2572. We might be able to assist in some way.

Blessing from the Community Care Fund

Archbishop's Flood Appeal

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has announced that proceeds raised at this year's Christmas at the Cathedral event will go directly towards providing relief and recovery to the victims of the NSW flood disaster.

Christmas at the Cathedral, presented by Paynter Dixon.


8-25 December

St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt

Festivities begin at 7pm with Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment.

THE Catholic Weekly

Is available to purchase for \$2.00. Please place the money in the poor box.

 **COLUMBAN CALENDARS** are now available to purchase from the Piety store for \$10.00 each.

Ministries Next Week 17/18 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino A Pace	J Poljak S Davies	V Buhajiar N Laureti	R Capolupo A Vanderwert
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	A Severi T Vartuli A Vlahadamis	L Barilla L Agoo Delicia Vella	R Hibbs J Habib N Laureti	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE TO SEE BEYOND SELF

A mother challenged with mental health issues is making Christmas cards with a Christian theme. As you are aware, cards with a Christian theme are hard to find. However, thanks to this courageous lady, these are now available for sale in our Piety Store.

Furthermore, this brave lady wishes to donate all profits from these cards to our Community Care Program to help other people struggling to cope with life.



Feasts of the Week



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title of Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions, which are believed to have occurred in December 1531, and a venerated image on a cloak enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared on December 9th, 1531. According to the account, the Virgin Mary told Juan Diego, an Indian convert, to tell Bishop Juan de Zumárraga to build a chapel. Bishop Zumárraga asked Diego for a sign as proof that it was truly the Mother of God. Our Lady instructed Diego to gather some roses in his tilma [popular piety attests that Mary arranged the roses in the tilma herself] and present them to the bishop. As Diego did this, the roses fell to the floor, revealing the miraculous image of Mary as she appeared in real life.

Feast Day: December 12



St Lucy

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defence of the faith. Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on. Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them. When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Feast Day: December 13



St John of the Cross

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

Feast Day: December 14



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



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS

If you would like your child to participate in the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Mass, please attend the following rehearsals

Wednesday 14th December at 3:45pm and Thursday 22nd December at 3:45pm.

Both rehearsals will be held in the church.

If you have any questions please contact Rosalie: 0404276332 or Sylvana: 0417197357



The Gift of Joy

In last week's reflection, we discussed about the importance of 'spiritual pruning': an act of examining our hearts and letting go of things that hinder us from getting closer to God. Through this act of pruning, we empty ourselves from sin and thus make space for God to fill us with his grace.

One of the graces that God wants to give us is joy. **My dear brothers and sisters, we need to remember that as Christians, we are called to be joyful!** In his letter to the Galatians, St Paul reminds us that joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). Joy is also a gift that makes Christianity attractive. Growing up as a Buddhist, one of the things that drew me to Christianity was the joyful witness of the many Christians that I met in my life. I remembered seeing a Catholic priest after Mass and said to myself: "look how happy this man is... I want to be happy like him too!"

Joy is so important to Christianity that the Church specifically dedicate the Third Sunday of Advent as Gaudete (meaning 'Rejoice') Sunday. You will notice that, in the prayers and the readings of today, the Church is exhorting people to be joyful. The Advent candle today is also rose-coloured, which is a mix of the violet of Advent and the white of Christmas. This reminds us that, while it is important to be sorrowful for our past sins, we should also look ahead to the joy of Christmas!

As we look ahead to Christmas, let us ask God to fill us with His Joy... I wish you a blessed and joyful Gaudete Sunday!



Invites you to our December Men's group Christmas BBQ
Friday 16th December in the Church Hall at 7pm

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

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



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 10:00am and 5:30pm (Filipino Mass)



RECONCILIATION

Fr Dominic and Fr Ben will be available for confession on **Wednesday 21st of December** after the 7:00pm Mass for those wanting to make a spiritual preparation for Christmas. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place whilst confession is on.

Fr Ben is available for confession by appointment or after every Wednesday evening Mass.

The parish offers the sacrament on a weekly basis from 4:15-5:15pm every Saturday.

GOD, LIFE, UNIVERSE, EVERYTHING (G.L.U.E) ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Thank you for your initial interest in this Faith Formation program. To help Fr Ben coordinate timing of talks please fill out the following form -

<https://forms.gle/SVQBW8bVwesC9v7K8>

Once the details have been collated we will advertise the first talks in the series.

Thank you.



FULL CONFERENCE & WEEKEND ONLY
TIX AVAILABLE

SCAN FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT IW2022



THURS 15TH DECEMBER -
SUN 18TH DECEMBER 2022
THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE,
STANWELL TOPS

iWitness Conference
@iWitnessAustralia
iWitnessConference@gmail.com



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: Joyce AZZOPARDI, Liam CANTARELLA, Brian AULSEBROOK, Theresa MERECIECA, 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, Nolita HERBERT

Recently Deceased: Andrea (Andrew) RUSSO, Andre Avelino DE SOUSA, Adam BRADLEY, Stefano ROSITANO,

Anniversary: Mary D'CRUZ, Isodoro DEL VALLE

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne FENECH



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:

Fourth Sunday of Advent - (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ When I find myself like John (imprisoned in darkness), the questions I have for Jesus are.....
- ♦ The works that I have heard and see that make me believe Jesus is the Messiah are.....
- ♦ My own expectations of who Jesus is have blinded me to his advent when.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Second reading

A reading of the letter from St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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