



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

Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au

Emergency: 0423 420 639

Fr Benjamin Saliba

Email: Benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org

Office:

9823 2572

Email:

info@johnthebaptist.org.au

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 1

Monday - No Mass

The Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

St Hilary, bishop, doctor

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

7/8 JANUARY

(Second Sunday in Ordinary

Time 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 Epiphany of the Lord (Year A)

7th & 8th January, 2023

God's Revelation

John, an avid golfer, came home from the golf course one Saturday. His wife, Mary, asked him with whom he had played that day. He said, "Oh, no one in particular." She asked, "Why don't you play with Bill anymore?" John replied, "Would you like to play golf with someone who throws his clubs, swears all the time, lies about his scores and won't stop talking while your trying to play a shot?" "Of course not!" Mary protested. "Neither does Bill." John replied.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek 'epiphancia', meaning 'manifestation'. After Christmas, we continue to ponder at the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Epiphany symbolises 'the baby born to be King' will rule not by force but by love, reigning not from a throne but from a cross.

The Gospel gives us a wonderful picture of the wise men who were

searchers for the truth. They left their homeland and their families to follow the star to discover the birth of God's Son in Bethlehem. The significance of this from the scriptural point of view is that Christ came for **all** people including the non-Jews. From our point of view the story shows the wise men as people who yearn for the truth by reaching out to seek for it. They were free and flexible. How different they were to Herod who resorted to lies and murder when his plan failed? Like the wise men we are called to search for the truth which sets us free, i.e. constantly seeking for God in prayers, in the way we live our life.



Let us pray that like the wise men who were able to see and recognise that infant Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah, may we be able to recognise Jesus who "will be with us" especially in the Eucharist, and make Him present to others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

528 *The Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world... In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the incarnation. the magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations..

A NEW YEAR.. NEW BEGININGS

A new year is about to unfold, with new opportunities to explore. Doors will open for new experiences, new adventures with the Lord. Remember not the former things, the things of this past year. The Lord will do new things in us, much more than we are aware. For He will make a way for us, as we put our trust in Him, And He will guide our every step, by His presence we have within. What God has placed within our hearts, we find we'll be able to do.

If we look for the opportunities, we'll see the door to go through.

We mustn't let anything hold us back, but rise up and take our place.

And be all that God wants us to be, with a fresh touch of His grace.

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

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY Based on St. Pope John Paul II's theology of the body, the evening will be facilitated by Christopher West and the team, on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. Of value to all but especially married couples and those thinking of getting married. Watch trailer at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfzzK0NmUjQ&ab_channel
Friday, 20 January 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral Hall, St Mary's Road, Sydney or Saturday, 21 January 2023 at All Saints Catholic Parish Hall, 48 George Street, Liverpool. Tickets: \$25; Student/ Concession: \$10; Free entry for children 10 years and under. Adult supervision required for all children under 18 years. Online Booking at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/978896>

Footprints

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord. When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma. "Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I needed You most, You leave me." He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you never, ever, during your trials and tests. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you in my arms."



The Jesse Tree and **poor box** has collected \$6000 which has been sent to victims of flooded in Moree. Thankyou to your generosity, which has help and support some families in the affected areas.



Something to think about.

Why families feel happy at the birth of a baby?
 How the wise men knew that Jesus was a special baby?
 Why the wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh?
 What gift you would bring Jesus if you were one of the wise men?
 Why Herod was unhappy about the birth of Jesus?

Feasts of the Week



The Baptism of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

— Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas

Feast Day: January 9



St Hilary

"They didn't know who they were." This is how Hilary summed up the problem with the Arian heretics of the fourth century.

Hilary, on the other hand, knew very well who he was -- a child of a loving God who had inherited eternal life through belief in the Son

of God. He hadn't been raised as a Christian but he had felt a wonder at the gift of life and a desire to find out the meaning of that gift. He first discarded the approach of many people who around him, who believed the purpose of life was only to satisfy desires. He knew he wasn't a beast grazing in a pasture. The philosophers agreed with him. Human beings should rise above desires and live a life of virtue, they said. But Hilary could see in his own heart that humans were meant for even more than living a good life.

If he didn't lead a virtuous life, he would suffer from guilt and be unhappy. His soul seemed to cry out that wasn't enough to justify the enormous gift of life. So Hilary went looking for the gift giver. He was told many things about the divine -- many that we still hear today: that there were many Gods, that God didn't exist but all creation was the result of random acts of nature, that God existed but didn't really care for his creation, that God was in creatures or images. One look in his own soul told him these images of the divine were wrong. God had to be one because no creation could be as great as God. God had to be concerned with God's creation -- otherwise why create it?

Feast Day: January 13

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 14/15 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis A Pace	L Barilla J Poljak	S Ives M Aulsebrook	A Vanderwert R Capolupo
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	B Empeigne F Bushby A Severi	L Barilla L Agoo Delicia Vella	M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	M Mai G Vanderwert D Pham



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: **Xavier Ngo**, may he always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honour Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles. *Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year, Msgr. Peter J. Elliott, Ignatius Press.*



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.

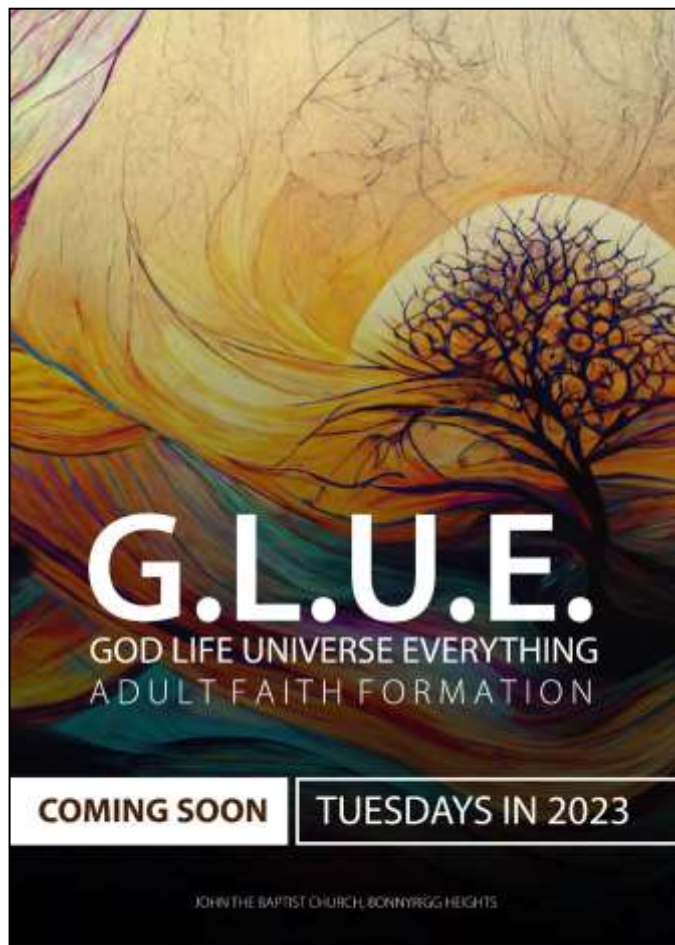
Our speakers are locked in! Check out some of the amazing topics you will hear at our first ever PURPOSE RETREAT!



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. 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.



Our Family - from a parishioner.



Our family is a blessing it means so many things,
words could never really tell the joy our family brings,

Our family is mutual love, the love of dad and mother,
showing children how to love and care for one another.

Our family is heartfelt pride, the feeling deep and strong
that makes us glad to take a part and know that we belong,
Our family is always home, a place where we can share
our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams, for happiness live there.

Our family is a bond of faith that even time can't sever
a gift to last throughout our lives, the family of God is forever.

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, Nollita HERBERT

Recently Deceased: Emeritus pope BENEDICT XVI, Maria MORASSUT, Amadita BAUTISTA, Lay Li SIN,

Anniversary: Wenceslao 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:

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I "search diligently for the child" in my daily life whenever I.....
- ♦ The treasures I readily bring and open to this newborn King are..... the treasures I have a tendency to withhold from him are.....
- ♦ The Light of Christ radiates through me whenever I.....

First reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord

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