



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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Fr Benjamin Saliba

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9823 2572

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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 3

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Peter Damien, bishop,
doctor

Wednesday 9:00am and
7:00pm

Ash Wednesday

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

25/26 FEBRUARY

(First Sunday of Lent 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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

18th & 19th February, 2023

Forgive

A young man in the village had been badly insulted, and he hurried to his pastor to tell him about it, adding that he was going immediately to his offender and avenge his honour. *"Better go home, son,"* said the pastor, kindly. *"But I've been insulted!"* protested the young man. *"That's exactly why you should go home at this time. An insult is like mud."* *"I know that...and I'm going to clean it up."* *"Son, there is one thing you might as well learn now than later. Mud brushes off a lot more easily when it is dry."*

In the Gospel today, Jesus said to his disciples: *"You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well."* The question of forgiveness is a most crucial one for all of us. That is why it is the most central, novel and challenging aspect of Christ's teaching. He talks about the need to forgive not just seven times but seventy times seven times. He teaches us to pray, *"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."* He gives us the example of forgiveness from the Cross: *"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do."* This is also the issue in the stories of healing of the blind and the paralysed. Our blindness and paralysis come from the bitterness and lack of forgiveness that is with in us.

Carl Jung, the Psychologist, said that many people are suffering enormously now because they failed to suffer little things in the past. A person is hurt: he or she does not accept and deal with the hurt. It lies in the heart. Because of this the joys of the next day cannot be received and enjoyed. So the pile up continues. The doors of the heart are clogged. Only bitterness is experienced. *"For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not?"*

Let us pray that with the grace of God we can entrust all of our burden, grudges, hurt and anger in his hand and we will try to be more forgiving and understanding so that we can live our life in peace and love with others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2262 In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord recalls the commandment, "You shall not kill," and adds to it the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance. Going further, Christ asks his disciples to turn the other cheek, to love their enemies. He did not defend himself and told Peter to leave his sword in its sheath.

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.

Lewis B. Smedes





Ash Wednesday Mass times

9:00am - With John the Baptist School attending

11:00am - with Freeman Catholic College (Liturgy only)

7:00pm - Parish Mass



FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence (from items made with meat - includes all the Fridays of Lent) binds those who have completed their 14th year (CCL 97, 1251-52).



The Season of Lent

Lent is the most appropriate time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. Already on Ash Wednesday the people of God have heard the solemn invitation, *Turn away from sin and believe the Good News*. It is therefore fitting to have several penitential celebrations during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbour and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts. RP13. The Sacrament of Penance is better celebrated before rather than after the Easter Triduum. *ORDO 2016*

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.



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

Ministries Next Week 25/26 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino L Krslovic	L Agoo T Simpson	M Aulsebrook J Mataele	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	A Pace A Jameson C Araco	L Barilla L Agoo Delicia Vella	C Porreca T Nguyen M Aulsebrook	



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.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **"The future starts today, not tomorrow."**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.



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



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held during Lent commencing Friday 24th February at 7.00pm in the Church, on First Friday of the month 3rd March Stations will be held at 6:00pm.



THE ASCENSION PRAYER GROUP

Lenten program from 23rd February.

For further details contact Susan 0415 342 672 or Trudi 0414 608 538.



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.

Feasts of the Week



St Peter Damian

Peter was born in Italy in 1007. When his parents died, he went to live with one of his older brothers, who treated him cruelly. Sometimes Peter was forbidden to eat any of his brother's food. Another brother helped solve the problem by giving Peter money so that he could afford to go away to school. Peter did so well in school that he became a professor when he was only 25. Peter became a priest and then a Benedictine monk. He spent his days in prayer and study. After a short time Peter was elected abbot, or superior, of the community. Although this new responsibility took Peter away from his quiet life, he was an excellent leader. Peter was ordained the bishop of Ostia, a diocese near Rome. As bishop, Peter worked to solve problems in his diocese and to remind his priests of their mission. Pope Stephen X recognized Peter's gifts and asked him to represent the Church in settling disputes and helping to stop practices that were preventing the Church from doing Christ's work in the world. As a monk, a bishop, and a saint, Peter Damian lived one of the Benedictine Rules completely: "Do not prefer anything to the love of Christ." He died in 1072 and is considered to be a Doctor of the Church. St. Peter Damian helps us to remember that if we put Jesus first in our lives, the Lord will always guide us in living as his faithful disciples.

Feast Day: February 21



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:

Julia Werner



May she always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout her life.

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.



Now enrolling for Year 7, 2025

Freeman Catholic College

"Proclaim the Good News"

Please register your attendance via the QR code.

OPEN DAY

Wednesday 1 March, 2023

4pm to 7.30pm



CATECHIST NEWS

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

Together in Christ
Nina Laureti

G.L.U.E.
GOD LIFE UNIVERSE EVERYTHING
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Talk title: "The most important message you will ever hear"

Tuesday 28th Feb | 9am and 7pm

JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOMERBYGG HEIGHTS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are in need of volunteers to help out with our Children's Liturgy at 10:00am Mass. The commitment would be once a month. Please contact Angela on 9606 8403 if you can help.

"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."



Open Day

Saturday 11th March 2023
11am - 1pm

The Good Samaritan Community extends an invitation to prospective parents and students wishing to enrol for Year 7, 2025.

401 Horton Park Rd, Hinchinbrook NSW 2185
Phone: 02 9625 9955
www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au

Newman Selective
GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Journeying with Compassion
Celebrating 25 years



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

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

Sick: Dominic EMPEIGNE, Essa, Pamela MARTIN, Ivy FERNANDES, Royala & Gayle, Michael, Brian AULSEBROOK, Theresa MERCIECA, 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: Emanuele GULLO, Elvira Yu Oh SY, Dianne SALTER, Rosario CRUZ, Lolita ORTEGA, Luigi Di APOLO, Liam CANTARELLA, Francisco PALMERO, Bozana VUKOV, Baby Angeliqne

Anniversary: Ferdinando "Curly" BARILLA, Teddy TAMAYO

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita and for the forgotten Souls in Purgatory



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:

First Sunday of Lent - (Year A)

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I find myself wanting an "eye for an eye" when..... What helps me turn the other cheek is.....
- ♦ I find it easy to love my "neighbour" when..... I find it difficult to love my enemies because.....
- ♦ I struggle with the thought that I am holy because..... with that in mind I am perfect as God in heaven because.....

First reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them:

"Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 10, 12-13

102:1-4, 8,

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

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

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why?

Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: *The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are;* or again: *God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.* So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: *Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.* But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord

