



# 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](mailto:pp@johnthebaptist.org.au)

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

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

*The Nativity of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary*

Saturday - 9:00am

*St Peter Claver, priest*

## NEXT SUNDAY

9/10 SEPTEMBER

*(23rd 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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

2nd & 3rd September, 2023

## Have strength and courage

A small foreign car tailgated James for several blocks through the streets of the city. He tried in vain to discourage the small car from following too closely. Then thirty blocks from home, James had all he could take. He pulled to the curb. So did the little car. Angrily James got out, ready to read the riot act to the other driver, and discovered that the foreign car was attached to the rear bumper of his own car. The two vehicles, police theorised, probably came entangled when James backed up in front of his house. Is something unpleasant tailgating you? Perhaps you're dragging something you shouldn't. Think a minute.

In the readings today, Paul says that his life unfolds under the shadow of the Cross. This is the acceptable sacrifice of mercy that, once fulfilled in Jesus Christ, continues as an act of communion between the disciple and the master. Furthermore, Jesus invites his own disciples to the fulfilment of this communion which is destined to grow on the journey towards Jerusalem. *"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."* Jesus challenged us to face our problems, sufferings, crises instead of trying to avoid them.

The Psychiatrist Scott Peck says that 'the tendency to avoid problems and the emotional suffering inherent in us is the primary basis of all human mental illness'. Or in the succinctly elegant words of Carl Jung, *"Neurosis is always a substitute for legitimate suffering"* But the suffering itself becomes more painful than the legitimate suffering it was designed to avoid." To conclude, problems and sufferings are essential to our growth as soil and fertilizer is for plants. It is true that we don't go around in search for problems and sufferings but let us pray that when they come our way, may we have the courage and strength to face this reality of life instead of turning away or trying to avoid them.



## Catechism of the Catholic Church

**618** The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the 'one mediator between God and men'. But because in his incarnate divine person he has in some way united himself to every man, 'the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery' is offered to all men. He calls his disciples to 'take up (their) cross and follow (him)', for 'Christ also suffered for (us), leaving (us) an example so that (we) should follow in his steps'. In fact Jesus desires to associate with his redeeming sacrifice those who were to be its first beneficiaries.



### 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](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or Email: [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto: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.**



## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

"A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail"...

-GOD BLESS US-

## Feasts of the Week



**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is the day on which Christians commemorate the birth of Mary, the Mother of God. Mary's parents Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They received the promise of a child and Mary was born to be the mother of the Saviour of the world, the spiritual mother of all men, and the holiest of God's creatures. This is one of the three birthdays in the Church calendar—the Birth of Jesus, the Birth of John the Baptist and the Birthday of Mary. All three were born without original sin, although Mary and Jesus were conceived without sin, and St John was cleansed of original sin while in the womb at the Visitation of Mary.

**Feast Day: September 8**



#### St Peter Claver

in 1580, of impoverished parents descended from ancient and distinguished families. He studied at the Jesuit college of Barcelona, entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona in 1602 and took his final vows on August 8th, 1604. While studying philosophy at Majorca, the young religious was influenced by St. Alphonsus Rodriguez to go to the Indies and save "millions of perishing souls."

In 1610, he landed at Cartagena (modern Colombia), the principle slave market of the New World, where a thousand slaves were landed every month. After his ordination in 1616, he dedicated himself by special vow to the service of the Negro slaves—a work that was to last for thirty-three years. He labored unceasingly for the salvation of the African slaves and the abolition of the Negro slave trade, and the love he lavished on them was something that transcended the natural order. Boarding the slave ships as they entered the harbor, he would hurry to the revolting inferno of the hold, and offer whatever poor refreshments he could afford; he would care for the sick and dying, and instruct the slaves through Negro catechists before administering the Sacraments. Through his efforts three hundred thousand souls entered the Church. Furthermore, he did not lose sight of his converts when they left the ships, but followed them to the plantations to which they were sent, encouraged them to live as Christians, and prevailed on their masters to treat them humanely. He died in 1654.

**Feast Day: September 9**

### 2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS FOR SALE \$10

Ministries Next Week 9/10 SEPT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	A Pace G Turnbull	S Hely L Barilla	I Naamo M Aulsebrook	J Lentini A Vanderwert
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:</b>	T Vella T Vartuli N La Rosa	A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	E Villegas C Porreca M Aulsebrook R Hibbs	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.

## 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.



## Father's Day Appeal - Sunday 3 September 2023

Every year we undertake the Father's Day Appeal, which is a special collection to assist our retired priests who have served us so faithfully.

We are indebted to our Fathers. When they retire usually at age 75, often after giving fifty years or more of service, they are no longer supported by a Parish. It then becomes our duty to look after our priests in respect of their years of selfless service to generations of our families.

Father's Day is an occasion to sincerely thank our priests and honour their great service by a gift to the Priest's Retirement Foundation.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has generously agreed the Archdiocese will match every donation two-for-one. For example, if you give \$100, the Archdiocese will add another \$200, making your contribution worth \$300.

Your gift is a **'thank you'** to our priests who've contributed in many ways in your life. They are friends who've counselled, comforted and provided spiritual nourishment through their wisdom and willingness to teach.

At present the Priests' Retirements Foundation supports 67 priests. Your gift plays a vital role to provide

- A home and house to live in;
- Nursing care for frail priests;
- Health insurance, medical and dental expenses;
- Assistance to continue their priestly vocation, such as through Masses, Baptisms or other ministry.

You will notice envelopes on your pews, where you can donate. There is also a convenient and secure online option.

Thank you for your time and generosity. Happy Father's Day.



## Father's Day Appeal Sunday 3 September 2023

Your priests helped begin your faith journey

The Archdiocese Father's Day Appeal supports retired priests and honours our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. Your gift is a 'thank you' to those who've contributed in so many ways in your life.



Will you help look after them in their retirement this Father's Day?

Donate today by completing the parish envelope, calling 1800 733 999 or online at [www.priestretirements.org.au](http://www.priestretirements.org.au)



**22nd October 2023  
JB SPRING FAIR**

**DON'T MISS OUT THIS EXCITING DAY OF FUN AND LAUGHTER!!  
7 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 on the day, we have, Studio 5 School of Dance, West Dance Co, Philippines and Tongan Choir, a Singer, and a Pianist.

**WANTED More Volunteers!!** If you can help please place your name and contact number on the sign up sheets on the Church noticeboard outside the Church or 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)

## Community Care

**Do you need help at the moment?  
We Can Help!**

Do you need help at the moment or know someone else who needs help?

Please let us know.

Contact Leanne at the Parish Office 9823 2572 or via email [info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au) or ring Fr Dominic on 0423 420 639 or Fr Ben email [benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org) if you need any assistance.



## Mention My Name

*Please join us for this special  
Prayer Service*

to remember those who have lost their lives through suicide and pray for their grieving family, friends, caregivers and first responders.

**7.30pm Tuesday**

**12th September 2023**

**All Saints Catholic Church**

48 George Street, Liverpool

For further information please contact the Grief Care

Team on 02 9646 6908 or

email [team@griefcare.com.au](mailto:team@griefcare.com.au)



**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.**

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

Sick: Levi ONG, Carmen CARUANA, Fernanda CHUNG, Errol O'DWYER, Rivan POULS, Gerald BOSOKY, Dominic ATTARD, Antonietta De MARTIN, Olivia TOOLE, 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: Despina JOANNIDES, Reynaldo MERCADO, Carmen VELLA (Malta)

Anniversary: Krystyna TOMASZEWSKI, Giovana MICALLEF, Ante KRSLOVIC, Giovanna CAMILLERI, Aurora LAGAN

Other: Gung Gia JIANG, Gung Jing KIAM, Tung Chil ANG, Jia Arng MUAI, Jue Soak KIM, Gung Tia PUNG, Gung Hoak PUNG, Gung Jung PUNG, Gung Yeak LANG, Gung Gow ARNG, Gung Jec CHOANG, Kue Chai LEE, Ngo Hai BUAI, Kue Peng KEE, Kue Peng TIA, Kue Peng Sir, Kue Chang GUANG, Kue Jung HONG, Kue Miel TIAN, Kue Miel ANG, Kue Miel IM, 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 - F r 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:

### 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Like Peter, I sometimes view suffering only in human terms; to think as God does about suffering means to me.....
- ♦ To deny myself and take up the cross connotes.....
- ♦ The "Father's glory" inspires me during time of suffering in that.....

## First reading

Jeremiah 20:7-9

### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,  
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl  
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me  
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,  
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,  
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,  
I could not bear it.

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

62:2-6, 8-9

### *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

## Second reading

Romans 12:1-2

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your

new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

cf Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

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

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

**That you may retain your self-respect,  
it is better to displease the people by doing  
what you know is right, than to temporarily  
please them  
by doing what you know is wrong.**

William J H Boetcker

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