



# 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](mailto:pp@johnthebaptist.org.au)

Emergency: 0423 420 639

### Fr Benjamin Saliba

Email: [Benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:Benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org)

## Office:

9823 2572

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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 4

Monday - No Mass

St Joseph, Spouse of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

*The Annunciation of the Lord*

## NEXT SUNDAY

24/25 MARCH

*(Fifth 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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

18th & 19th March, 2023

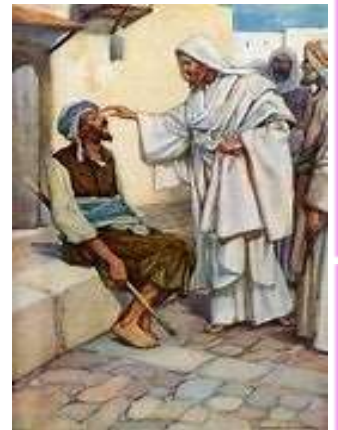
# See God within

Long ago in St. Mary's, Kansas, there was a little outdoor shrine to our lady where the Indians often came to sing hymns and to pray. As years went by, the statue grew old and colourless. The paint weathered away and the face lost its expression. When the new parish priest came, he took one look at it and said, *"Something has to be done about this. This statue looks blind – it's almost a blasphemy to Our Lady."* In no time the word got around among the Indians that the new parish priest was going to paint the statue. They should have been very happy about it, because Indians are supposed to like bright colours. But they were not and they came to the parish house door and told the priest they did not want the statue painted. *"Why?"* he asked. *"Don't you want her to look beautiful? Why, she looks blind!"* *"Yes,"* said the chief. *"We like her that way, because she cannot see our faults, she can only hear our prayers."*

The beggar in today's gospel was blind from birth. He had never seen another human being. And yet, he listened to what Jesus told him to do, *"Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam."* *'So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.'* His blindness was not the result of sin: *"Neither he nor his parents sinned, he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him."*

The message of today's gospel is that the blind see, while those with sight are blind. The real miracle was that the blind man recognised Jesus as the Messiah, whom the religious experts failed to see. *"This man can not be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath."* As a poet once expressed it: *'There are none so blind as those who do not wish to see.'* St Paul draws the conclusion for us: *"You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; belike children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth."*

Let us pray that our eyes will be opened to the presence of God through the people whom we come in contact with everyday living.



## Catechism of the Catholic Church

588 Jesus scandalised the Pharisees by eating with tax collectors and sinners as familiarly as with themselves. Against those among them 'who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others'. Jesus affirmed: 'I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' He went further by proclaiming before the Pharisees that, since sin is universal, those who pretend not to need salvation are blind to themselves.

**Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't.**



## 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).



## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held during Lent at 7.00pm in the Church.

## Walk the Stations of the Cross with Father Ben- Thursday 30th March from 10.30am (Walk to start at 11am)

On Thursday 30th March, parents, parishioners and friends of our Community are invited to attend a pilgrimage to St Joseph Conference Centre, 30 Tyson Road Bringelly. The 10 hectares of beautifully landscaped and natural bushland offer us a place to unwind, a place to breathe and be filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Together with other local parishes, we will pray at the Stations of the Cross (also known as the Way of the Cross) at the life-sized marble statues that depict Jesus' suffering, Death and Resurrection. The Stations of the Cross is a Lenten devotion that offers witness to Jesus' Passion and Death. At each station we will reflect prayerfully, allowing ourselves to experience the visual images and Christ's love for us.

Meet at 10.30am, stations to commence at 11am followed by a picnic lunch- please bring along your own lunch and remember a hat and sunscreen. The path is concreted and accessible for wheelchairs and prams. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Sign on sheets are outside Mass and Contact is Tina Dunn (Family Educator at the primary school) on 0439492920.

## Lenten group starting

The parish are holding a Lenten Group on Thursday evenings during Lent at 7:00pm in the parish meeting room. If you would like to join the group or would like more information please contact Giovanna Rapisarda on 0408 705 613.



## HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

**Monday 3rd April - No Mass**

**Tuesday 4th April - 8:00am Mass**

**Wednesday 5th April - 7:00pm Mass**

**Holy Thursday 6th April - No morning Mass, Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10:30am. Everyone is invited to the Mass.**

**7:00pm Mass of the Lords Supper**

**Good Friday 7th April - 10am Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross**

**3:00pm The Lord's Passion**

**Holy Saturday 8th April - 9:00am Morning Prayer**

**Easter Vigil 7:00pm Mass**

**Easter Sunday 12th April - 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm**



## Day of the Unborn Child

**Feast of the Annunciation Mass and Procession**

Sunday 26th March at St Mary's Cathedral

- 10:30am Mass (Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as Principal Celebrant)

- 12 noon Street Procession

- 1:30pm Benediction

Ministries Next Week 25/26 March	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	J Victorino L Krslovic	S Davies L Agoon	M Zangari G Zangari	
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:</b>	A Pace A Jameson C Araco	A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 18TH & 19TH MARCH



Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg.

Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.



## 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



## 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)**

## Feasts of the Week



### St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A lowly village carpenter who was chosen by God to be the pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of our Blessed Lord.

**Feast Day: March 19**



### The Annunciation of the Lord

The Annunciation is a day of celebration for Christians throughout the world. Many religious including the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Greek Orthodox religion, and others hold the Annunciation as a very important day of religious life. The day commemorates the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated on 25 March each year. In the Roman Catholic Church, when 25 March falls during the Paschal Triduum, it is transferred, even if it falls on Pascha (Easter). The concurrence of these two feasts is called Kyriopascha.

**Feast Day: March 25**



## 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.



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



## JORDAN YOUTH GROUP



Years 5 & 6 Primary School students & Year 7 High School students are welcome to join the Jordan Youth Group at John the Baptist Parish hall commencing Saturday, 25th March, 2023. Our aim is to encourage young people within our community to come together to engage, learn, pray, and become involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith. Letters will be sent out to the local schools in March.

Details and Dates for 2023 are listed below:

**Location:** John the Baptist Parish Hall

**Time:** 3.00pm-5.00pm

**Cost:** Free

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Saturday, 25th March

Saturday, 29th April

Saturday, 27th May

Saturday, 24th June

Saturday 22nd July

Saturday, 26th August

Saturday, 23rd September

Saturday, 28th October

Saturday, 18th November

Saturday 9th December

If you have any further queries or would like to volunteer your time and assist with the Jordan Youth group, please contact Tina Dunn on 0439 492 920 or Silvana Scamardella on 0417 197 357.



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.

## PARISH SUPPERS

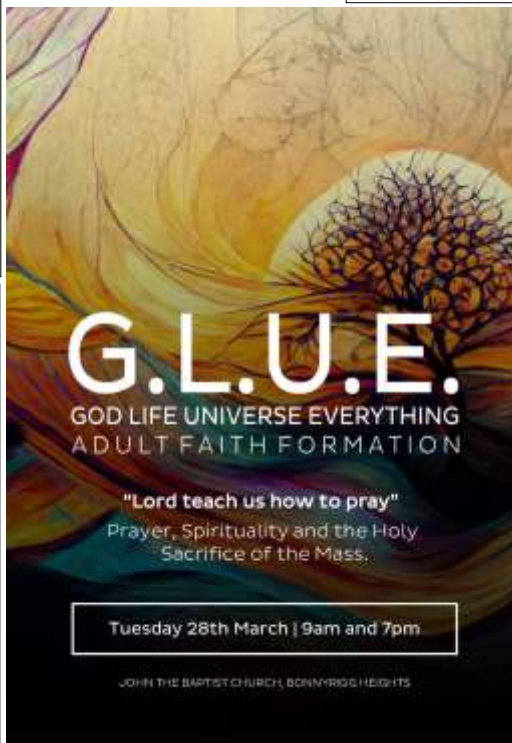
Our Parish is in need of volunteers to assist with suppers after the Saturday 5:30pm Mass.

If you are interested in helping please call Teresa Vartuli our coordinator on 0413 835 250 and you will be placed on a roster once a month. Thank you.



## CHURCH WORKING BEE SATURDAY 1st APRIL 9.30am -1pm FAMILIES WELCOME

It is time for us to work together to prepare the Church and grounds for Easter. There is also decoration with palms for Palm Sunday. We need as many people as possible to clean the church and assist with gardening etc. Please come along with any equipment that you have available. We will be here from 9.30am-1pm and would appreciate any support you can give whether it is for the whole morning or just an hour of your day. If you can assist in any way please contact Grant Dunn on 0409 958 744 (morning tea will be provided to thank all of our volunteers)



World Youth Day is a worldwide event that includes the presence of the Pope and is a unique opportunity to experience the universality of the church whilst being able to share it with other young people across the world. This year it is being held in Lisbon, Portugal with the theme that "Mary arose and went with haste" which encouraged us to do the same and go on this journey.



I was first introduced to World Youth Day last year where I had the opportunity to participate in the Christ the King Celebration at St Mary's Cathedral in November 2022. This gave me the opportunity to talk with previous pilgrims and priests also was able to immerse myself into the Portuguese culture by eating Portuguese food and experiencing traditional music and dance.

Leading up to World Youth Day I have had an involvement with my parish and school which has led to my overall commitment. I have been altar-serving both at school masses and my local parish and I have started my journey of becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Catechist in a local public school to strengthen my faith and be able to become more active within the community.

To help fund my trip to Lisbon in July, Sydney Catholic Schools has organised a raffle which has just started and concludes on the 3rd of May. The tickets are \$5 and go into the chance to win the first place prize of a Mazda 2 2022 Model followed by \$3,000 and \$2,000 visa cards for 2nd and 3rd respectively. This raffle is accessed via either a URL or QR Code for each specific pilgrim, the unique seller code indicating which student you are helping where a large portion of the money goes to. My QR code and URL are listed below. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Thank You, Madelyne Finn

WESTERN REGION  
**LENTEN RETREAT**  
**SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
FOR CATECHISTS**  
WITH DEACON SHELTON BURKE  
FRIDAY | 24TH OF MARCH 2023  
9.15AM MASS | 9.45AM RETREAT  
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH  
231 NEWBRIDGE ROAD, CHIPPING NORTON  
RSVP VIA YOUR COORDINATOR



*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: Bozana VUKOV

Anniversary: Jacinto DE SOUSA, Antonio DA LUZ, Domingos SEQUEIRA, Tom YATES, Josefino MATEO, Eduardo MENDOZA, Giuseppe OCCHIUTO, Joseph Psi Sing LAY, Hor IA, Moang LIM

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:

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

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The spiritual blindness that is being made known to me this Lent is.....
- ♦ I bring this blindness to Jesus whenever I.....
- ♦ My daily living is different when I see it through the "eyes of faith" in that.....

## First reading

### A reading from the first book of Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

## Second reading

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

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

## The word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

John 8:12

## Gospel

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

John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:  
'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

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