



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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Website:

www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Victoria Baltazar

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 2

Monday - No Mass
St Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen, bishops,
doctors

Tuesday - 8:00am
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am
St Raymond of Penyafort,
priest

NEXT SUNDAY

7/8 JANUARY

(The Epiphany of the Lord
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

Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Year A)
31st December & 1st January, 2023

Trust God and respond to the needs with a compassionate heart

A lady on a trans-Atlantic flight in a jet became very upset when they hit strong turbulence. she asked the stewardess, "Are we going to crash?" The Stewardess tried to calm her down, saying, "Don't be afraid. We're all in the hands of God." The lady replied, "Oh, is it that bad?" "No. I mean, it's actually that good...."

Today, the very first day of the New Year, the Roman Catholic Church gives us a feast of Mary. The angel said to Mary: "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." When we read the Gospel passages about Mary, we notice two things in particular about her i.e. her contemplative nature which enables her to completely trust God, and her loving activity towards others. Through the Gospel, we find Mary listening to God as he speaks to her through the angel who tells her that she is to be the mother of Christ. We find her pondering the shepherd's words and the words of the high priest, Simeon in the temple, she pondered them in her prayerful heart. Contemplation is deep listening which enables us to listen well to God wherever He is in life. It then motivates us to respond to the situation with a compassionate and loving heart.

For Christians, love is the greatest commandment of all. It is easy to say we love God but when it comes to concrete situations when we don't get on well with someone then this command to love becomes very difficult. It takes a lot of listening to respond well and wise to such situations. Mary seemed to have that gift. She knew how to respond appropriately to different situations. When her cousin, Elizabeth was to have a child, Mary was there to give a hand. During the wedding at Cana, all she said was simply: "They have no wine," without demanding but a trusting statement of need. Or she was being present at the foot of the Cross when Jesus was crucified.

Let us pray that we may learn from Mary's contemplative wisdom which enable her to trust God and open her heart to the need of others.

Marian Prayer

Catholic prayer is not really directed to Mary in the way that it is directed to God. Rather, in prayer Mary is asked to **pray for** her children to God. Therefore she is seen as an advocate or mediatrix (a feminine form of the word mediator), that is, a go-between, speaking to God on behalf of people. Praying to Mary can be thought of as praying **with** her. Often in prayer people will ask Mary to *intercede* for them so that, because of her, God will look with favour on their prayer. This becomes obvious when we examine the well known Marian prayer, the Hail Mary.

Trivia quiz (ANSWERS IN THIS BULLETIN)

1. Can you name the four mysteries of the Rosary?
2. How many Apparitions of Mary that the Church has judged as authentic do you know?



Mass to honour Servant of God Eileen O'Connor

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor invite you to an annual Mass to mark the anniversary of the death of Eileen O'Connor who is on the path to becoming Australia's next saint.

Date: Tuesday 10 January 2023

Time: 11am

Where: St Brigid's Church

Cnr Brook and Waltham Streets, Coogee

Principal Celebrant: Emeritus Bishop Terence Brady

Summer School of Evangelisation

Sydney 2023, 8-15th January, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW

Summer School is a week long, live in life-changing retreat featuring live music, incredible worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn...and more...in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Register by 15th December to receive earlybird registration.

More info & bookings: summerschool.org.au

For more information contact **Missionaries of God's Love**

Sisters Ph: 0435 527 389 www.mglsisters.org

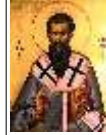
The Christian's Final Journey: Catholic Cemetery and Crematoria and partner, the ACU Centre for Liturgy, are offering a one-day workshop on Catholic funerals on **9 February 2023**. It has been designed for Clergy, Funeral Directors, Bereavement Teams, Pastoral Associates, Parish Secretaries and Family 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 or 02 9701 4751. For more information, and to register, go to www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training

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.

Ministries Next Week 7/8 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino L Krslovic	T Simpson L Ago	M Zangari G Zangari	J Lentini V Arbanas
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	A Jameson C Araco T Micali	D Sullivan J Finucane S Xuereb	E Villegas C Porreca T Nguyen	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook

Feasts of the Week



St Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He was one of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually he decided to become a monk and found a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made bishop of Caesaria. In this post until his death in 379, he continued to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity.

Feast day: January 2



St Gregory Nazianzen was a Doctor of the Church, born at Arianus in Asia Minor, probably in 325, and died in 389. He was the son of Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus (329-374.) After his baptism at 30, Gregory gladly accepted his friend Basil's invitation to join him in a newly founded monastery. The solitude was broken when Gregory's father, a bishop, needed help in his diocese and estate. It seems that Gregory was ordained a priest practically by force, and only reluctantly accepted the responsibility. He skillfully avoided a schism that threatened when his own father made compromises with Arianism. At 41, Gregory was chosen suffragan bishop of Caesarea and like his good friend St. Basil, had a hard time fighting against Arianism and opposing the then-Arian emperor, Valens. It was in Constantinople, where he tried to bring back Christians from Arianism, where he began giving the great sermons on the Trinity for which he is famous. His last days were spent in solitude and austerity. He wrote religious poetry, some of it autobiographical, of great depth and beauty. He was acclaimed simply as "the Theologian."

Feast day: January 2



The Most Holy Name of Jesus Many of the Saints had a great love for the Holy Name of Jesus. Among a few, there was the Apostle Paul, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, St. Dominic, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis de Sales and St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Holy Name of Jesus represents the incarnation of God among men on earth. It is the Name above all names. It is the Most Holy Name that deserves the greatest honour and glories, above all other feasts. Because of our living hope in the Name of "Jesus", we have the assurance of our resurrection and eternal salvation. **Feast Day:** January 3



St Raymond of Penyafort was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age, and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honours and entered the Order of the Dominicans. St. Raymond was very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The brave religious of this Order devoted themselves to saving poor Christians captured by the Moors. Once he went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach about Jesus. King James was a man of great qualities, but he let himself be ruled by passions. There on the Island, too, he was giving bad example. The Saint commanded him to send the woman away. The King said he would, but he did not keep his promise. So St. Raymond decided to leave the Island. The King declared he would punish any ship captain who brought the Saint back to Barcelona. Putting all his trust in God, Saint Raymond spread his cloak upon the water, tied up one corner of it to a stick for a sail, made the Sign of the Cross, stepped onto the cloak, and sailed along for six hours until he reached Barcelona. This miracle moved the King. He was sorry for what he had done, and he became a true follower of St. Raymond. St. Raymond was one hundred years old at the time of his death.

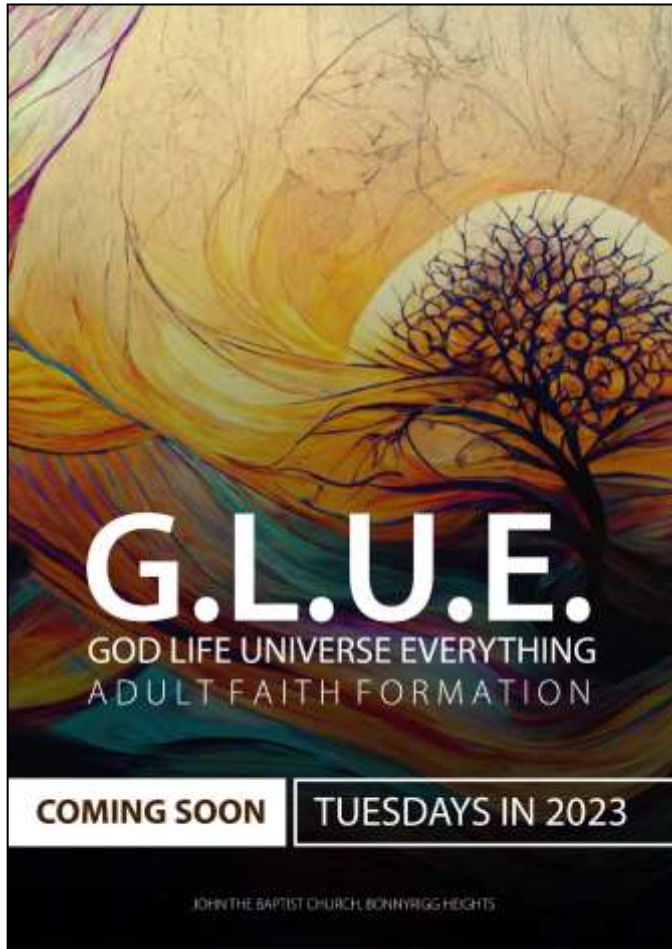
Feast Day: January 7



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

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.



Trivia answers

1. Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous mysteries.
2. There are Four:
Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico 1531),
Our Lady of La'Vang (Vietnam 1798),
Our Lady of Lourdes (France 1858) and
Our Lady of Fatima (Portugal 1917)



THE Catholic Weekly

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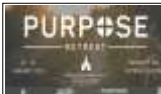


Father, source of light in every age, the virgin conceived and bore Your Son Who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace. May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love, be Your people's joy through all ages. May her response, born of a humble heart, draw Your Spirit to rest on Your people. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Hail Mary is used constantly in the **Rosary**. The history of the Rosary is as follows. St Dominic was the founder of the Order of Preachers known as the Dominicans. As a young man he was known for his intelligence, dedication to his studies and compassion for the poor and underprivileged. As a priest, his life was given to teaching through scholarship and he was active in fighting the heresies or false beliefs that arose in the Church. He is credited with instituting the Rosary, a popular prayer of praise for Mary the Mother of Christ. According to legend, at a time when a destructive heresy, **Albigensianism** was sweeping southern France, Dominic experienced a vision of Mary, the mother of Christ, who presented him with the Rosary and told him to use it in the struggle against false teaching in the Church.

(To Know Worship and Love yr 9 p.225)



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.

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

Sick: Churchill VANDERWERT, Joyce AZZOPARDI, 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: Maria MORASSUT, Amadita BAUTISTA, Lay Li SIN, Andrea (Andrew) RUSSO, Giuseppe & Giuseppina LETTIERI

Anniversary: Edgardo NAVARRO, Marcial NAVARRO, Wenceslao Del VALLE,

Other: Michael GRIMA, FENECH, Jimmy and Maryanne FENECH, Maria & Arcadio NAPULI, Milan DRENOVEC, Giuseppe Petrulla, Carmelo Petrulla, Rosaria & Pasquale Bonariggio, Nicola & Antonia Viterale, Milda Gauci, Gina Milone, Frank Luongo

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 Epiphany of the Lord - (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What might Joseph the carpenter have thought about all the events he witnessed?
- ♦ What can we learn from the response of the shepherds?
- ♦ Where is there lack of peace in your life?
- ♦ How would you directly help to bring about peace around you?

First reading

Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

66:2-3, 5, 6, 8

May God bless us in his mercy.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

May God bless us in his mercy.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

May God bless us in his mercy.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

May God bless us in his mercy.

Second reading

Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:16-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord



A happy heart makes the face
cheerful, but the heartache
crushes the spirit.
(Proverbs 15:13.)

Wishing everyone a
Happy New Year
and a
Safe Holiday.