



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

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Anthony, abbot

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

St Fabian, ope, martyr

St Sebastian, martyr

Saturday - 9:00am

St Agnes, virgin, martyr

NEXT SUNDAY

21/22 JANUARY

(Third 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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 14th & 15th January, 2023

Be a Witness for Jesus

Upon waking up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?" (she smiles with hope that he husband got the message) "You'll know tonight" he said. That evening, the man came home with a package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it up to find a book titled, 'The Meaning of Dreams'.

In today's Gospel we find John in touch with the Israelites' dream. He introduced Jesus openly to the people that "Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of world." Jesus is the expected Messiah, the one to be followed. "Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God." There is a great hope and joy in finding a saviour and a way to the saviour. Even though John had recognised Jesus as a Messiah but it did not mean that he was exempted from doubt and persecution. While in prison he had doubts as to whether Jesus was really the Messiah, "Or are we to look for another who is to come?" Still he lived to fulfil his role as one who was trying to find and point out the Messiah to others.



The story today reminds us of our vocation which is not a privilege of only priests, brothers and sisters but for everyone who has been baptised. Through baptism we are called by Jesus in a unique way. "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.... I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God."

Let us pray that we'll be witnesses for Jesus in our daily lives through the way we live out our faith which will lead others to Him.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

523 St John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. 'Prophet of the Most High', John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being 'the friend of the bridegroom', whom he points out as 'the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'. Going before Jesus 'in spirit and power of Elijah', John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

Thought of the week:

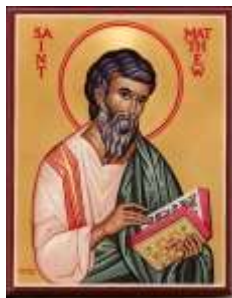
Remember that there are two kinds of lunatics:
those who don't know that they must die, and
those who have forgotten that they're alive.

Patrick Declerk

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.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfzzK0NmUjQ&ab_channel=Friday%2C+20+January+2023+at+St+Mary's+Cathedral+Hall%2C+St+Mary's+Road%2C+Sydney+or+Saturday%2C+21+January+2023+at+All+Saints+Catholic+Parish+Hall%2C+48+George+Street%2C+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>

This liturgical year is Cycle A, most of the Gospel readings will be from The Gospel of Matthew.

Tradition ascribes this gospel to the Apostle Matthew. It is written for 'second generation Christians' perhaps by a Jewish convert to Christianity who was familiar with the Jewish law and traditions, the writings of the prophets and with the hopes of the Jewish people for a Messiah. The gospel was possibly written after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70. It is uncertain where it was written, but most scholars think that the place of its composition was the city of Antioch in Syria, to which many Jewish-Christians had fled after the destruction of Jerusalem. The author of the gospel frequently refers to Jewish Law, Jewish Scripture and traditions, which suggests that he is writing primarily for Jewish converts to Christianity. Jesus is shown as the Messiah for Israel waited, and at other times as new Moses who brings a new Law for the Christian communities.



Matthew's gospel was written in a period of settling down for the Christian community. The Jewish Christian had separated from their fellow Jews, and they no longer attended synagogue as they had in the earlier years of Christianity. The threat of immediate persecution had passed, but there may have been conflict in the community between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. In this settling down period, the early Church was beginning to put together what it believed about its life and mission. One of the first Trinitarian formulas in the New Testament is given to us in Matthew's gospel, probably a formula used in baptism in this early Christian community. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Mt 18:19.

- 1- Prologue: the birth of the Messiah chapters 1-2
- 2- The New Law: chapters 3-7
- 3 - Christian Discipleship chapters 8-10
- 4 - The Reign of God, chapters 11-13
- 5- The Church: the beginning of the Kingdom Chapters 14-18
- 6 - Judgement: chapters 19-23
- 7- Epilogue: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Chapters 26-28

To know, worship and love, Year 10, p 15

Catholic Weekly

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

Ministries Next Week 21/22 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	M Camilleri G Turnbull	T Simpson S Hely	V Buhajiar M Hourmozi	A Vanderwert J Lentini
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	T Vartuli A Vlahadamis D Vella	A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	N Laureti G Dunn S D'Cruz	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook

Jesus Promise of a New Life

In the Gospels we learn about the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus promised that he would never leave his followers. At Mass we remember and celebrate his presence among us. We say: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. These words help us remember that Jesus lived among us, that we share his life now, and that we look forward to the time when he will come again to gather us into God's Kingdom. We hear about the message of New Life he preached. As follower of Jesus we are asked to believe in him and to respond. At Baptism our journey of faith begins. During that journey we express our belief in Jesus and take up the invitation to share in his new life of grace. Whenever we live out Jesus' law of love, we show our love for God and other people. If we live in this way, Jesus promises that after death we will share the fullness of life with God forever, which we call Heaven.

(from To Know, Worship and Love - Year 4 - Pages 136-137)

Feasts of the Week



St Anthony the Abbot was born in Egypt in the 3rd century AD. Following the death of his parents when he was about 20, Anthony insured that his sister completed her education, then he sold his house, furniture, and the land he owned and gave the proceeds to the poor. He was a very spiritual person who believed in living the Jesus life. He became a hermit and lived alone. When people eventually found him, he moved even further away, eating only bread and water, praying, fasting and wearing skins as clothing. Wise men from as far away as Greece sought his guidance. Some were healed physically, many were comforted by his words and others stayed to learn from him. He founded two monasteries on the Nile. He lived until 105 years of age, becoming the most famous monk of ancient Christendom, a noble example of an ascetic life of austerity, sacrifice and extreme solitude.

Feast Day: January 17



St Fabian Pope Fabian born in 200AD in Rome, Italy. He was the bishop of Rome from 10 January 236 to his death on 20 January 250. He is famous for the miraculous nature of his election, in which a dove is said to have descended on his head to mark him as the Holy Spirit's unexpected choice to become the next pope. Being reminded of the Baptism of our Lord, the council elected Fabian Pope.

Feast Day: January 20



St Sebastian was born in Narbonne, France in 256AD. He was a captain in the Praetorian Guard. An early Christian saint and martyr, he was sentenced to die via bow and arrow for being a Christian. Left for dead he eventually healed only to be martyred again by the emperor, beaten to death by clubs and thrown into the sewers. His body was recovered by a Christian woman, named Lucina, and she secretly buried him in the catacombs beneath Rome. Nearly 80 years after his death, around 367, his remains were moved to a basilica in Rome. His body, or at least some relics from his body were reportedly removed and shared with a community of monks in France. His cranium was sent to a German monastery where it was placed in a special silver case in 934. The relics remains in its case today in a special reliquary in Ebersberg.

Feast Day: January 20



St Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death! Because Agnes refused to marry, she was sentenced to death. She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January, 304. She is one of seven women who, along with the Blessed Virgin, are commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. Her emblem is a lamb.

Feast Day: January 21



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

Catechists Gathering 2023

Catechists and helpers are invited to the Catechists Gathering organised by the CCD.

Date: Friday 27 January 2023

Time: 9:45am — 2:00pm

Location: St. Joachim's Parish Hall 2 Mills St, Lidcombe NSW

Schedule: 9.45am: Coordinators meeting

10.30am: Morning tea *

11.00am: Bishop's welcoming and blessing

11.15am: Workshop with Anne-Marie

12.00pm: Lunch *

12.30pm: Director's message

12.45pm: Workshop with Anne-Marie

1.30pm: Q & A

*Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Guest speaker is Anne-Marie Irwin. She is an educator based in Sydney, Australia. She has taught in Catholic and independent schools for over 35 years. Anne-Marie is a religious education consultant. She is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney and founder of the SALT Approach. The SALT (Scripture and Liturgy Teaching) is an approach to teaching religious education in Catholic Primary Schools built on the work of Maria Montessori and Sophia Cavalletti.

To register your attendance visit:

forms.office.com/r/Pn82DahWSD RSVP is essential or contact office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au by Friday 20th January 2023



The Jesse Tree and poor box has collected \$6000 which has been sent to the victims of flooded areas in Moree.

Thankyou to your generosity, which has help and support some families in the affected areas.



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.



COMING SOON

TUESDAYS IN 2023

JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS



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!

The Catholic Weekly

In this week's edition:

Special Tribute Edition: Vale Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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

Sick: Pamela MARTIN, Ivy FERNANDES, Royala & Gayle, Michael, 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: Cardinal George PELL, Emeritus Pope BENEDICT XVI, Anton Van Hai NGUYEN, Maria MORASSUT, Amadita BAUTISTA, Giuseppe & Giuseppina LETTIERI

Anniversary: Mousa Ayed HADDAD

Other: Anita WILSON, Terese Rose HADDAD, Jeries Ayed HADDAD, Ayed HADDAD, Jahlila HADDAD, Giuseppe PETRULLA, Carmelo PETRULLA & Family, Rosario & Pasquale PETRULLA, Pasquale & Rosa LETTIERI & Family, Giovanni & Carmella BONARIGGIO, Nicola & Antonia VITERALE & Family, Milda GAUCI, Gina MILONE, Frank LUONGO, Angelo PELLEGRINO, Benito MAZZEO, Giovanni GOTTARDO, Rafaele CAFASSO, Franco VIERALE, and all the Souls of the faithfully departed, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita



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:

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ John identifies Jesus as "Lamb of God" and "Son of God." Of all Jesus' titles, I am most comfortable coming to him as..... because
- ♦ Like John, I have grown in my understanding of who Jesus is; some stories of my growth are.....
- ♦ The way I testify to other of my understanding of Jesus' identity is.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified';
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of
Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

John 1:14, 12

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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