



# 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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## 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

Monday - No Mass

*St Stephen, the first martyr*

Tuesday - 8:00am

*St John the Evangelist,  
apostle, evangelist*

Wednesday 7:00pm

*The Holy Innocents, martyrs*

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

*The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph*

Saturday - 9:00am

## NEXT SUNDAY

31 DEC/1 JANUARY

*(Mary, the Holy Mother of  
God 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

## The Nativity of the Lord (Year A)

24th & 25th December, 2022

### A Baby God? Really?

Around two months ago, my little niece was born. It was such a joy to the family! There is just something about babies that attract us, that draw us to Love them. I remembered one day just gazing at my niece silently and this filled me with so much joy and peace. Also, I gradually realised that my niece is totally dependent on others to live: without other people, there is very little chance that my niece can survive and grow.

Today we celebrate the birth of another baby: Jesus Christ, our Lord. It always amazes me to think that the Almighty God would lower himself to become a baby. If you think about it, for a certain period, God was fully dependent on others to live! Why would he do this? I mean, he could have come in all his glory and make us follow him, right?

After some pondering, I think I may have understood a little about this mystery. **I wonder if God came as a baby because he wants us to Love him freely.** If God comes in all his glory, then there really is no choice for us but to follow him. But a baby is different. A baby does not command or force obedience: a baby draws and invites others to Love. Our God longs for our Love so much that he is willing to lower himself and become a baby.

My dear friends, this Christmas, may we be reminded that **our God longs deeply for our Love.** Let us take some time today to be drawn by his Beauty and Love...

I wish you all a blessed Christmas!

-Seminararian Adrian Suyanto



*Adoration of the Christ Child* by Gerrit van Honthorst (c.1619-1621)

We have been through a busy year after the locked down, still Christmas is a wonderful season to lift up our hearts to give thanks to God for the great gift of His Son who is **'Emmanuel-God is with us'**. God loves the world so much that He gave his only Son to the world so that through Jesus Christ, we will share His divine love, which needs to find a place first of all in our own hearts so that we can live and share it with others. Let us use this event to renew and deepen our relationships with God, with our family members and friends. At the same time we are aware of the great needs in our world - those who are still affected by Covid 19, war and violence, the asylum seekers, victims of flood, those who lack clothing, food, shelter and freedom.

On behalf of Fr Ben and staff, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you who have shared generously your time, effort and resource in building up our parish and to serve those most in need.

May the hope, joy, peace and love that Christ brings to our world be with you and your family. I wish you and your families many blessings during this Holy Season and a safe and joyous New Year 2023.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Dominic Dinh

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



Sick: Churchill VANDERWERT, Joyce AZZOPARDI, Liam CANTARELLA, Brian AULSEBROOK, Theresa MERCECA, 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: Maria MORASSUT, Amadita BAUTISTA, Lay Li SIN, Andrea (Andrew) RUSSO

Anniversary: Vera PIONIC, Andrew O'DWYER, DAMINH, Yousif BARETTO, Vittorio VITACCO, Akram and Margaret JOSEPH, Sami BARETTO

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne FENECH, Holy Souls in Purgatory



### Prayer before the Crib

Heavenly Father, as we wonder and hesitate like the Shepherds of Bethlehem, fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in this helpless Babe the revelation of your love, and the radiant vision of your glory.

Filled with wonder at the nearness of our God in Mary's new-born Child, may we now offer Him our praise, worship and thanksgiving, and give Him the love and loyalty of our hearts. Amen.

## OUR PARISH

### Mission Statement

**Proclaiming:** in our daily lives by our words and actions we spread God's love in our families, Parish community, workplace, in the broader community and to the rest of the world.

**Inviting:** welcome and inspire people to share our faith and to actively participate in the life of the Parish and the wider Church.

**Sanctifying:** the Parish provides avenues of support for its members through the sacramental life and spiritual growth opportunities.

**Transforming:** we use our gifts to transform the local and wider community, through engagement in works which create a more just and compassionate society that promotes love and mutual respect.

**John the Baptist Parish**  
**Together we proclaim "Jesus the Good News"**

### NEW PARISHIONERS AND PARISH PLANNED GIVING

If you would like to become a member of the Parish please complete a Parish Registration Form. If you are interested in joining our Parish Planned giving please place your name on the envelope request forms provided. You can also contribute through **Direct Debit** with periodic deductions. These can be organised by filling in a yellow Standing Authority form. All forms are available in the Church alcove or by contacting the Parish Secretary on 9823 2572.

## 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 31 Dec/ 1Jan	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	G Turnbull M Camilleri	S Hely J Finucane	J Mataele M Hourmozi	R Capolupo A Vanderwert
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:</b>	D Vella M Camilleri A Pace	A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	G Dunn S D'Cruz S Hambrook	M Mai G Vanderwert D Pham

## Feasts of the Week



### St Stephen

Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

**Feast Day: December 26**



### St John the Evangelist

First-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.

**Feast Day: December 27**



### The Holy Innocents

Feast of the Holy Innocents, also called Childermas or Innocents' Day, Christian feast in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16-18).

The Catholic Church regards them as the first Christian martyrs.

**Feast Day: December 28**



### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. At first, it was celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the "true model of life" from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort.

**Feast Day: December 30**



### 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.



**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year 2023**



# The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Night

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** *The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.*

### First reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the barb across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

95:1-3, 11-13

#### *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*



### Second reading

Titus 2:11-14

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

Luke 12:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

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

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

#### The Gospel of the Lord



# Christmas Day Mass

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** *A child is born for us, a son given to us; dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

### First reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

#### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

97:1-6. R. v.3

**All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
With the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
Acclaim the King, the Lord.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*



### Second reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

#### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

#### The Gospel of the Lord