



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

MASSSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 3

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

St Apollinaris, bishop, martyr

Friday - 9:00am

St Lawrence of Brindisi,
priest, doctor

Saturday - 9:00am

St Mary Magdalene

NEXT SUNDAY

22/23 JULY

(16th Sunday in Ordinary
Time 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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

15th & 16th July, 2023

A prisoner in jail receives a letter from his wife. *"I have decided to plant some vegetables in the back garden. When is the best time to plant them?"* The prisoner knowing that the prison guards check all mail, replied in a letter, *"Dear wife, whatever you do, do not touch the back garden. That is where I hid all the money."* A week later, he receives another letter from his wife: *"You won't believe what happened! Some men came with shovels to the house, and dug up all the back garden."* The prisoner wrote another letter: *"Dear wife, now is a good time to plant the vegetables."*

In today's Gospel we have the allegorical story of the sower who went out to sow seeds. The seed is the Word (also can be implied as the gift of faith), the soil is us. *"Some seeds fall on the edge of the path.....others fall on patches of rock.....others fall among thorns.....others fall on rich soil."* We receive the seed or listen to the word every week, for some people everyday. What do we do with the seed we receive? Do we allow it sown in our hearts and be part of our lives and actions? If we treasure the seed we will prepare the soil so that the seed will grow and multiply. The fate of the seed depends on the type of soil it was sown in. Jesus invites us to enter the feast of the kingdom through his words.

Let us prayerfully reflect on his words, and make them be part of our words and actions.



Catechism of the Catholic Church

546 Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice: to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough, deeds are required. The parables are like mirrors for man: will he be hard soil or good earth for the kingdom?...

"The one who receives the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing."

Jesus Light of the World Communities – Day Retreat

29 July 2023 (Saturday) 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

"You are VICTORIOUS"

Marina George - Speaker

A devoted Catholic lady who loves sharing her deep relationship with God the Father, the love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

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



"BE TO ME A PRIEST & A FATHER" *Judges 17:10* HOW TO HELP PRIESTS LIVE THEIR FATHERHOOD

International Speaker Fr Carter Griffin

19th July at 6:30pm at St Joachim Lidcombe Hall

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2487221044788170>

Website link: <https://unicatholics.org.au/howtohelppriestslivetheirfatherhood>

OUR LADY OF TERZITO ANNUAL FEAST

will be held at **Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville** (cnr Westminster & Victoria Rds) on **23rd July, 2023, with Mass at 1:30pm** followed by a procession in the street and Benediction.

It will be preceded by a tridium on Thursday 20th July, Friday 21st July and Saturday 22nd July with the Rosary at 7:10pm followed by Mass.

A small amount of onsite parking is available via Oxford Street

CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Don't forget to buy your Catholic Weekly after Mass this weekend for just \$2.00.



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.

Ministries Next Week 22/23 JULY	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino A Vlahadamis	S Davies T Simpson	E Villegas V Buhajjar	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	A Vlahadamis T Orah M Camilleri	D Sullivan J Finucane L Barilla	M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habbib N Laureti	



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.

Feasts of the Week



St Apollinaris was one of the most illustrious bishops of the second century. He addressed an "Apology," that is a defence, of the Christian religion to the emperor Marcus Aurelius, who, shortly before, had obtained a signal victory over the Quadi, a people inhabiting the country now called

Moravia. One of his legions, the twelfth, was composed chiefly of Christians. When the army was perishing for want of water, the soldiers of this legion fell upon their knees and invoked the assistance of God. The result was sudden, for a copious rain fell, and, aided by the storm, they conquered the Germans. The emperor gave this legion the name Thundering Legion" and mitigated his persecution.

It was to protect his flock against persecution that St. Apollinaris, who was bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia, addressed his apology to the Emperor to implore his protection and to remind him of the favour he had received from God through the prayers of the Christians. **Feast Day: July 20**



St Lawrence of Brindisi Lawrence was born on July 22, 1559, and died exactly 60 years later on his birthday in 1619. His parents William and Elizabeth Russo gave him the name of Julius Caesar Caesare in Italian. After the early death of his parents, he was educated by his uncle at the College of St. Mark in Venice. The most remarkable

quality of Lawrence of Brindisi is his outstanding gift of languages. In addition to a thorough knowledge of his native Italian, he had complete reading and speaking ability in Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German, Bohemian, Spanish, and French. Lawrence's sensitivity to the needs of people—a character trait perhaps unexpected in such a talented scholar—began to surface. He was elected major superior of the Capuchin Franciscan province of Tuscany at the age of 31. He had the combination of brilliance, human compassion, and administrative skill needed to carry out his duties. In rapid succession he was promoted by his fellow Capuchins and was elected minister general of the Capuchins in 1602. In this position he was responsible for great growth and geographical expansion of the Order. Lawrence was appointed papal emissary and peacemaker, a job which took him to a number of foreign countries. An effort to achieve peace in his native kingdom of Naples took him on a journey to Lisbon to visit the king of Spain. Serious illness in Lisbon took his life in 1619. In 1956, the Capuchins completed a 15-volume edition of Lawrence's writings. **Feast Day: July 21**



St Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, serving Jesus and his Disciples. She was present

at his death and was the first witness to His resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels. Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. Jesus saving her gave us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God. After the death of Christ, a legend states that she remained among the early Christians. After fourteen years, she was allegedly put into a boat by Jews, along with several other saints of the early Church, and set adrift without sails or oars. The boat landed in southern France, where she spent the remaining years of her life living in solitude, in a cave.

Feast Day: July 22

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.



MORE UPDATES!! JB SPRING FAIR
22nd October 2023



BARISTA wanted parishioners or local business.

We need volunteers - One or two hours of your time to volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Any entertainers out there? Please contact Fr Dom Our Marketing Stalls are slowly coming together. We have Gloria Lorlina Floral & Gifts, Maria handbags and Wattle Lane Designs. We need more! Hurry secure your spot!

International Food stalls are run by our parishioners - Holland, Italy, Indian, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Australia. We need more parishioners to come forward to showcase their country of origin. Spot provided are Free of Charge.

JB Spring Fair Committee is happy to welcome a new member, Amanda Newell.

Any enquiries please contact: Josie 0407203593

CONFIRMATION 2023



Confirmation for John the Baptist Parish will be held on 17th September 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral. A parent meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th July commencing at 7.00pm in the Church with enrolment to follow. Enrolment forms are available from the Parish Office. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Linda on 0409 914 083.

G.L.U.E.

Fr Ben will be at World Youth Day from 21st July - 11th August.
G.L.U.E. will NOT take place in July.
We will recommence on Tuesday 29th August.

HELP NEEDED

HAVE YOU GOT A "GREEN THUMB"?

The Piety Store will have a Plant Store at the JB Spring Fair this year to help raise funds for The Community Care Group. All profits from the sale of plants will help provide assistance to the disadvantaged in our immediate and broader community.

However, we need stock!

Are you able to help us by propagating plants with cuttings from your gardens?

We have a number of free pots in the Piety Store which are available for your use. If you are able to assist, we ask that you nurture your cuttings until October. They can then be left outside the Piety Store during October so that your donated plants can be sold at our Fair.

Your generosity and your time would be greatly appreciated.



Invites you to our July Men's Group Saturday Trilogy event

Man, Rock, Beacon - Men in the modern family

Saturday 22nd July - 9am to 3pm

Speakers on the day will be Peter Holmes (Father as a rock), Steven Buhagiar (Masculine Fruitfulness) and Jim Jankiewicz (Family dynamics and relationships)

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from here

trybooking.com/CIYHM

Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.

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

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, 22nd July 2023 (not 25th as incorrectly stated on the letter sent out earlier in the year)

Location: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Time: 3.00pm-5.00pm

Cost: Free

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.

2023-2024 Planned Giving Envelopes

The new Planned Giving Envelopes commencing 1st July 2023 are now available in the Church foyer. Please ensure you pick up your correct envelopes by checking your name and address and discard all envelopes from previous years as they may no longer be used. Contributions received from Planned Giving are the major source of income for the running expenses of the Parish. For example, running the office, Secretary's wages, expenses of pastoral initiatives, building and maintenance of the parish facilities, etc. Paying for the CWF deficit and insurance are also big expenses. Thank you to all Parishioners who already support the Parish, the tax receipts for the end of this financial year will be available in July. If you are not yet a member and would like to join our Planned Giving Program with 35% tax deduction, please complete the form on this bulletin and return it to the Parish Office or contact Leanne at the office on 9823 2572.

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

Sick: Errol O'DWYER, Rivan POULS, Gerald BOSOKY, Dominic ATTARD, Antonietta De MARTIN, 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: Cornelia MENDOZA, Frank CEFAL, Francesco FROIO, Kathleen RAVEN, Agnes BURKE, Carlos LAY, Chris DUNCAN

Anniversary: Don BOHENSKY, Mary Tian SAYAVONGSA, Paul XENG, Casimero CASTOR

Other: Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, All Souls



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:

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ My family life is this kind of soil..... because
- ♦ The kid of "seed" I am sowing at work or at home is.....
- ♦ The harvest that is emerging due to my faithfulness to God's word is.....

First reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

64:10-14

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second reading

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

IS3:9, Jn 6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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