



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 3

Monday - No Mass

St Rita of Cascia, religious

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Our Lady Help of Christians

Thursday - 9:00am

St Bede the Venerable, priest,
doctor

St Gregory VII, pope

St Mary Magdalene de' Passi,
virgin

Friday - 9:00am

St Philip Neri, priest

Saturday - 9:00am

St Augustine of Canterbury,
bishop

NEXT SUNDAY

27/28 MAY

(Pentecost Sunday 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

The Ascension of the Lord (Year A)

20th & 21st May, 2023

God is within us.

When I was a child of about 4 or 5 year old, my dad was asked to be a guest speaker at a Church one Sunday evening. By way of bribery my dad had told me before arriving at the Church that if I was a good and well-behaved boy he would take me to McDonalds after Mass. During my dad's fiery reflection on the destination of the good vs. the evil he asked, in a loud voice, "*And where do you think those that live a pure, just and good life before the Lord are going to go?*" with all my excitement I stood in my seat and called out "*to McDonalds!*"

Today we celebrate the Feast of our Lord's Ascension, Jesus telling his disciples about his departure. Matthew did not give much detail but "*All authority,*" he said, "*in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave you, and know I am with you always to the end of time.*" Jesus did not give a constitution or even a stack of memos to guide his disciples, except a promise "*I am with you always.*" And I believe that he will keep his promise. Ascension marks the event of Jesus' leaving. But his leaving does not mean that he ceases to be present. Thus, it is joy, not pain that fills our hearts. Above all, Jesus challenges us to go and continue his work and mission. We are called to live his commandments and teach them to all people. We are the witnesses of what Jesus did and said.



Let us pray that we are not simply looking at a God who has ascended into heaven but we believe in a God who lives in our hearts through his spirit and as believers we are called to respond to a God who is here, not longing for a God who is out there.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

659 'So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.'...Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolised by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand.

How is conscience described? The word conscience is derived from the Latin word to know. Conscience is a type of knowledge. It is not a feeling or an emotion or a "gut feeling" or a personal opinion. Conscience is our knowledge of right and wrong. It is also our ability to apply this knowledge in our lives.

**Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice;
It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.**

W J Bryan

Jesus Light of the World Communities

27 May 2023 (Saturday) 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

"Day of OUTPOURING"

Ron Maldigri - Speaker

Catholic Lay Evangelist in Sydney

St Joseph's Parish Hall

Walz St, Rockdale, NSW (Parking Entry at Parker St.)

Booking Essential, FREE Lunch & Afternoon Tea

Enquiries: Helen – 0433 455 114 Ida – 0424 267 500

Email: jlowcommunity@gmail.com

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in celebrating Pentecost 2023 with an uplifting, inspiring, encouraging Holy Spirit afternoon of Praise & Worship, Testimonies, Hearing the Word of God, and Prayer Ministry on **Saturday 27th May** at Servants of Jesus Centre, 15 Park Road Seven Hills. **2pm-5.30pm**. Enquiries 9810 2499.

Novena of Rosaries to Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia since 1844.

We are seeking to arrange a pledge of 100,000 participants to pray the Novena of Rosaries to Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia 9 days before the feast of Mary Help of Christians on 24 May 2023.



Ministries Next Week 27/28 May	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5.30 pm
READERS:	L Krslovic A Pace	L Barilla J Finucane	S Ives N Laureti	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	B Empeigne T Vella F Bushby	L Barilla L Agoo Delicia Vella	G Dunn S D'Cruz S Hambrook	



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.



St. Philip Neri born in Florence (Italy) in 1515. An outstanding proponent of Church reform after the Council of Trent. Worked among the young and the poor in Rome and founded the Congregation of the Oratory. Many people wrongly feel that such an attractive and jocular personality as Philip's cannot be combined with an intense spirituality. Philip's life melts our rigid, narrow views of piety. His approach to sanctity was truly catholic, all-embracing, and accompanied by a good laugh. Remembered as a spiritual director, for his pastoral initiatives, and for his humour, simplicity, and charity. Died at Rome on this day in 1595.

Feast Day: May 26

Feasts of the Week



St Rita of Cascia was born Margherita Lotti in Roccaporena, Italy in 1381. She forced into an arranged marriage with a terrible man. She was mistreated for years. After 12 years of marriage, her husband was killed and her 2 sons died shortly after. She entered the convent and followed a life of charity. After praying to Our Lord to "let her suffer like you," she was struck in the forehead with a thorn from the crucifix. The wound never healed and cause her pain until the day she died on May 22, 1457. Following her death, she was buried at the basilica of Cascia, and was later discovered to be incorrupt. **Feast day: May 22**



Our Lady Help of Christians

The Virgin Mary has often been invoked in times of religious strife under the title of Help of Christians. In thanksgiving for the release of Pope Pius VII from captivity in 1814, the feast was established the following year on the anniversary of his restoration. The first Australian provincial synod held in Sydney in 1844 placed the Church in Australia under Mary's patronage invoked by the title Help of Christians. The solemn feast is an occasion to seek Mary's help and protection for our Church and nation. **Feast Day: May 24**



St. Bede the Venerable was born in Jarrow, United Kingdom, Bede is one of the few saints honored as such even during his lifetime. His writings were filled with such faith and learning. Though his History is the greatest legacy Bede has left us, his work in all the sciences, especially in Scripture, should not be overlooked. During his last Lent, Bede worked on a translation of the Gospel of Saint John into English, completing it the day he died in 735.

Feast Day: May 25



Gregory VII Born Hildebrand c. 1020 in Tuscany, Pope/ St. Gregory VII was one of the great church reformers. Elected pope in 1073, Hildebrand took the name Gregory in honor of St. Gregory the Great and began to institute reforms against simony, clerical marriage (and/ or chastity), and lay investiture. Gregory died in Salerno in 1085, and Paul V canonized him in 1606.

Feast Day: May 25



St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi born in Florence, Italy, 1566, Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi was so generously given this special gift of God that she is called the "ecstatic saint." Mystical ecstasy is the elevation of the spirit to God in such a way that the person is aware of this union with God while both internal and external senses are detached from the sensible world. She read the thoughts of others and predicted future events. During her lifetime, Mary Magdalene appeared to several persons in distant places and cured a number of sick people. **Feast Day: May 25**



St Augustine of Canterbury

Augustine of Canterbury was a Benedictine monk who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the year 597. He is considered the "Apostle to the English" and a founder of the English Church. He died in 604AD.

Feast Day: May 27

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Would you like to become a regular contributor to the Parish?

Or would you like to change your contribution method from envelopes to monthly credit card giving?

If so, please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office. Otherwise send an e-mail to Leanne at info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Name: Telephone No.:

Address:

Email:

☐

I wish to commence Planned Giving Program.

☐

I wish to change from envelopes to Credit Card monthly giving. Current envelope No:

(a credit card authority form will need to be completed)

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:

*Cooper Hill, Micaela Tablizo, Mateo Nguyen,
Pierce Kennedy and Joseph and Francesco Pierro*

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



CONFIRMATION 2023

Confirmation will be held on Sunday 17th September at St Mary's Cathedral at 3:30pm.

Please keep watching this space for further details as they become available.

For any enquiries please contact Linda Barilla on 0409 914 083.

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, 27th May 2023.

Details are listed below:

Location: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Time: 3.00pm-5.00pm

Cost: Free

Afternoon tea will be provided.

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.



UPDATE! JB SPRING FAIR 22nd October 2023



Your Parish Fair offers food, fun, FREE jumping castle, music, market stalls and entertainment. This Fair is designed for our community and celebrates the delights of our Parish, bringing the Parish Community and their families together after Covid.

WANTED: Volunteers. One or two hours of your time to volunteer would be greatly appreciated.

WANTED: Talent and entertainment.

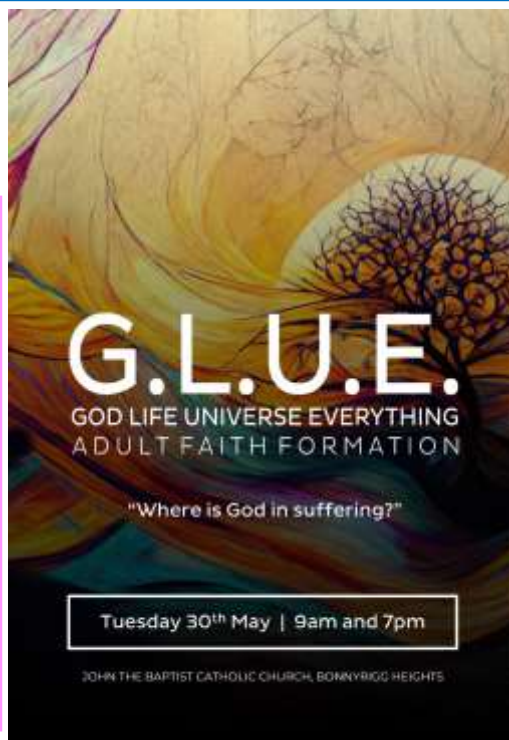
MARKETING: Interested in marketing your products e.g. Costume Jewellery, Perfume, etc or your services e.g. Fitness, Insurance etc. We are offering \$25 per spot when you market your products or services.

WANTED: International Food Stallholders run by parishioners – Our Parish has a boundless array of multiculturalism. Currently some international food stalls confirmed by our Parishioners are Holland, Italy, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Australia. We need more parishioners to come forward to showcase their country of origin. Spot provided are Free Of Charge.

WANTED: New members to join our JB Spring Fair Committee.

Our next meeting is 24th May at 7:15pm

Please contact: Susan 0419606683 (after 3:30pm) or Sharon 0410494700 (after 5:30pm)



ASCENSION PRAYER COMMUNITY
Invites you all to join our prayer meeting

HOW TO LIVE A LIFE
EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT
You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you

25.05.2023
THURSDAY 7.15PM-9.15PM
Guest Speaker: Abraham George, SRM Australia

St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, 45 Mount St, Bonyrigg Heights
Contact : Susan D'Cruz 0415 342 672 Trudi Simpson 0414 608 538

Mother's Day Cake/Biscuit Stall

Thank you to everyone who so kindly supported the stall last weekend.

Thank you to all the ladies and gents who made the delicious cakes and biscuits, those who helped with the setting up, selling and cleaning up afterwards.

We raised a total of \$1,300.10 to help support the poor and disadvantaged of our community.

FOUND

A pair of earrings have been found. If you think they could be yours please contact the parish office on 9823 2572.

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:

Sick: Olivia TOOLE, Despina JOANNIDES, Benito CARBONE, 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: Vincent PROCHILLO, Charles ELLUL, Sr Shirley AGOO ICM, Peter AWIT, Ann KARAKATSANIS, Patrick LEE, Billy POMARE

Anniversary: Luciano FONTANOT, Jimmy FENECH, Pacita Agoo SCOTT, Francis VELLA, Joe SARREO, Michael GAUCI

Other: Mary SARREO, Wyndham BUHAGIAR, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, Sts Anthony, Jude & 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:

Pentecost Sunday - (Year A)

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Reflection Questions

- ♦ My daily living glorifies God whenever I.....
- ♦ I experience God glorifying me already *now* when.....
- ♦ As I recall that Jesus prays for the disciples (me), the difference it makes to me is.....

First reading

Acts 1:1-11-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

46:2-3, 6-9

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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