



# 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 1

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Autumn Ember Day

Saturday - 9:00am

### NEXT SUNDAY

4/5 MARCH

(Second 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

First Sunday of Lent (Year A)  
25th & 26th February, 2023

## Be content & rejoice

During Lunar New Year recently, I received many cards and good wishes from friends, among them there was one which said, *"May you be successful in whatever you do and have all the things that you wish for to make you happy."* It was a nice summary of the values of this world with which we are all imbued. We see happiness as coming from things and achievements (true but short lived), whereas real happiness comes only from the transcendence of our desires, ambitions and expectations in order to fulfill God's will.

In the Gospel today, the First Sunday of the season of Lent we see how Jesus struggled with these temptations. Firstly, *"If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves."* Jesus is tempted to change stones into bread that is not to accept the limitations of being human but to use his 'divine power' to achieve possessions in a short-cut way. Secondly, *"If you are the Son of God throw yourself down."* Satan tempted Jesus to jump from the temple and win the adulation of the crowds. There are many people who would do anything to be known and praised by others. Thirdly, *"I will give you all these, if you fall at my feet and worship me."* Jesus is tempted with power. Hunger for power is apparent in the world around us, when people want to control and dominate each other. We all are tempted to cling on to what the world claims as success, fame and power. These temptations create expectations that cannot but fail to satisfy our deepest needs. As long as we live within the delusions of the world we will continue to be discontented.



Let us take a moment during this Lent season to enjoy all the gifts which God has given us here and now - our life, our health, our family, our intellect etc. May we be contented and rejoice in who we are.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

2847: The Holy Spirit makes us discern between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a 'delight to the eyes' and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death.

**Don't have negative thoughts or things you cannot control.  
Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.**



## FASTING & ABSTINENCE

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

## Pope Francis' catechesis at his weekly General Audience:

Ash Wednesday, begins our Lenten journey of penance, prayer and conversion in preparation for the Church's annual celebration of the saving mysteries of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. In these days the Church asks us to ponder with joy and gratitude God's immense love revealed in the paschal mystery and to live ever more fully the new life we have received in Baptism. This journey of spiritual renewal in the footsteps of Christ also calls us to acknowledge and respond to the growing spiritual and material poverty in our midst. Specifically, it means consciously resisting the pressure of a culture which thinks it can do without God, where parents no longer teach their children to pray, where violence, poverty and social decay are taken for granted.

May this Lent, then, be a time when, as individuals and communities, we heed the words of the Gospel, reflect on the mysteries of our faith, practice acts of penance and charity, and open our hearts ever more fully to God's grace and to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis went on to reflect on three aspects of the Christian proclamation: why, what, and how to proclaim.

Jesus, he said, lays out the "why" in a few succinct words: "Freely you have received, freely give." God's freely given love fills us and we are naturally impelled to share that love with others.



## THE ASCENSION PRAYER GROUP

### Lenten program from 23rd February.

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

## 24 hour for the Lord Event at Schoenstatt, Mulgoa

Come and spend some time with Our Lord and Our Lady in the Schoenstatt Shrine:

Friday 17 March 6pm Mass, then Reconciliation 7:15 - 10.00pm. On Saturday Reconciliation 10am-12pm, and 3-4.45pm with a Vigil Mass at 5pm. The Shrine will be welcoming people for prayer for the full 24 Hours. Groups to lead prayer are welcome. Contact [paulandramani@gmail.com](mailto:paulandramani@gmail.com)

## SISTERHOOD CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Sisterhood conference is a weekend for women aged 18 + to grow in their faith and encounter a community of like minded Catholic women committed to their faith.

The conference will be held at The Tops Conference Centre at Stanwell Tops 17-19th March. This is a live in weekend. Places are limited. For more information visit [www.sisterhood.org.au](http://www.sisterhood.org.au)

Ministries Next Week 4/5 March	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	A Vlahadamis G Turnbull	L Barilla J Finucane	S Ives N Laureti	J Lentini V Arbanas
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:</b>	T Micali B Empeigne T Vella	A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	R Hibbs J Habib N Laureti	R Imbert M Abdal S Cook



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 25TH & 26TH FEBRUARY



Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.



## Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



## 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.

- This is the link to the **Metropolitan Vinnies Schools and Youth Newsletter Term 1 2023:** <https://bit.ly/Term-1-Vinnies-Metro-Schools-News>

- The 2023 edition of the **Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP)** for students in Years 4 – 6 is available for those who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>



## 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.

# Feasts of the Week



## Autumn Ember Day

Ember days have been kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century, and mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. Vatican Council II retained ember days in principle, but

left it to bishops conferences to determine the extent and form of their observance. (The name 'ember' is similar in derivation to the German Quatember, 'quarter day'; the Irish used to speak of Quarter Tense.) The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has now decided that the Australian Church should observe the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance. On rogation and ember days the practice of the Church is to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to give God public thanks (GNLYC 45).

**Feast Day: March 3**





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



**RCIA:** We ask that you please pray for our Catechumens Teresa Moreno, Daniel Bushby, Sylvia Kouch, Jonathan Lowe, Michael Tran, Thuy Quach, Kevin Quang Vuong and Matthew Laupepa, who will be attending the Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral this Sunday.

**RECONCILIATION:** We ask you to pray for our Reconciliation Candidates attending their Commitment Masses this weekend in preparation for this beautiful Sacrament.



#### Jordan Youth Group - Volunteers Needed

Jordan Youth Group invites Yrs 5-7 students to come together to learn, engage and pray as a community.

The group will meet once a month in the Parish hall on a Saturday between 3:30pm - 5:00pm. If there is anyone in the community who is interested in running or assisting this group please contact Silvana on 0417197357 or Tina 0439492920. All training, lessons and resources will be provided. Letters to students attending John the Baptist and our local public schools will be sent out shortly with additional information about this group. It is hoped the first group meeting will take place on March the 25th.



**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.

#### Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

WEB: [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)



 Palms Australia



#### Marriage Enrichment Weekend

*Learn to live your best life in love!*

**Join us on 14-16 April 2023**

**At Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**  
*a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.*

**Book online at** [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

or contact **Christine & Terry Mahony on**

**0490 774 419**

or Email: [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)



"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."



**Now enrolling for Year 7, 2025**



#### 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 2158  
Phone: 02 9825 9955  
[www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au](http://www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au)



**Journeying with Compassion**  
**Celebrating 25 years**



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

Sick: Leilah DANIEL, 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: Emanuele GULLO, Elvira Yu Oh SY, Dianne SALTER, Rosario CRUZ, Lolita ORTEGA, Luigi Di APOLO, Liam CANTARELLA

Anniversary: Angela OLIVERI, Francesca GULLO

Other: Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita and for all the 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:

### Second Sunday of Lent - (Year A)

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The temptations most prevalent today in the world are.....
- ♦ The Lenten practices I have chosen strengthen me against these temptations by.....
- ♦ What temptation has taught me about human vulnerability is.....  
What temptation has taught me about dependency upon God is.....

## First reading

### A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

### *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

## Second reading

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law

## Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

## Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

## Matthew 4:1-11

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

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

*Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

*He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

*You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

*You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'*

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

## The Gospel of the Lord

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