



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

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Office:

9823 2572

Email:

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Website:

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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

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 7:00pm

St Cecilia, virgin, martyr

Thursday - 9:00am

St Clement I, pope, martyr

St Columban abbot

Friday - 9:00am

St Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, and companions, martyrs

Saturday - 9:00am

St Catherine of Alexandria, virgin, martyr

NEXT SUNDAY

25/26 NOVEMBER

(Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 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

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

18th & 19th November, 2023

Make use of Gods Gifts

Little Johnny wanted to go to the zoo and pestered his parents for days. Finally his mother talked his reluctant father into taking him. "So how was it?" his mother asked when they returned home. "Great", little Johnny replied. "Did you and your father have a good time?" asked his mother. "Yeah, daddy especially liked it!" exclaimed little Johnny excitedly, "One of the animals came racing home at 30 to 1!"

Today's gospel parable is about using the talents that have been given to us. An employer entrusts his property to his three servants while he goes abroad. He gives them no instructions but just watches for their initiative. The first two servants risked and gained. "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." The third brought back the master's money unused and defended himself by focusing on the reputed meanness of the master, not on his own lack of courage as the reason for his failure. He buries what was given to him because "I had heard you were a hard man." We are reminded of our talents and gifts, how have we used them? Jesus is also making a point against the Scribes and Pharisees. Their main aim is to keep the law, which they had been given, exactly as it was - not develop it or alter it or deepen its meaning in any way. Jesus tells us that there can be no religion without risk and adventure. Willingness to dare is an essential part of our faith.

Jesus calls us to reflect on our talents (life), and take risk in living our faith. Where there is no risk there is no gain in spiritual as well as material matters.

"THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER"

1. **Your Thumb** is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty.'
2. **The next finger** is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. **The next finger** is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. **The fourth finger** is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, sick, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes **our little finger** - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself.



You are Invited

The Ascension prayer community is inviting everyone for a special evening of Praise and Worship and Teaching/ Sharing and fellowship on (23 November) 2023.

Topic: "What is in the name of Jesus" - Presented by Ron Maldgri (A lay Evangelist whose passion is to see God's kingdom advance on Earth)

Where: Parish Hall, 45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

Time: 7:15pm

Contact: Susan 0415 342 672 or Trudi 0414 608 538
Prayer meetings takes place on a fortnightly basis

COMBINED CAROLS EVENING - FRIDAY DECEMBER 1!

Our date has been confirmed, and it's now time to prepare! A warm invitation is offered to all of our JB families to the combined John the Baptist Primary, Freeman Catholic College and John the Baptist Parish Carols evening on Friday December 1.

By this time the season of Advent will be upon us and the preparations for the birth of Christ will be with us all. Let's take the opportunity to gather as a faith community and celebrate. All students K-6 will be involved in singing and performing. Rehearsals have already begun!

This year's Carols will be on the JB Playing Field, not Freeman. There will be no food trucks this year, however the JB Men's Group will still have a BBQ. Coffee vans and ice cream vans will also be onsite. We encourage families to bring their own dinner, a picnic rug, and your best singing voices.



JB Social Group Christmas at the Cathedral

Join us as we visit St Mary's Cathedral on **Friday 15 December** to view the spectacular light show illustrating the scenes of the Nativity, with this year's theme being "The 12 days of Christmas".

There will also be market stalls and other activities to entertain and amuse.

The coach will depart the church grounds at Mount Street at **6.30pm**. We will leave St Mary's Cathedral at around 10.00pm, so will be back in the parish by about 11.00pm.

Parking will be available on the church grounds (as per mass attendance).

Cost will be \$10 per family and \$5 for singles.

To book places on the coach please either text or phone Valerie Buhajiar on 0417 244 285 with your name and number of places.

The coach is seat belted and all passengers must wear a seat belt. Any children attending **must** be old enough to wear a seatbelt.

Payments will need to be made to Leanne in the parish office by Friday 9 December. Anyone wishing to attend but is experiencing difficulties please speak with Father Dominic.

Ministries Next Week 25/26 NOV	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Pace G Turnbull	S Hely L Barilla	N Laureti M Aulsebrook	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	B Empeigne A Jameson A Pace	F Foti D Sullivan J Finucane	V Buhajiar S D'Cruz S Hambrook E Villegas	



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

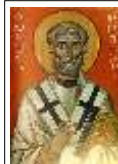


He Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Presentation of Mary is celebrated in both the Eastern and Western Churches. It recalls the day in the life of the Jewish girl named Mary (Maryam) when her parents, Joachim and Anne, presented her to the Lord in the temple and dedicated her life to Him. Mary had already been chosen by God, preserved by a singular grace as a chosen vessel through whom the Incarnate Word would be given for the salvation of the whole world. However, the offering by her parents is a response to the invitation to join our free choice to God's invitation. This exercise of freedom lies at the heart of discipleship, and is the inner core of every vocation, to cooperate with grace. **Feast Day: November 21**



St Cecilia A Roman virgin who beseeched the angels and saints to protect her virginity. She believed an angel watched over her and once baptised, her husband believed also. With his brother, they buried the martyrs slain by Turcius Almachius. Her preaching had converted 400 people. She was arrested and sentenced to death. She was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons. **Feast Day: November 22**



St Clement 1 also known as Saint Clement of Rome, is listed by Irenaeus and Tertullian as the fourth bishop of Rome, holding office from 88 AD to his death in 99 AD. He is considered to be the first Apostolic Father of the Church, one of the three chief ones together with Polycarp and Ignatius of Antioch. **Feast Day: November 23**



St Columban was an Irish missionary notable for founding a number of monasteries after 590 in the Frankish and Lombard kingdoms, most notably Luxeuil Abbey in present-day France and Bobbio Abbey in present-day Italy. **Feast Day: November 23**



Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions

Through the missionary efforts of various religious families beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing until 1866, the Vietnamese people heard the message of the gospel, and many accepted it despite persecution and even death. There are 117 martyrs in this group and although they died at different times, they were all canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 19, 1988. Of the group, 96 were Vietnamese, 11 were Spaniards, and 10 were French. There were 8 bishops, 50 priests and 59 lay Catholics in the group. Of the priests, 11 were Dominicans, 10 belonged to the Paris Mission Society, and the rest were diocesan priests plus one seminarian. Certain individual martyrs were mentioned by name in the process of canonization: Andrew Dung-Lac, a diocesan priest; Remembered as representative of the thousands of Christians tortured and martyred in Vietnam between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries: bishops, presbyters, religious, and lay people, both children and adults. These martyrs gave their lives not only for the Church but for their country as well. They showed that they wanted the gospel of Christ to take root in their people and contribute to the good of their homeland. **Feast Day: November 24**



St Catherine of Alexandria, also known as St Catherine of the Wheel and the Great Martyr Saint Catherine was born in Alexandria, Egypt. She is believed to have been a well known scholar in the 4th Century. In the 15th Century it was claimed she had spoken to Joan of Arc. She is traditionally revered as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. She was martyred because she died for her beliefs in God. According to legend, she was supposed to die on a breaking wheel, but the wheel broke as soon as she touched it, so her head was cut off instead. Because of this her main symbol is the spiked wheel, which is known as a Catherine wheel. After her death, angels allegedly took her body to Mount Sinai, where, according to legend, it was discovered about 800 CE. **Feast Day: November 25**

Baptisms: If you wish to Baptise your child please contact the parish office to make an appointment with Fr Dominic or Fr Ben.



RECONCILIATION & COMMUNION SACRAMENT PROGRAM 2024

Enrolment for the Sacrament Program for Reconciliation and Communion is now open. Children who have been Baptised and are in Year 4 or above in 2024 are welcome to enrol.

LESSON INFORMATION

Reconciliation Lessons - 4 weeks in Term 1, 2024 (1hr each week held in the Church) ending in March.

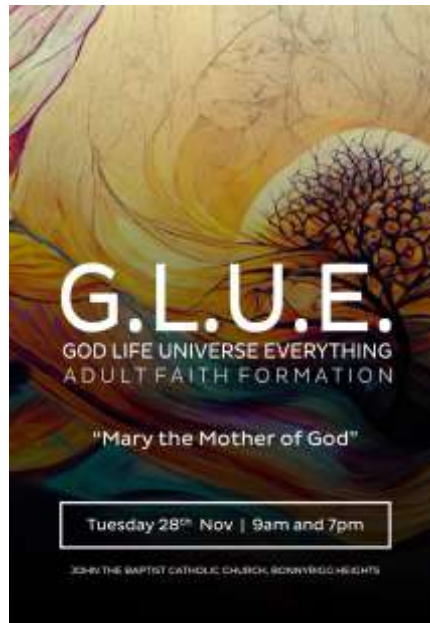
Communion Lessons - 4 weeks in Term 2, 2024 (1hr each week held in the Church) ending in June.

Enrolment Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 6

February 2024 at 7pm in the Church. Parents can select their lesson times in early February 2024.

To enrol complete the form by visting <https://www.trybooking.com/CNAHI>

Any questions please call Tamara 0424 166 248



Fr Ben has a podcast!



Move your phone camera over the QR code to be linked to the Youtube page.

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, 9th December.

Location: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Time: 3.00pm-5.00pm

Cost: Free

Afternoon tea will be provided.

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.



ADVENT COMPANION 2023

The Parish Renewal Team has created an Advent Companion "Listen to the Word - Prepare for His Birth" for spiritual enrichment for Advent in preparation for Christmas.

Please take home a free copy to use at home or you might like to form a group.



In November we pray for the dead. If you would like your loved ones names printed in our November Book of Remembrance please contact the parish office or write their names on the November Mass Offering envelopes provided in the Church and either place it onto the plate at Mass or pop it into the parish office. If you would like us to pray for your loved one and do not wish their names to be published please let us know. Thanks you!

THE HEALING POWER OF GIVING

A group of residents from Scalabrini Aged Care Village, led by Anna, their Wellbeing coordinator, experience great joy and satisfaction in potting and caring for cuttings which they then donate to be sold through our Piety Store which raises money for our Community Care group to help those in need. These aged residents from Scalabrini Village have found that, as Francis of Assisi states, "It is in giving that we receive."

CATECHIST NEWS:

The **Annual Catechist Mass this Sunday 19 November** at St Mary's Cathedral provides an opportunity for the Archdiocese to express appreciation to all Catechists and Helpers for sharing the hope and joy that Jesus brings. Bishop Danny Meagher, our Episcopal Vicar for Education in Schools, will be the Principal Celebrant and will also present the awards for 2023. Mass will commence at 2:30pm followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral College Hall.

For those unable to attend, the Mass will be live-streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/HeTL2wAtCkw?feature=share>

We congratulate our award recipients:

LIFE MEMBER AWARD (30 Years of service) to

Julianne Di Filippo

CARDINAL FREEMAN AWARD (25 Years of service) to

Connie Giannone

On behalf of John the Baptist Parish we thank you for your committed service to teaching the Good News to your children in our primary schools.

Nina Laureti, JB Catechist Coordinator

END OF YEAR CATECHIST MASS AND SUPPER

All Catechists and helpers are invited to our End of Year Thanksgiving Catechist Mass on **Thursday 30th November. Mass is at 7:00pm followed by light refreshments.** A lovely way to thank the Lord for the many blessings we receive in spreading the Good News to over 1000 children in 6 different primary state schools. Enquiries: Nina Laureti 0408 465 159

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

Sick: Ed & Rita MALAPITAN, Flossy RODROM, Isaac BOYLEN, Kathy BOWLING, Alex, Levi ONG, Carmen CARUANA, Fernanda CHUNG, Rivan POULS, Gerald BOSOKY, Antonietta De MARTIN, Olivia TOOLE, Benito CARBONE, Leilah DANIEL, Dominic EMPEIGNE, Essa, Pamela MARTIN, Ivy FERNANDES, Royala & Gayle, Michael, Brian AULSEBROOK, Giuseppina ANDRONACO, Mariola, Rita DALLI, Alexander (Sandy) ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT, Judy DIVANI, Lachlan BENSON, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAL, Melda MIZZI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS

Recently Deceased: Andrew SMOLKOWICZ, Baby Lily HOARAU, John DEMICOLI, Dominic ATTARD, Rufina REIS, Marija DRENOVAC, Silvana MAIOLO, Teresita BORTHWICK, Angelina Carigma CRUZ, Lloyd HOPE, Marilyn PALMER

Anniversary: John Albet ROBINSON, Serafina BADINO, Agatino SACCA, James REILLY, May REILLY, Mercedes Del Valle CHIU

Other: Gabriel SAFI, 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:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - (Year A)

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Reflection Questions.....

- Some ways I am able to double the giftedness that God has given me is.....
- I am tempted to bury my "talent" when.....
- The promise of the Master's joy inspires me during difficult times in that.....

First reading

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

127:1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

The Gospel of the Lord



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