



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

Email: Benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org

Office:

9823 2572

Email:

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

22/23 APRIL

(Third Sunday of Easter)

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 Easter (Year A)

15th & 16th April, 2023

Easter-A time of hope

Easter is a season of Joyous Thanksgiving. It should be claimed as a time for celebration and companionship on the Emmaus Road, an opportunity for dispelling doubt and bringing reassurance to all we meet along the way. Even though Easter is a season of hope there can still be a painful awareness of sinfulness as well as fear but there is also light breaking through. Something new is happening.

In today's Gospel we see a group of Jesus' disciples who were hiding away because of fear, shame and without hope because all their dreams and expectations have been shattered. Thomas cannot accept that Jesus, who was crucified, is now alive, *"Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made..."*. We often feel upset and disappointed when things are not going according to our plan. It is true that most of the problems spring from our own egos. Consciously or unconsciously there is a program within us of how others should act and particularly how they should act towards us.

I remember during my years in the Seminary, we often prayed as a community and we would say the verses of the psalms one after the other. I remember feeling upset when someone led the prayers in an anti-clockwise rather than a clockwise direction. Why not be different from our inbuilt programming? Two good people can irritate each other so much. One may be big and expansive, the other meticulous and exact, their differences can annoy one another without end.

As we continue to journey into Jesus' resurrection may our lives be renewed and our vision broadened so that we can recognise the wonder and beauty in us and in others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

644 Even when faced with the reality of the risen Jesus the disciples are still doubtful, so impossible did the thing seem: they thought they were seeing a ghost. *'In their joy they were still disbelieving and still wondering.'* Thomas will also experience the test of doubt and St Matthew relates that during the risen Lord's last appearance in Galilee "some doubted." Therefore the hypothesis that the resurrection was produced by the "apostles' faith (or credulity) will not hold up. On the contrary their faith in the resurrection was born, under the action of divine grace, from their direct experience of the reality of the risen Jesus.



- Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- Don't have negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
- Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
- Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need
- Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner with his/her mistakes of the past.

A man went to the police station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before.



"You'll get your chance in court." Said the desk sergeant.

"No, no, no!" said the man. "I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years!"

What does 'Mission' mean?

The word 'mission' comes from the Latin word to send. Just as Jesus Christ was sent by his Father into the world, to share the life of God with people, so missionaries are **sent out** to bring the Christian gospel to others. Missionary activity in Christianity goes back to when Jesus sent out his disciples two by two to proclaim his teaching about the Kingdom of God to their fellow Jews (Mt 10:1-15); (Mk 5:7-13). At the end of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus is shown commissioning the Apostles to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. He promises to be with them as they carry out this work. (Mt 28:19-20).

The gospel claims that all Christians are called to **mission**, that is to sharing the Christian good news with others. At first this statement seems very unrealistic. Few people are able to, or want to, leave their lives, families and friends to go to a faraway place to be a missionary. The statement that all Christians are called to mission, however; does not require this. Each individual Christian is called to mission through Baptism, a call that is renewed at Confirmation. However, the mission of the individual Christian takes place in the time and circumstances of his or her life, and therefore involvement in mission will be different for each individual.

Some Christians will choose to work in missionary projects away from their own homes, but for most, mission will be carried out in the ordinary circumstances of daily life. In every case it is connected to the commandment of Jesus Christ to *love one another as I have loved you*. Through Baptism, Christians are called and sent on this mission of love in the name of Jesus Christ.

To know, Worship and Love Yr. 10, p270



THANK YOU



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Why do we worship on Sunday?

The Old Testament commands us to observe the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, but why have we switched worship to Sunday, the first day of the week? Two reasons. **Firstly, Day of Jesus' resurrection:** The first day of the week was the day on which our Lord rose from the dead (*After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning* – Mt 28:1; *Very early on Sunday morning* - Lk 24:1; *Early on Sunday* - Mk 16:9; *Early on Sunday morning* - Jn 20:1.) **Secondly, Day of Jesus' appearances** (*On that same day* – Lk 24:13; *It was late that Sunday evening* – Jn 20:19; *A week later {Thomas had to wait another eight days for Jesus to appear to the group again}* – Jn 20:26).



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/



Ministries Next Week 22/23 April	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5.30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino A Vlahadamis	L Barilla J Poljak	S Ives M Aulsebrook	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	A Vlahadamis D Vella M Camilleri	A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs	

THE LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE PLEASURE IN INVITING YOU TO THE

52ND ANNUAL MASS AND COMMUNION LUNCHEON

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023 AT 11AM

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
48 GEORGE ST, LIVERPOOL

AT CONCLUSION OF THE MASS A BUFFET LUNCHEON WILL BE SERVED AT

"THE AUDITORIUM"
LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB
424 - 458 HOXTON PARK ROAD PRESTONS

ADMITTANCE TO THE LUNCHEON IS BY TICKET ONLY

\$45 PER MEMBER

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL | TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUB



IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY ACCESSING THE SUPPORT WE WOULD BE GLAD TO ASSIST YOU. PLEASE CONTACT US ON 02 9390 5810. THE LUNCHEON IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ALL RELIGIONS. THE LUNCHEON IS A SOCIAL EVENT AND NOT A MEETING. THE LUNCHEON IS A SOCIAL EVENT AND NOT A MEETING.



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.

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:

Heidi Grace Rebello



May she always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout her 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.

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.

Our next meeting is Saturday, 29th April 2023.

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, 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.

JB Social Outings

Are you, or someone you know interested in getting to know other parishioners and go on some fun outings in and around Sydney?



Initially the bus outings would be arranged on a weekday and leave from the church grounds.



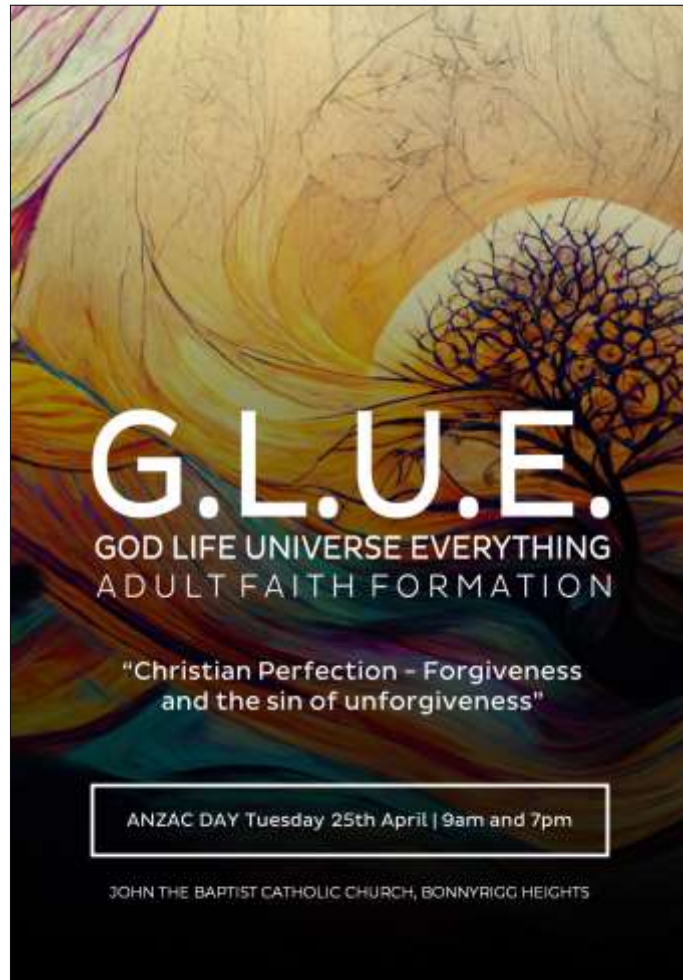
To determine the level of interest and share ideas about where and what people would like to visit and see a morning tea will be held in the Parish Hall starting at 10.30am on Wednesday 19 April.

There will be plenty of parking in the church car park. Everyone is welcome so if you have a neighbour, family or friend who you think would be interested please pass this onto them.



To assist with catering please RSVP your name and number attending to Valerie Buhajiar in 0417 244 285 by Monday 17 April (a text message is fine) or else contact Leanne at the parish office on 9823 2572.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas.



JB Spring Fair



We are planning a Fair at JB this year. It will be a fun filled day for the whole family and a chance to celebrate with our JB community.

To make this happen we need volunteers. If you are able to assist in the planning or on the day please let us know by email info@johnthebaptist.org.au or telephone the parish office 9823 2572.



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 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: Teresa SAID, Rolando QUIJANO, Ramzi KHADOURI, Peter NIKOLOVSKI

Anniversary: Horace D'COSTA, Antonio PAGANO, Norma QUIJANO, Renato LORENTE SR

Other: Ruth Elizabeth Bejarano De MALDONADO, Camilla and William, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita



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 Easter - (Year A)

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ In faith I see the risen Christ sending me to.....
- ♦ Carrying on Jesus' mission helps me believe in the resurrection in that.....
- ♦ Like Thomas, my doubt has brought me to deeper faith in that.....

First reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

117:2-4, 3-15, 22-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

Second reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is

corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord



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