



# 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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## Office:

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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 2

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Sts Cyril, monk and

Methodius, bishop

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

The Seven Holy Founders of  
the Servite Order

Saturday - 9:00am

## NEXT SUNDAY

18/19 FEBRUARY

(Seventh 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

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

11th & 12th February, 2023

## Know God's love

A returning summer tourist spoke of "visiting" with a group of native Vermonters who sat for an hour without speaking a word. Finally, the tourist asked, "Is it against the law to talk around here?" One of the natives replied: "No, but there's an understanding. No one's to speak unless he is sure he can improve on the silence."

In today's gospel we are told, "Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them." Furthermore, Jesus adds, "If your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven." The Pharisees and leaders had reduced religion to over 600 laws which people have to strictly observe. There were laws to cover every aspect of one's life. The criterion for good and bad was strictly following the law. If it was legal then it was good; if it was against the law then it was bad (very black and white). Therefore, Jesus wanted to remind us that we have to start our religion, faith and life with the fact that God loves us, no matter who we are and what we do. In the face of this love we are called to respond with love. So the source of our behaviour must not be fear of the law and the sanctions that go with it but an internal conviction of love.



Some of us have been brought up, especially in the Roman Catholic tradition, with a morality based on fear and do what you are told. We were told that the breach of certain laws was a mortal sin and that it was punishable by eternity in hell. I can recall once as a young boy after I had missed a Sunday Mass, I could not sleep that night for fear if I die during the night I might go to hell. Later I understood better that my motive should be the joy of coming to the church to worship our loving Father. It is important that I know my intention when I do something (is it out of love that I do it or something else).

Let us pray that we shall always respond well to God's love and may our loving hearts help us to see life and people the way Jesus would see.

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

2302 By recalling the commandment, 'You shall not kill', our Lord asked for peace of heart, and denounced murderous anger and hatred as immoral. Anger is a desire for revenge. 'To desire vengeance in order to do evil to someone who should be punished is illicit', but it is praiseworthy to impose restitution 'to correct vices and maintain justice'. If anger reaches the point of a deliberate desire to kill or seriously wound a neighbour it is gravely against charity; it is a mortal sin. The Lord says, 'Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgement.'

Life is the flower for which love is the honey

## 'COME & SEE' ~ SEMINARY OPEN DAY

Thinking about Priesthood? Want to know more about Seminary Life and Formation?

**Sunday 19 February**

Seminary of the Good Shepherd  
52-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush

The day will include prayer, conversations with seminarians and priests, talks with information about the studies required of men training for the priesthood and a guided tour around the Seminary. Brunch will be provided.

For more information, please visit us at [vocationcentre.org.au](http://vocationcentre.org.au) or contact us at the Vocation Centre on 02 9307 8424 or email [vocations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocations@sydneycatholic.org) |

Online Registration Form for Catering Purposes:  
<https://forms.glerhYT6ZupMj47RL7G7>

**Please RSVP by Wednesday 15 February 2023. Every enquirer's details are kept confidential.**



### THE ASCENSION PRAYER GROUP

Our next meeting will be held on  
**Thursday 16th February.**

Guest speaker is Maria Hynch. Maria is a teacher and prayer group Leader of Holy Family Fellowship at Varroville.  
For further details contact Susan 0415 342 672 or Trudi 0414 608 538.

Followed by **Lenten program from 23rd February.**

### LENT 2023 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23>  
Go to BruceDownes.org for more info

### 2023 GALA FOR LIFE

**A biennial event to help raise awareness for pregnancy help agencies.**

**Saturday 18 February 2023**

6-11pm  
Cabra-Vale Diggers Club  
1 Bartley Street, Canley Vale

Keynote speakers include Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Meagher and President of Pregnancy Help Australia, Lara Malin Wynyard

Buy your tickets and find out more here

<https://galaforlife.com.au/>



### 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.

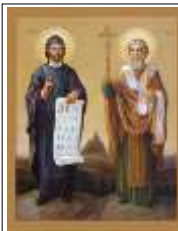
Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or

[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.



Men put faith on display. To join the men's group or to find out more, email [jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au) or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520

## Feasts of the Week



### Sts Cyril and Methodius

Cyril and Methodius, the apostles of the Slavs, were brothers who hailed from Thessalonica. After receiving an excellent education, they were sent by the Eastern Emperor Michael III (842-856) into the kingdom of Grand-Moravia; through great effort and in spite of tremendous difficulties they converted the Slavonic nations. They translated the Bible into Slavonic and

devised a kind of writing called glagolitic, which even to the present day is used in the liturgical services of some Eastern rites.

In 867 the two brothers came to Rome, were met by Pope Hadrian II (867-872) and the whole papal court. They gave a report of their labours but encountered opposition on the part of jealous clergy who took offense, it was said, because of their liturgical innovations. Cyril and Methodius explained their methods and from the Pope himself received episcopal consecration (868). Soon after, Cyril died at Rome, only forty-two years old, and was buried in St. Peter's; later his body was transferred to San Clemente, where his remains still rest. His funeral resembled a triumphal procession.

Methodius returned to Moravia and laboured as a missionary among the Hungarians, Bulgarians, Dalmatians, and the inhabitants of Carinthia. Falling again under suspicion, he returned to Rome and defended the use of the Slavonic language in the liturgy. The Pope bestowed upon him the dignity of archbishop. After his return to Moravia, he converted the duke of Bohemia and his wife, spread the light of faith in Bohemia and Poland, is said to have gone to Moscow (after the erection of the See of Lemberg), and to have established the diocese of Kiev. After his return he died in Bohemia and was buried in the Church of St. Mary at Velehrad, the services being conducted in Greek, Slavonic, and Latin.

**Feast Day: February 14**



### The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

In 1240, seven noblemen of Florence mutually decided to withdraw from the prosperous city which was torn from political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari,

who believed that physical reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless. They became bound to each other in a spiritual friendship that were eventually called by the Virgin Mother of God in a vision that they reportedly all shared in one and the same moment (though a first each was unaware that the other saw what he saw). They went to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God, whom they practised an intense devotion towards, to 'Leave the World, the Better to Serve Almighty God'. Their initial difficulty was providing for their dependents, since two were still married and two were widowers.

Their aim was to lead a life of penance and prayer, but they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin. Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in parochial work, teaching, preaching, and other ministerial activities.

**Feast Day: February 17**

Ministries Next Week 18/19 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	G Turnbull A Pace	S Hely J Finucane	J Mataele M Hourmozi	J Lentini A Vanderwert
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:</b>	A Vlahadamis D Vella M Camilleri	D Sullivan J Finucane S Xuereb	S D'Cruz S Hambrook E Villegas	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.

### Enrolment for Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Enrolments are open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion program commencing 27 February. All children who are baptised and in grades 4-6 are welcome to enrol. Enrolments will close on 12th February.

Please visit this website link or scan the QR Code to register your child.

Visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/CFNBY>



The Enrolment Night took place on Tuesday 7 February 2023.

Any questions please call Tamara on 0424 166 248.

### CATECHIST NEWS

I wish to welcome 5 new catechist/helpers to our wonderful Catechist ministry, Bianca Rizzo, Kim Ha, Dalia Toma, Cathy Fontanot and Thu Pham.

We still need **3** catechists to teach the classes:

1 at Green Valley Primary on Wednesdays at 2pm

2 at Governor Phillip King Primary - Kindy at 9am and Yr 3 at 9.30am on Tuesdays.

If you are interested please contact me on 0408465149

The **FIRST Catechist meeting for 2023 is next WEDNESDAY 15th Feb - starting with Mass at 7pm and then meeting to follow.** All please try to attend.

Together in Christ  
Nina Laureti

### Lenten Program

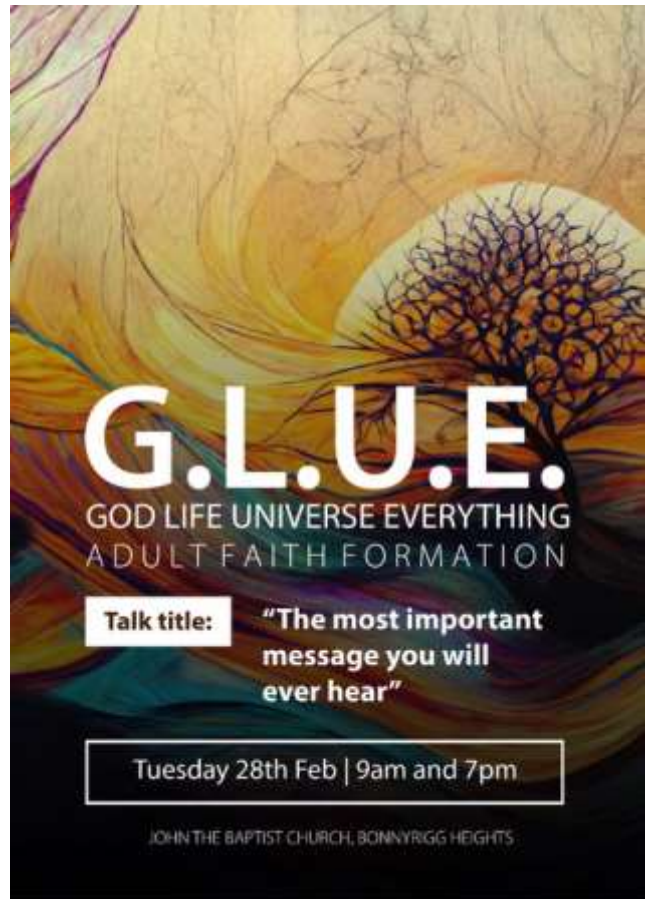
Lent begins next week (Ash Wednesday 22nd February) and this will be a great opportunity for us to prepare ourselves, through prayer and to experience Christ's Passion more deeply.



#### We have Lenten Companion

**2023 booklet "SPIRIT AND TRUTH"** The Power of Christ Revealed, published by Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney available for you to pick up on the table outside. Please feel free to use it by yourself, with your family members or forming a group. If you would like to join or organise Lenten Group this year, please contact Fr Dominic.

**Catholic Mission Thank you** for supporting the 2022 Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. Your generosity has provided support to families from disadvantaged backgrounds through programs like the Deberety Goat Rearing Centre in Ethiopia. This Centre will provide nutritious milk for families in most need, to help reverse and prevent health problems like malnutrition. Our parish raised \$505.



Talk title:

**"The most important message you will ever hear"**

Tuesday 28th Feb | 9am and 7pm

JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS

"Advantaged Care at Edensor Park is an aged care home. In addition to Fr Ben's weekly visits, the manager is in need of volunteers to spend time with residents. If you want to know more please contact Kerriane on - 9774 6777. If you would like any formation on pastoral care of the sick or elderly please contact Fr Dominic or Fr Ben."

**KINDY WELCOME MASS**  
**Sunday 19th February at 10:00am**  
All welcome.



### PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 18 & 19 FEBRUARY



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations.**

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

Sick: Emanuele GULLO, Dominic EMPEIGNE, Essa, Pamela MARTIN, Ivy FERNANDES, Royala & Gayle, Michael, Brian AULSEBROOK, Theresa MERCECA, Avelino San BUENAVENTURA, Guiseppina ANDRONACO, Mariola, Rita DALLI, Alexander (Sandy) ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, John DEMICOLI, Judy DIVANI, 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: Elvira Yu Oh SY, Dianne SALTER, Rosario CRUZ, Lolita ORTEGA, Luigi Di APOLO, Liam CANTARELLA, Francisco PALMERO, Bozana VUKOV, Baby Angelique, Sam FENECH

Anniversary: Courtney Jayde TOPIC, Francis XAVIER, Margaret JOSEPH, Antonio and Nancy COSTA

Other: 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:

### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I find myself living by the letter of the law when..... What frees me to live the spirit of the law is.....
- ♦ A fuller way I am called to relate to those around me is.....
- ♦ I choose life when..... I choose goodness when..... I choose justice when.....

## First reading

### A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.  
He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.  
Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given him.  
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.  
His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.  
He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

### Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!  
They are happy who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts.

### Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes.

### Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may see  
the wonders of your law.

### Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart.

### Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

## Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.*

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

## The word of the Lord Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

## Sirach 15:15-20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery*. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal*. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord*. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## The Gospel of the Lord



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