



# 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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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

St Sixtus II, pope, martyr,  
and companions, martyrs

St Cajetan, priest

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Mary of the Cross, virgin

Wednesday 7:00pm

St Teresa Benedicta of the

Cross, virgin, martyr

Thursday - 9:00am

St Lawrence, deacon, martyr

Friday - 9:00am

St Clare, virgin

Saturday - 9:00am

St Jane Frances de Chantal,  
religious

## NEXT SUNDAY

12/13 AUGUST

(19th 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

## Transfiguration of the Lord (Year A)

5th & 6th August, 2023

# God's glorious presence

On a mountain climbing expedition, an Australian guide warned the tourists, *"Be especially careful not to fall, this is a dangerous place. But if you do fall,"* he added nonchalantly, *"remember to look to the right, the view is absolutely beautiful."*

St Matthew tells us in today's Gospel that *'Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain. He was transfigured before them.'* They were overcome with joy. This was to be a beautiful memory that would sustain them in the more difficult times ahead. Peter wanted to build *'three dwellings'* to freeze the moment of presence. The poet William Blake said, *"He who binds himself to a joy, does the winged life destroy, but he who kisses the joy as it flies, lives in eternity's sunrise."*

On the mountain Jesus gave the three disciples a glimpse of his inner glory. He was the new Moses - the new law-giver. He was the new Isaiah the one who spoke the word of God. He was the word made flesh, the God who had come among us, in whom the Father was well pleased. On this event the true nature of Jesus is shown in order to strengthen and sustain his disciples' faith in him.



This Feast invites us to experience God's glorious presence through prayers and conversion. Maybe we do not always fully recognise our mountaintop experiences, we write them off as insignificant and trivial compared with all the important and urgent things we have to do. Still, Jesus wants us to see his glory, so that we can cling to that experience in moments of doubt, despair or anguish.

Let us pray that we will be attentive to Jesus' presence within us and around us and may this experience transform our moments of suffering, fear, sickness and even death into moments of hope, joy and Christ's resurrection.

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

556... the Transfiguration 'is the sacrament of the second regeneration': our own resurrection. From now on we share in the Lord's resurrection through the Spirit who acts in the sacraments of the Body of Christ. The transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he 'will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body.' But it also recalls that 'it is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God'.

## TEEN CREED

Don't let your parents down,  
They brought you up.

Be humble enough to obey;  
you may give orders someday.

Choose companions with care,  
you become what they are. Guard your thoughts;  
what you think, you are.

Choose only a date

who would make a good mate. Be master of your  
habits or they will master you.

Don't be a show-off

when you drive, drive with safety & arrive.

Don't let the crowd pressure you;

stand for something or you'll fall for anything.

Anonymous

This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled *"Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective"* will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST. As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life.

Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>

## Children's Liturgy of the Word



### What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

During Children's Liturgy of the Word, the children pray together. They hear and respond to the Gospel (simplified for children), in their own time and space, with Children's Liturgy Leaders. The children then return to the Church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**All children who are 4-8 years of age are welcome to attend.**

4 years old (accompanied)

5-8 years old (unaccompanied)

Parents are welcome to go to Children's Liturgy with their child.

At John the Baptist Catholic Church, Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the following Mass times.....

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am

(not during school holidays)

**All Children's Liturgy Leaders have a Working with Children Clearance.**



Ministries Next Week 12/13AUG	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	A Pace L Krslovic	L Barilla J Poljak	S Ives M Aulsebrook	A Vanderwert J Lentini
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:</b>	T Vella T Vartuli Christian Vella	J Finucane L Barilla L Agoo	J Habib N Laureti G Dunn V Buhajjar	R Imbert S Cook



### 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](mailto: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 Mary of the Cross

Mary Helen MacKillop (15th January 1842 - 8th August 1909), also known as Saint Mary of the Cross, was an Australian Roman Catholic nun who, together with Father Julian Tenison Woods, founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and a

number of schools and welfare institutions throughout Australasia with an emphasis on education for the poor, particularly in country areas.

On 17 July 2008, Pope Benedict XVI prayed at her tomb during his visit to Sydney for World Youth Day 2008. On 19 December 2009, Pope Benedict XVI approved the Roman Catholic Church's recognition of a second miracle attributed to her intercession. She was canonised on 17 October 2010 during a public ceremony in St Peter's Square at the Vatican. She is the only Australian to be recognised by the Roman Catholic Church as a saint.

**Feast Day: August 8**



### St Lawrence

Saint Lawrence, died 258, Rome [Italy]; feast day August 10), one of the most venerated Roman martyrs, celebrated for his Christian valour. He is the patron saint of the poor and of cooks.

Lawrence was among the seven deacons of the Roman church serving Pope Sixtus II, whose martyrdom preceded Lawrence's by a few days: they were executed during the persecution under the Roman emperor Valerian. It is said that Lawrence gave the church's treasures to the poor and the sick before his arrest.

**Feast Day: August 10**



### St Clare (born Chiara Offreduccio 16 July 1194 – 11 August 1253)

was an Italian saint and one of the first followers of Francis of Assisi. Having refused to marry at 15, Clare was moved by the dynamic preaching of Francis. At 18, Clare escaped from her father's home one night, was met on the road by friars carrying torches, and in the poor little chapel called the Portiuncula received a rough woolen habit, exchanged her jeweled belt for a common rope with knots in it, and sacrificed her long tresses to Francis' scissors. He placed her in a Benedictine convent, which her father and uncles immediately stormed in rage. Clare clung to the altar of the church, threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair, and remained adamant. Sixteen days later her sister Agnes joined her. Others came. At 21 she founded the Order of Poor Ladies, a monastic religious order for women in the Franciscan tradition and wrote their Rule of Life. The Poor Ladies went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat, and observed almost complete silence. She served the sick and washed the feet of the begging nuns. She suffered serious illness for the last 27 years of her life. Her influence was such that popes, cardinals, and bishops often came to consult her—Clare herself never left the walls of San Damiano. Following her death, the order she founded was renamed in her honour as the Order of Saint Clare, commonly referred to today as the Poor Clares.

**Feast Day: August 11**

## 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](mailto: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:

*Elliott Vallado, Peter & Leon To*

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



### CONFIRMATION 2023

**Enrolments are now CLOSED.**

**A Group Leaders Meeting will be held this Tuesday 8th August commencing at 7.00pm in the Church.**

**Confirmation Commitment Masses will be held on the 12th and 13th August.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Linda on 0409 914 083.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS** will be available for collection in the Parish Meeting Room on **Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th August between 7:00 and 8:30pm.**

### 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.

### G.L.U.E.

Fr Ben will be at World Youth Day from 21st July - 11th August. We will recommence on Tuesday 29th August.



### Condolences

Our condolences are extended to Michael and Lyn O'Mara and family and extended family on the loss of Michael's sister Mary.

Mary's funeral will be held here at John the Baptist on Thursday 10th August at 1:30pm. Please keep the family in your prayers.

### JB SPRING FAIR 22nd October 2023



**11 WEEKS TO GO!!** Jumping Castles, Popcorn, Fairy floss and many more for a gold coin only.

**FACE PAINTER** – our Spring Fair is looking for a face painter, are you interested?

**Volunteers as Parking attendants, and helpers on the day.** One or two hours of your time to volunteer would be greatly appreciated.

**Can you sing and/or dance? Have you entertained family and/or friends as a magician? Are you a DJ? Are you a Choir looking to showcase your group's talents? Why not perform at our Spring Fair!**

We still have places for external businesses at \$25 per spot to market your products or services. Payment can be made at our Parish Office to secure a spot.

**WHERE ARE YOU?** Croatia, Assyria, Middle Eastern, Mauritius, Fiji, Tongan – Come share your cultural food.

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

### 2023-2024 Planned Giving Envelopes

The new Planned Giving Envelopes commencing 1st July 2023 are now available in the Church foyer.

### 2022/2023 PG Tax receipts

Tax receipts for 2022/23 are now available to be collected from the Church foyer. There are still some new envelopes waiting to be collected. Please ensure you pick up your correct envelopes by checking your name and address. If you know someone from the neighbourhood, please deliver envelop or tax receipt for us.

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.

### Overshadowed: Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit, 18-20 August 2023

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit.

**Venue:** Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW

**Booking:** <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX> (by 11 August)

**Contact:** Katherine - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry.

For any questions and to provide an itinerary and application form, please contact [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or on 89124818.

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

Sick: Carmen CARUANA, Fernanda CHUNG, 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 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, Nollita HERBERT

Recently Deceased: Mary O'MARA, Ivan BABAN, Tomislav Johnny PELIKAN, Dr Blake LOUGHRAN, Cornelia MENDOZA

Anniversary: Antonio MULTARI, Joe Di BARTOLO, Giuseppe GAGLIANO, Fahed JREISAT, Amelia ALVARO

Other: Vincenza GAGLIANO, Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita, Holy 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:

### 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What was Jesus trying to show the three disciples by allowing them to accompany him.....
- ♦ In what way/s was Jesus the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets.....
- ♦ Why do we sometimes struggle to recognise transformative experiences when they occur.....
- ♦ Do you think the disciples were transformed by witnessing this event.....

## First reading

### A reading from the first book of Daniel

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place  
and one of great age took his seat.  
His robe was white as snow,  
the hair of his head as pure as wool.  
His throne was a blaze of flames,  
its wheels were a burning fire.  
A stream of fire poured out,  
issuing from his presence.  
A thousand thousand waited on him,  
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.  
A court was held  
and the books were opened.

I gazed into the visions of the night.

And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,  
one like a son of man.  
He came to the one of great age  
and was led into his presence.  
On him was conferred sovereignty,  
glory and kingship,  
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his  
servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty  
which shall never pass away,  
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

96:1-2, 5-6, 9

### **The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
let all the coastlands be glad.  
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;  
his throne, justice and right.

*The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.*

The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory.

*The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.*

For you indeed are the Lord  
most high above all the earth,  
exalted far above all spirits.

*The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.*

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

## Second reading

### A reading from the second letter of St Peter

2 Peter 1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:  
listen to him.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

## The Gospel of the Lord



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