



# 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

Email: [Benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:Benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org)

## 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

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

## NEXT SUNDAY

24/25 DECEMBER

*(The Nativity of the Lord  
Year A)*

Saturday Vigil Mass:

5:30pm, 8pm & Midnight

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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) 17th & 18th December, 2022

### Immanuel : God is with us!

In the past six months, I was blessed with the opportunity to minister to patients at a local hospital. From this experience, I realised that one of the deepest sufferings we can experience is feeling isolated and alone. I learned that, many times, it is not the pain that makes sickness unbearable: it is the fact that our sickness isolates us from our loved ones. I learned that **we, as human beings, long for someone to be with us.**

The Good News is that God knows very well our longing and seeks to satisfy it. This is why the prophet Isaiah, in our first reading, called Christ as Immanuel, meaning 'God is with us'. Reading through the Bible, we can encounter three stages in which God seeks to relate and be with us.

From the creation account in Genesis, we encounter a God who walks and converses with Adam and Eve. Here, we encounter the first stage: a God who is *among us*. However, this is not sufficient. God Loves us so much that he seeks to be with us more intimately: he wants to be *one of us*. Thus, in the Gospels, we encounter Jesus: the God-made-man who relates with us as a fellow human being. Again, this is not sufficient. When one Loves, one strives to be united in the most intimate way. Thus, in his last days on earth, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Through this Sacrament, humanity consumes God and thus be fully united to God. This is the third stage: God becomes *one with us*.

*God among us, God as one of us, God as one with us.* My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, every time we hear the name 'Immanuel', may we be reminded that we are never alone. Our God is a Loving God, and he is with us!

*Adrian Suyanto*



### Catechism of the Catholic Church

497 The gospel accounts understand the virginal conception of Jesus as a divine work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility: 'That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit', said the angel to Joseph about Mary his fiancée. The church sees here the fulfilment of the divine promise given through the prophet Isaiah: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.'

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](http://www.palms.org.au) or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.



## 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 Christian's Final Journey:** Catholic Cemetery and Crematoria and partner, the ACU Centre for Liturgy, are offering a one-day workshop on Catholic funerals on **9 February 2023**. It has been designed for Clergy, Funeral Directors, Bereavement Teams, Pastoral Associates, Parish Secretaries and Family Faith Educators, Teachers, APRE's, School Staff and interested individuals. Catholic practices around burial and cremation will be investigated as well as preparation of a funeral (for future discussion with the funeral celebrant) and how to support the grieving. It will be held at the Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. Time: 9am -5pm (registration from 8.30am). Registration is essential by 3 February. Cost: \$60 (includes lunch and a workbook) (\$120 for Funeral Directors who will receive certification for 5 years.) **Enquiries:** [CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au](mailto:CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au) or 02 9701 4751. For more information, and to register, go to [www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training](http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training)



**A child's smile. A mother's joy.  
Yours to give this Christmas.**

Christmas is a time of miracles – of hope and renewal. Throughout rural Vietnam, children and families living with disabilities, like Mrs Lan and her children Quan and Loah, are less likely to be employed, and children are less likely to go to school.

Mrs Lan's dreams for her children are simple. She wants them to "live like every other child, going to school, playing, having a happy life, and growing and learning like other children."

Through the generosity of our supporters, Quan and Loah joined a community-based classroom and learned to socialise with other children and found confidence in themselves. They found more joy from having fun with others, learned to tell jokes and found themselves smiling more.

This Christmas, you can help create opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and to enable more families like Mrs Lan's to access resources to improve their income and living status.

**Please join Caritas Australia's wonderful community of generous supporters this Christmas in giving loving parents of children with disabilities the incredible gift of seeing their children smile.**

Visit [www.caritas.org.au/christmas](http://www.caritas.org.au/christmas) this Christmas or call 1800 024 413 toll free to help bring more smiles to children's faces this coming year.



## Announcing the Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program!

**Part-time in Feb-Nov 2023** - either in person or online - through Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. This program is designed for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and parish or outreach ministries. It will equip individuals to lead with integrity, vulnerability and resilience, and will focus on the inner spiritual journey in order to create fully-formed leaders who listen, learn and accompany others with strength and sensitivity. 'Damascus' can be studied as a Graduate Certificate in Divinity through the University of Divinity (Yarra Theological Union/Catholic Theological College), or as an audit student to receive a Certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Heart of Life. Attendance on Monday mornings and some Saturdays. Read more about the program on the [Heart of Life website](#) or contact us on (03) 9890 1101. Applications close on 6/1/23.

## 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 24/25 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	Christmas		Volunteers	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:		Christmas		Volunteers



**Share Joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a Life.**

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. *Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment.* The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future.

**This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.**







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

### Baptism:

This week, we welcome into the Catholic faith:

*Christian Becker and Lucas Capra*

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



### Reconciliation and Communion Sacrament 2023

Enrolment for Reconciliation and Communion Sacrament program for children in Grade 4 and above will be held early Term 1 in 2023. Dates will be announced in the Church bulletin. Any questions please contact Tamara on 0424 166 248.



### 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



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

### 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.



### A Choral Christmas Celebration 2022

Featuring St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Sinfonia Australis Friday 16 December

Two Concerts (11am and 7pm)

Book now at [www.cathedralchoir.sydney/accc](http://www.cathedralchoir.sydney/accc) or (02) 9220 0481

## 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.



**The Purpose Retreat January 22-25** is a 4-day long retreat experience for young adults and youth leaders. The retreat will offer opportunities for faith formation, prayer, participation in the sacraments, social and leisure time, as well as more specific opportunities for youth leaders/minister development for those who serve in ministry. The theme is Know, Love and Serve, where participants will be immersed in sessions, workshops as well as prayer and liturgical experiences that will allow them to grow in relationship with and service of God and others.

Open to committed youth leaders and young adults between 18 to 35 years old.

***Our speakers are locked in! Check out some of the amazing topics you will hear at our first ever PURPOSE RETREAT!***



### 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: Liam CANTARELLA, Brian AULSEBROOK, 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, Nolita HERBERT

Recently Deceased: Lay Li SIN, Joyce AZZOPARDI, Andrea (Andrew) RUSSO, Andre Avelino DE SOUSA

Anniversary: Andrew O'DWYER, Arcadio NAPULI

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



## 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:

### The Nativity of the Lord - (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The birth of Jesus Christ came about *in me* when.....
- ♦ Those who have played a significant role in Jesus' being born in me are..... The role each played was.....
- ♦ My life witnesses *Emmanuel* ("God is with us") to others whenever I.....

## First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

**Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

**Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

**Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

## Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

### A reading of the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach

the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

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

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

### The Gospel of the Lord



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