



# 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

## Email:

[info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au)

## 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 2

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - No Mass

*Chrism Mass at St Mary's*

*Cathedral 10:30am*

### Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00pm

Friday - 10:00am

Morning Prayer and

Stations of the Cross

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

## NEXT SUNDAY

8/9 APRIL

*(Sunday of the Resurrection)*

Saturday Vigil Mass:

7:00pm

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

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

1st & 2nd April, 2023

# Holy Week

Lent reaches its climax during Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday). On Palm Sunday Jesus was triumphantly welcomed into Jerusalem. This was a dramatic summing up of the earlier expectations of the people about Jesus. It is superficial and temporary, the people wanted a king who would be popular and who would use miraculous powers to eliminate their problems particularly get rid of the Roman domination. A few days later at the last supper Jesus reveals his true mission. It is a mission to be food that is broken and given for his people. It is a mission to be expressed in service and dramatized in his washing of the disciples' feet. This is a mission that is rejected when Jesus is crucified on Good Friday. Jesus' real mission and kingship will be vindicated in his resurrection. It will be a permanent victory and presence to be shared with all people. *"The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his friends."* This passage reminds us of St Maximilian Kolbe's life who willingly died in place of a condemned prisoner.

Holy Week calls us to accompany Christ on his final journey by bearing our own crosses in trusting silence. According to Henri Nouwen: *"In the world sadness and gladness are always separate, but in spiritual life they are all of a piece. In the world if you're sad, you cannot be glad. If you're glad, you cannot be sad - be happy and forget your troubles. In the spiritual life it's precisely the opposite. You embrace your sadness and trust that, right there, you will find gladness. That's what the cross is all about. I look at the cross, a sign of execution, of pain, of torture and see it as my hope. The cross is a source of life for me."*

During this Holy Week, let us meditate and enter into the Pascal Mystery, in order to die to self and rise again with Christ.

## Easter eggs

Have you ever wondered why people give each other Easter eggs? The answer lies in the symbolism of the egg. The egg represents new life. For Christians, Easter means new life in Christ. So eggs and Easter have a firm connection. For centuries Christians have decorated eggs (hard-boiled!) as a way of celebrating Christ's Resurrection. In more recent times this practice evolved into giving chocolate eggs to family and friends. Unfortunately, the religious symbolism of the egg has largely been forgotten.

**The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.**

**The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime!**





## 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).

## 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 5th April from 7:30 - 8:30pm in the Church.

## Catholic Women's Network: Holy Week Gathering

Together we can remove ourselves from the busyness of our day, quieten our minds and enter into our heart whether the Lord can be more present to us and we can hear His voice more clearly.

**Date:** Tuesday 4 April

**Time:** 7:30pm—9pm

**Via Zoom in the comfort of your own home**

<https://zoom.us/join/66325784784>

## Camino of St Joseph- Overnight Walking Pilgrimage for Men

**Starts Friday 28 April 8:30pm, St Mary's Cathedral** with Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers.

Confession from 7:30pm.

Pilgrimage across 9 churches in Sydney's inner west.

**Concludes Saturday 29 April, 6:30am, St Joseph's Enfield** with Mass followed by BBQ breakfast and celebration.

Adoration at each church followed by a short reflection on St Joseph.

Register now: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1032826>



**Catholic Theological College**  
Sign up for one of 18 online sessions.

## Engaging Your Faith—May 2023

*Theology, Vatican II, Scripture, Spirituality, Science & Faith.*

Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.

For more information and to register:

[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](https://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/)



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT PALM SUNDAY 1ST & 2ND APRIL



Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

It's through the generous support of people like you that we are able to continue to help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty – support that is needed now more than ever.

**Thank you** for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

## HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

**Please return Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes for the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm.**

## GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

### FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

This annual collection occurs at the conclusion of Stations of the Cross and during the 3pm service on Good Friday. It promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to Christians in the Holy Land through health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land rely on assistance from the annual Good Friday collection. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

Last year Australian Catholics donated \$1.5 million to this cause despite the strains on family budgets and financial resources. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land again this Friday and please pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace.'



## 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](https://www.wwme.org.au)

or contact **Christine & Terry Mahony** on  
**0490 774 419**

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



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ends on Sunday morning 2nd April at 2:00am. Don't forget to turn back your clocks on the Saturday evening to avoid being too early for Masses.**



## 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 [safeguardingquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingquiries@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 8/9 April	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	Readers	will	be	notified
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	Please	see	notice	board

**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.

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

## EASTER CANDLES

We will be selling candles for the Easter Vigil.

\$2.00

for one

or

\$5.00

for three



## CHURCH WORKING BEE



We sincerely thank everyone who attended our Parish Working Bee this weekend.

Special thanks to George and Eileen who spent a long time removing chewing gum from the chairs and around the Church.

Please keep the Church clean and tidy in the lead up to our Easter celebrations and please **NO chewing gum**.

## PARISH SUPPERS

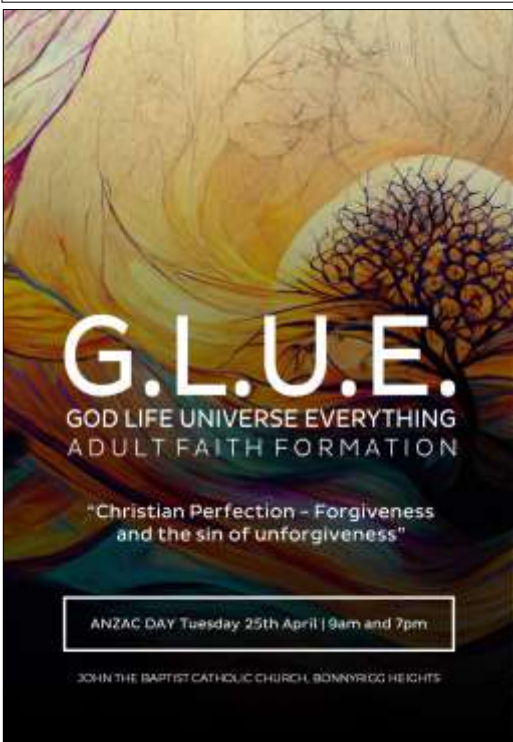


Our Parish is in need of volunteers to assist with suppers after the Saturday 5:30pm Mass.

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 [jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto: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: Benito CARBONE, 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: Ramzi KHADOURI, Peter NIKOLOVSKI

Anniversary: Mark CAVALLARO, Carmen Del Valle LIM

Other: Giuseppe & Giuseppina LETTIERI, Pasquale & Rosa LETTIERI & Family, Nicola & Antonia VITERALE & Family, Giuseppe PETRULLA, Rosaria & Pasquale PETRULLA, Giovanni & Carmela BONARIGGIO, Giovanni GOTTARDO, Franco LUONGO, Angelo PELLEGRINO, Benito MAZZEO & Family, Rafaele & Guiseppa CAFFASSO, Franco VITERALE, Gung Gia Jiang, Gung Jing Kiam, Tung Chil Ang, Jue Soak Kim, Jia Arng Muai, Gung Tia Pung, Gung Hoak Pung, Gung Jung Pung, Gung Yeak Lang, Gung Gow Ang, Gung Jek Chong, Kue Chai Lee, Ngo Hai Buai, Kue Peng Kee, Kue Peng Tia, Kue Peng Sir, Kue Chang Guang, Kue Jung Hong, Kue Miel Ang, Kue Miel Im, Kue Miel Tian, 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:

### Sunday of the Resurrection - (Year A)

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9

## Reflection Questions.....

- Like the disciples, I have betrayed, denied, and abandoned Jesus by.....
- Lent has been a time of returning to the Lord in that.....
- What enables me to pray before the cross, like Jesus, "yet, not as I will, but as you will" is.....

## First reading

### A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

## The Word of the Lord

Isaiah 50:4-7

## Responsorial Psalm

21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

### *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.'

### *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet  
I can count every one of my bones.

### *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me!

### *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.

### *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

## Second reading

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

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death,  
dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

Matthew 26:14-27:66

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

[Please see overheads for the Gospel reading](#)

One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?' They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.

.....This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.' 'You may have your guard' said Pilate to them. 'Go and make all as secure as you know how.' So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.

## The Gospel of the Lord

