



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 1

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 8:00am

Sts Cosmas and Damian, martyrs

Wednesday 7:00pm

St Vincent de Paul, priest

Thursday - 9:00am

St Wenceslaus martyr

St Lawrence Ruiz and

companions, martyrs

Friday - 9:00am

Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels

Saturday - 9:00am

St Jerome, priest, doctor

NEXT SUNDAY

30 SEPT/ 1 OCTOBER

(26th 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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

23rd & 24th September, 2023

Rejoice and be Content

Dave was just falling off to sleep when his wife nudged him and said that the telephone was ringing. "*At this hour it is probably for him,*" she said, closing her eyes. Dave rolled out of bed and trundled downstairs. When he returned, seeing his wife was soundly asleep. He woke her up "*It wasn't for me, after all.*" He said. She crawled out of bed and pulled on her robe, when Dave added, "*It was a wrong number.*" Just imagine how upset his wife was.

Jealousy is one of the most pervasive and destructive vices. It prevents us from experiencing joy, hope and love but anger and hatred. We tend to compare and even compete with other people. Jealousy is the issue in the Gospel today. It arises as a result of God's unlimited generosity. The labourers who had worked in the vineyard from the early morning were the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham and Isaac. Those who worked for the final hour were the latecomers, the non Jews of Gentiles now being accepted into the Church. Matthew describes the problem that the Church is facing because the Jewish Christians found it hard to accept the Gentiles who will receive the rewards same as what they expected to get. So Matthew tells this story of God's incredible generosity. The master gives the same reward to the latest workers as he gives to those who had worked all day but happy with their agreed payment in the beginning. This made them feel very jealous and angry. "*They took it, but grumbled at the landowner.*" Matthew reminds his readers that they should not limit God's generosity and determine who are deserving of it. "*Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous.*"



Let us pray that we will rejoice and be content with what we have and will not waste our time and energy in comparing ourselves with others. May we rejoice with others' good fortune instead of being jealous of them.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2433 Access to employment and to professions must be open to all without unjust discrimination: men and women, healthy and disabled, natives and immigrants. For its part society should, according to circumstances, help citizens find work and employment.

Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.

Congratulations Year 12

Last Monday we celebrated the graduating class of 2023.

As they prepare for their HSC may the Holy Spirit guide them and help them achieve in their future careers

RCIA – DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Many adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church each year through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):

1. The non-baptised are suitably prepared are welcomed into the Catholic Church by the reception of the three Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

2. Those from other Christian denominations are received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

3. Any catholic adults (baptised) but not yet confirmed.

RCIA will commence Thursday 12th October 7.30pm in the parish meeting room.

For inquiries contact either the parish office, or talk to the priests.



Feasts of the Week



St Vincent De Paul was born to a poor peasant family in the French village of Pouy on April 24, 1581. His first formal education was provided by the Franciscans. He did so well, he was hired to tutor the children of a nearby wealthy family. He used the monies he earned teaching to continue his formal studies at the University of Toulouse where he studied theology. He was ordained in 1600 and remained in Toulouse for a time. In 1605, while on a ship traveling from Marseilles to Narbonne, he was captured, brought to Tunis and sold as a slave. Two years later he and his master managed to escape and both returned to France. St. Vincent went to Avignon and later to Rome to continue his studies. While there he became a chaplain to the Count of Goigny and was placed in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor. He became pastor of a small parish in Clichy for a short period of time, while also serving as a tutor and spiritual director. From that point forward he spent his life preaching missions to and providing relief to the poor. He even established hospitals for them. This work became his passion. He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelize and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of woman, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests - the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to now as the Vincentians. Vincent helped reform the clergy and the manner in which they were instructed and prepared for the priesthood. He did this first through the presentation of retreats and later by helping develop a precursor to our modern day seminaries. The Vincentians remain with us today with nearly 4,000 members in 86 countries. In addition to his order of Vincentian priests, St. Vincent cofounded the Daughters of Charity along with St. Louise de Marillac. He was eighty years old when he died in Paris on September 27, 1660. St. Vincent is sometimes referred to as "The Apostle of Charity" and "The Father of the Poor". **Feast Day: September 27**



Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael - Angels are messengers from God. Three of the special messengers mentioned in the Bible are the archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. The names of each of these archangels tell us about the work God gave them to do. Michael (Who is like God?) was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Gabriel (Strength of God) announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Raphael (Medicine of God) is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey. **Feast Day: September 29**



St Jerome was born in 347 in Stridon, Dalmatia, Bethlehem, Palestine and was given the name Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus. He was a biblical translator and monastic leader, traditionally regarded as the most learned of the Latin Fathers. He lived for a time as a hermit, became a priest, served as secretary to Pope Damasus I, and about 389 established a monastery at Bethlehem. His numerous biblical, ascetical, monastic, and theological works profoundly influenced the early middle ages. He is known particularly for his Latin translation of the Bible, the Vulgate, and his commentaries on the Gospels. He is considered a doctor of the church. Jerome died on September 30, 420. His death was peaceful and he was laid to rest under the Church of the Nativity. His remains were later transferred to Rome. **Feast Day: Sept 30**

2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS FOR SALE \$10

Ministries Next Week 30 SEP/1 OCT	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:				
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	B Empeigne F Bushby M Finn	F Foti B O'Connor D Sullivan	R Hibbs J Habib N Laureti V Buhajiar	G Vanderwert 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. 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

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:

*Natasha Forbes, Emelio Khokaz,
Oliver Zoppellaro and Dante Gonzalez*



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



Matthew's gospel was written in a period of settling down for the Christian community. The Jewish Christians had separated from their fellow Jews, and they no longer attended synagogue as they had in the earlier years of Christianity. The threat of immediate persecution had passed, but there may have been conflict in the community between Jewish Christians and

Gentile Christians. In this settling down period, the early Church was beginning to put together what it believed about its life and mission. One of the first Trinitarian formulas in the New Testament is given to us in Matthew's gospel, probably a formula used in baptism in this early Christian community. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt. 28:19)

Confirmation Congratulations

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in the Church on Sunday 17th September. We congratulate all the candidates on receiving this Sacrament and we would like to thank all the teachers and parent helpers who helped prepare the children and a special

thanks to the Sacramental Co-ordinator Linda Barrilla and the core team, for all the work with preparation and behind the scenes as well.



PARISH HOUSE VOLUNTEERS:

We are in need of volunteers to help with our Parish Housie at the Liverpool Catholic Club on **Saturdays from 12:00pm to around 4:45pm on a monthly roster**. If you can assist in anyway please see Fr Dominic or contact the Parish.

**22nd October 2023
JB SPRING FAIR**

**DON'T MISS OUT THIS EXCITING DAY OF FUN AND LAUGHTER!!
4 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.

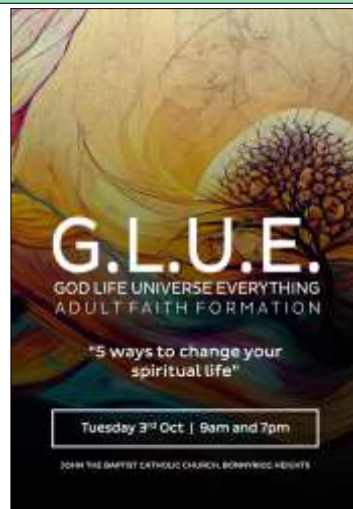
Contact Leanne at the Parish Office **9823 2572** or via email info@johnthebaptist.org.au or ring Fr Dominic on 0423 420 639 or Fr Ben email

benjamin.saliba@sydneycatholic.org if you need any assistance.



Men put faith on display.

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



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: Isaac BOYLEN, Kathy BOWLING, Alex, Levi ONG, Carmen CARUANA, Fernanda CHUNG, 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 MERECICA, Avelino San BUENAVENTURA, Giuseppina ANDRONACO, Mariola, Rita DALLI, Alexander (Sandy) ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, John DEMICOLI, Judy DIVANI, Lachlan BENSON, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAI, Melda MIZZI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Nolita HERBERT

Recently Deceased: Matthew BENTLEY, Despina JOANNIDES, Reynaldo MERCADO

Anniversary: Giovanna CAMILLERI, Vincent MUSCAT, Carolina DEL VALLE, Violet Linda ANDERSON, Luciano MORASSUT

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 - 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:

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year A)

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What it means to me to be a *tenant* (and not the owner) of God's vineyard is.....
- ♦ The fruit that I have produced for the Lord is.....
- ♦ I assist others to produce fruit for the Lord by.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is near to all who call him.

144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second reading

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Cf. Acts 16:14

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord

