



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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Website:

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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Victoria Baltazar

MASSSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 1

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

1/2 APRIL

(Palm Sunday of the Passion
of the Lord 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

25th & 26th March, 2023

God is life.

An elderly lady, who lived on the third floor of a boarding house, broke her leg. As the doctor put a cast on it, he warned her not to climb any stairs. Several months later, the doctor took off the cast. *"Can I climb stairs now?"* asked the little old lady. "Yes" he replied. *"Thank goodness!"* she said *"I'm sick & tired of shinnying up & down that drainpipe!"*

In the Gospel today we were told Lazarus has been dead for four days (the Jews believed that after 4 days a person is truly dead and no chance for resuscitation), his physical dead body was deteriorated and stunk. Jesus assures Martha that her brother will rise from death. *"I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live."* For Martha it is the end of time her brother will rise up again *'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'* If we truly believe in Jesus when we die, in the way explained above we will come to live in a new way, and even now while we are living we live a new way of living in Jesus Christ. St Paul said that I live not I live but Jesus lives in me.



The Lazarus story is not just something that happened 2000 years ago. It still speaks to our faith lives now. Jesus wanted to show that God has power to overcome death. Our God is a God of the living, not of the dead. God is life.

God is love. God is truth. God doesn't want us to die. God wants us to live and live our life to the full. Like Martha who objects to have the tomb re-opened when Jesus asks *"take away the stone,"* we can behave in the same way. We can persist in imprisoning ourselves in grief, anger, hatred, prejudice, pride and refuse to open ourselves to Jesus to be healed and to be alive.

Let us pray that we can listen well to Jesus' call *"come out!"* and be opened to new life and freedom in Christ.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

613 Christ's death is both the Paschal sacrifice that accomplishes the definitive redemption of men, through 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world', and the sacrifice of the new Covenant, which restores man to communion with God by reconciling him to God through the 'blood of the covenant, which was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'.

Trivia Questions

1. What event do we remember on Palm Sunday?
2. In Jesus' time who usually washed the feet of guests? What do we mean when we described someone as humble?



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 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.

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, Prayers until Midnight

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



RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday 29th March and Wednesday 5th April from 7:30 - 8:30pm in the Church.

Trivia Answers

1. Palm Sunday commemorates the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph. This event is recounted in Matthew's gospel.
2. In Jesus' time, washing guests' feet was always done by the servants not the master of the house. Being humble recalls the great humility of Jesus and of the obligation of Jesus' followers to serve others.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 25TH & 26TH MARCH



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu.

Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Project Compassion is a demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia – without it, we could not do the vital work we do. Thank you for helping transform lives today and for all future generations.



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.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

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.



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

Walking With Our Lady Through Holy Week

A Women's Retreat Day with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia

Date: 1 April

Time: 10am-4pm

Where: St Peter Chanel Church, 62 Kingsland Rd, Berala

Along with talks and discussion, the day will include time for silence and prayer during a Holy Hour. An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Morning tea and lunch are provided.

Register online: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGHGO>



Parishioners please don't forget **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ends on Sunday morning 2nd April at 3:00am.** You will need to move your clock forward one hour.



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 1/2 April	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vladahamis G Turnbull	S Hely L Barilla	S Ives M Aulsebrook	J Lentini V Arbanas
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	T Micali B Empeigne T Vella	D Sullivan J Finucane S Xuereb	N Laureti G Dunn S D'Cruz	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:

Vienna Garzaniti & Luciella Cutrupi

May they always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout their life.



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.



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)

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.



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

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



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, BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS

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: Peter NIKOLOVSKI

Anniversary: Victor CASSAR,

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 Breaden
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:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Jesus has power over death; the difference this makes in my daily living is.....
- ♦ Where I have glimpsed Jesus as resurrection and life is.....
- ♦ Lent deepens my faith in Jesus as resurrection and life by.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord,

the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord



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