



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

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9823 2572

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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 1

Monday - No Mass
St Augustine, bishop, doctor
Tuesday - 8:00am
The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr
Wednesday 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
Spring Ember Day
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

2/3 SEPTEMBER

(22nd 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

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 26th & 27th August, 2023

Live the values of faith

A car skidded on some wet pavement and struck a telephone pole, injuring the driver. A woman rushed over to help, but she was pushed aside by a man who yelled out, "*Step aside! I've taken a course in first aid.*" After a moment, the woman politely tapped him on the shoulder and said, "*Pardon me, but when you get to the part about calling a doctor, I'm right here.*" If the man looked and observed carefully he would have recognised the woman as a doctor, then he would not have to push her aside. We often behave differently and strangely depending on what sort of people we are with, whether they are children, adults, our parents or our friends.

During WYD there were hundreds of thousands of young people together but it was wonderful to see there were no drugs, alcohol or violence which is often associated with the youth. It happened because they recognised who they were with - the Pope, and people with active faith.

In today's Gospel Jesus wanted his disciples to look hard to see his divinity. "*Who do you say that I am?*" He wanted to find out the truth how they felt and what they heard from within themselves, not just from their peers and people whom they have met. Peter had seen Jesus cure the afflicted, he had listened to Jesus' words to love others and forgive always, he then professed his faith that, 'Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God', Jesus replied, "*Blessed are you Simon, because no mere man revealed this to you but the Father who is in heaven*". By responding to Jesus' question, Peter made a personal commitment to him, to be his follower through trials and persecutions until his last breath.

Let us pray that when we say "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*", we will make a personal commitment to what we believe and we will try to live the values of our faith in our daily lives.

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Catechism of the Catholic Church

881 The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the 'rock' of his church. He gave him the keys to his church, and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock. The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of apostles united to its head. The pastoral office of Peter and the other apostles belong to the church's very foundation and is continued by the bishops under the primacy of the pope.

Something to reflect about.

Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't and believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it. Be who you are and say what you feel. Because those that matter, don't mind and those that mind....don't matter.





Marriage Enrichment Weekend
An opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

**Come and join us on
27-29 October 2023**

**at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment
at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.**

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or Email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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.



2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS FOR SALE \$10

Ministries Next Week 2/3 SEPT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino L Krslovic	S Davies L Agoon	M Zangari G Zangari	R Capolupo V Arbanas
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	D Toma B Empeigne F Bushby	L Barilla L Agoon Delicia Vella	G Dunn V Buhajiar S D'Cruz S Hambrook	S Cook G Vanderwert



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 Augustine of Hippo is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a former life of loose living, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions. His turnaround and conversion has been an inspiration to many who struggle with a particular vice or habit they long to break. This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvellous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. After reading the book of the Letters of St. Paul it was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life. He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious orders, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too.

Feast Day: August 28



The Passion of St John the Baptist

The Church, having celebrated the earthly birthday of St John the Baptist on June 24, today honours the anniversary of his martyrdom, his beheading.

Besides our Lord and our Lady, St John the Baptist is the only one whose birth and death are celebrated.

He died for the faith for which he lived. The consequences of his heralding the good news and a call to righteousness cost him his life. He was condemned by the decree of King Herod. St. John's martyrdom reminds us that the most important vocation for all Christians, Catholic and Protestant alike, is living out the Gospel. We are called to proclaim the Good News of Christ both in word and deed.

Feast Day: August 29



Spring Ember Day

EMBER DAYS (from the German Quatember, 'quarter day'; the Irish used to speak of Quarter Tense) have been kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century to mark the beginning of each of the four seasons of the year. They are occasions of special prayer and penance, asking

God's blessing on the new season. In Australia, as elsewhere, the practice fell into disuse, however, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference see now as an appropriate time for the Australian Church to begin again to observe the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as Ember Days. These will be special days of prayer to thank God for the many blessings in our lives and to ask God for the needs of all people and especially for the productivity of the earth and of human labour. Our prayer must never be selfish and must therefore be combined with some form of penance which allows us to stand in solidarity with those who suffer.

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:

Ally and Ayla Agoo and Valentina Agostino

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



Pope Francis explained that listening with the heart entails waiting, patience and dialoguing in a way that invites participants to avoid prejudicial points of view. According to him, although we are called to listen to others with "a pure heart," we must accompany that with charity to arrive at the truth. Do "not be afraid of proclaiming the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable," he said.



The pope described the function of the heart as revealing "the truth of our being" hence the need to for us to listen to it. Further highlighting the role of the heart, the message reads: "This leads those who listen to attune themselves to the same wave length, to the point of being able to hear within their heart also the heartbeat of the other. Then the miracle of encounter can take place, which makes us look at one another with compassion, welcoming our mutual frailties with respect rather than judging by hearsay and sowing discord and division."



BURIAL PLOTS at Forest Lawn, Leppington (Private sale) - Two burial plots, side by side, are available in the Catholic Section Forest Lawn. The price is \$6,500 for the lot. If interested please call Isabella 0492 925 978.

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.



**22nd October 2023
JB SPRING FAIR**

**DON'T MISS OUT THIS EXCITING DAY OF FUN
AND LAUGHTER!!
8 SUNDAYS TO GO!!**

Jumping Castles, Popcorn, Fairy floss, Face Painting, for a gold coin donation only.

There will be Snow Cones, a Barista for coffee lovers and for food lovers an array of cultural food from Italy, Croatia, Australia, Holland, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Malaysia, Philippines, and Tonga!!

To entertain you, we have, Studio 5 School of Dance, West Dance Co, Philippines and Tongan Choir, a Singer, and a Pianist to entertain you on the day. We are still looking for more talents of any age.

WANTED More Volunteers!! Please sign-up contact Susan 0419 606 683.

Middle East, Assyria, Mauritius parishioners why not come forward to share your cultural cuisine.

Contact: Susan 0419 606 683 (after 3:30pm) or Sharon 0410 494 700 (after 5:30pm))

Pope Francis who cited "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth flows," urged everyone to communicate with purify of heart. He exhorted players in "the field of information" to seek discernment even as they eschew indifference,...

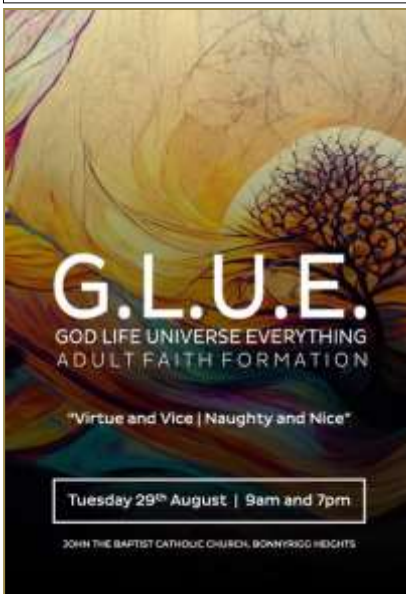
Read more at: <https://international.la-croix.com/news/religion/what-pope-francis-means-when-he-calls-for-speaking-with-the-heart/17851>

If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let the priests or the office know.

2022/2023 PG Tax receipts

If you did not collect your tax receipt for 2022/2023 from the Church they are now available for collection at the Parish Office.

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: 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 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: Carmen VELLA (Malta), Mary O'MARA, Ivan BABAN

Anniversary: Antonio ALBA, Maryanne FENECH

Other: 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:

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Jesus has been revealed to me as the "Christ, the Son of the living God" by.....
- ♦ I announce the identity of Jesus to others when I.....
- ♦ Jesus is building up his church through me by.....

First reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

137:1-3, 6, 8

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



The Gospel of the Lord