



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

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9823 2572

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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 2

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

11/12 MARCH

(Third 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

Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)

4th & 5th March, 2023

God's glorious presence

On a mountain climbing expedition, an Australian guide warned the tourists, "Be especially careful not to fall, this is a dangerous place. But if you do fall," he added nonchalantly, "remember to look to the right, the view is absolutely beautiful."

St Matthew tells us in today's Gospel that 'Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain. He was transfigured before them.' They were overcome with joy. This was to be a beautiful memory that would sustain them in the more difficult times ahead. Peter wanted to build 'three dwellings' to freeze the moment of presence. The poet William Blake said, "He who binds himself to a joy, does the winged life destroy, but he who kisses the joy as it flies, lives in eternity's sunrise."

On the mountain Jesus gave the three disciples a glimpse of his inner glory. He was the new Moses - the new law-giver. He was the new Isaiah the one who spoke the word of God. He was the word made flesh, the God who had come among us, in whom the Father was well pleased. On this event the true nature of Jesus is shown in order to strengthen and sustain his disciples' faith in him.



Lent invites us to experience God's glorious presence through prayers and conversion. Maybe we do not always fully recognise our mountaintop experiences, we write them off as insignificant and trivial compared with all the important and urgent things we have to do. Still, Jesus wants us to see his glory, so that we can cling to that experience in moments of doubt, despair or anguish.

Let us pray that we will be attentive to Jesus' presence within us and around us and may this experience transform our moments of suffering, fear, sickness and even death into moments of hope, joy and Christ's resurrection.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

556... the Transfiguration 'is the sacrament of the second regeneration': our own resurrection. From now on we share in the Lord's resurrection through the Spirit who acts in the sacraments of the Body of Christ. The transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he 'will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body.' But it also recalls that 'it is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God'.

Something to give up for lent:

Give up harsh words: use gentle ones.

Give up anger: take up peace.

Give up pessimism: take up hope.

Give up complaining: value what you already have.

Give up bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion.

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up condemning others: discover Jesus within them.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.



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).



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.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance.

We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.

Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.

Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.



Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College.

We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as **John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options**

For more information contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au

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

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 4TH & 5TH MARCH



Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community.

Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

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, or by calling 1800 024 413.

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. How many parables did Jesus tell in the Gospel of Matthew?
2. What is the meaning of Peter's name?
3. What is the fifth commandment?



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

or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on
0490 774 419

or Email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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



Palms Australia



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.

| Ministries Next Week 11/12 March | Sat 5.30 pm | Sun 8.00 am | Sun 10 am | Sun 5:30 pm |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| READERS: | J Victorino M Camilleri | J Poljak L Ago | V Buhajiar E Villegas | J Lentini A Vanderwert |
| Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST: | F Bushby A Severi T Vartuli | D Sullivan J Finucane S Xuereb | G Dunn S D'Cruz S Hambrook | 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:

Reuben Newell

May he always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.



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.

Thankyou

Youth Group Coordinators



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.



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

Something to think about.

The traditional focuses in Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The three go together. Prayer is essential to the Christian life because in prayer we open ourselves to the presence of God and God leads us to be more aware of others. One good way to pray is to take the Lenten Sunday Gospel and use it as a basis for prayer throughout the week. The word of God becomes formative in our lives.

Fasting is not popular but it is a way of denying our selfish ambitions and desires and again making us more sensitive to the needs of others. The true Lenten fast is a fast from sin and selfishness and this finds expression in a fast from food and drink.



To be sensitive to others leads us, both individually and as communities, to want to do something for those in need. Almsgiving is about giving freely and generously of what we have and sharing with others whose quality of life may be less than our own.



OPEN DAYS

6 March 2023 5.30-6.30pm
9 March 2023 9.30-10.45am

Catholic Weekly

Is available to purchase for \$2.00.

Please place the money in the poor box.



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 2188

Phone: 02 9625 9955

www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au



Newman Selective
GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Journeying with Compassion
Celebrating 25 years

WESTERN REGION
LENTEN RETREAT
SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR CATECHISTS
WITH DEACON SHELDON BURKE
FRIDAY | 24TH OF MARCH 2023
9.10AM MASS | 9.45AM RETREAT
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH
231 NEWBRIDGE ROAD, CHIPPING NORTON
RESP. VIA YOUR COORDINATOR



G.L.U.E.

GOD LIFE UNIVERSE EVERYTHING
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

"Lord teach us how to pray"

Prayer, spirituality and the Holy
Sacrifice of the Mass

Tuesday 28th March | 9am and 7pm

JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH - BODENBROSSE - RESULTS

- 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>

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 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, Bozana VUKOV

Anniversary: Marion FENECH, Fr John B CHIANG, Vicente VILLAVARDE, Lily FENECH

Other: Kartia RUSSELL, Casimero CASTOR, Michael GRIMA, 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:

Third Sunday of Lent - (Year A)

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Gospel: John 4:5-42

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Times when I have glimpsed the glory of Christ are.....
- ♦ These glimpses of glory sustain me through temptations and trials by.....
- ♦ Some way that me Lenten disciples are transforming me more into Christ's glory are.....

First reading

Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

32: 4-5, 18-20, 22

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second reading

2 Timothy 1:8

-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

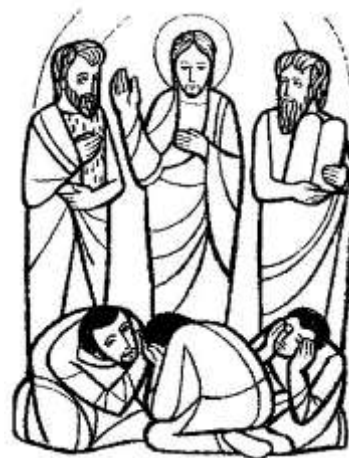
Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 22 (Matthew 1)
2. Rock (John 1:42)
3. Honour your father and mother.

