



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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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

St Andrew, apostle

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

2/3 DECEMBER

(First Sunday of Advent

Year B)

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

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

25th & 26th November, 2023

“ALWAYS UNITED IN CHRIST THE KING”

A message from Fr Ben

Today we celebrate the solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It is Jesus who reigns in our hearts, who humbles himself to have intimate communion with us in the Eucharist, is always forgiving and shows us the way to true happiness. It must be Jesus who brings us together as a community of believers and his reign means that we are all his citizens, united under his kingship, moving toward a common goal. This is why no matter where you are in the world on this day, each time you receive Jesus in the Eucharist, you are united to Catholics all over the country, all over the world under his reign of mercy, peace and love.

It is through this unity that I have been consoled and can share some news with you, my John the Baptist family. The Archbishop of Sydney has appointed me assistant priest of St Mary's Cathedral, where I will also assist as his master of ceremonies. This appointment will take effect on the 1st Jan 2024. When people ask me what the most difficult thing about the priesthood is, I can honestly say it is this. The highlight of my time here has been developing such beautiful relationships with you, my family at the parish, the students and teachers at JB and Freeman and the nursing home community at Edensor Gardens. I hope with all my heart you have seen a priest that works for the Lord's vineyard and lays his life down for the people of John the Baptist.

A heartfelt thanks to Fr Dominic and Leanne who have been a major support since day one, allowing me to find my feet as a newly ordained priest. If I can leave the parish with anything it is this. Love Jesus with all your heart – allow him to reign in your heart, in your family home, in your relationships. When this king reigns, there is nothing but peace. Grow in love for his mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation and be reminded that whenever you receive your king in the Eucharist, you will be uniting it not only to me, but to every other Catholic that professes Jesus Christ as King. Please pray for me as I will be praying for you, and with all sincerity please do keep in touch.



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.



"May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us."

Mother Theresa



JB Social Group Christmas at the Cathedral

Thank you to all those people who have booked a seat on the bus to St Mary's Cathedral on Friday 15th December for the spectacular light show illustrating "the 12 days of Christmas".

Unfortunately the buses are now full and no more seating is available.

A reminder that the coach will be leaving the Church grounds at Mount Street at 6:30pm and we will be back in the parish about 11:00pm.

Payments need to be made to Leanne in the parish office by Friday 9 December.

Please contact Valerie Buhajiar on 0417 244 285 if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL 14-25 December presented by PAYCE Foundation

Experience the wonder and beauty of this Advent Season as we wait in joyful anticipation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Live entertainment starts at 6:30pm (market stalls & food)
Christmas projection starts at 8:30pm

All welcome. Please see Church noticeboard for details.



Immaculata Mission School 2024: FISHERS OF MEN

Start the new year by going deeper in God's love through awesome speakers on the Catholic faith, daily Mass, Adoration and the Rosary, praise and worship, fellowship and more! There are two different programs, so there is something for everyone ...

Youth & adults (14 years & up): 1-6 January 2024

Married couples & families (specifically designed for married couples. Includes children's and teens program): 7-10 January 2024

Special guest speakers: Dan & Stephanie Burke from the USA (co-founders of the Avila Institute, presenters on EWTN & Dan is an author of over 15 books on Catholic spirituality)

Where: NEGS (New England Girls' School), Armidale NSW

For costs, additional information and

TO REGISTER visit: <http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims>

Ministries Next Week 2/3 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	M Camilleri A Vlahadamis	J Finucane J Poljak	E Villegas J Mataele	R Capolupo A Vanderwert
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	D Toma T Vartuli T Oraha	L Barilla L Agoo Delicia Vella	C Porreca M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	R Imbert C Vella



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.



Mass for Expectant Mothers and those Hoping to Conceive

All expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive are warmly invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday, 10 December**, with an opportunity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Richard Umbers with relics of St. Gerard Majella and St. Gianna Molla.

Register before 1 December for catering purposes at <https://www.trybooking.com/CLMSM>



PARISH SUPPERS

Our Parish is in need of volunteers to assist with suppers after the Saturday 5:30pm Mass.

If you are interested in helping please call Teresa Vartuli our coordinator on 0413 835 250 and you will be placed on a roster once a month.

Feasts of the Week



St Andrew also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter. According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills. It is believed Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes. Andrew was also present at the last supper. Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus." Andrew's remains were originally preserved at Patras. However, some believe St. Regulus, who was a monk at Patras, received a vision telling him to hide some of Andrew's bones. Shortly after Regulus' dream, many of Andrew's relics were transferred to Constantinople by order of Roman emperor Constantius II around 357. Regulus later received orders in a second dream telling him to take the bones "to the ends of the earth." He was to build a shrine for them wherever he shipwrecked. He landed on the coast of Fife, Scotland. In September 1964, Pope Paul VI had all of St. Andrew's relics that ended up in Vatican City sent back to Patras. Now, many of Andrew's relics and the cross on which he was martyred are kept in the Church of St. Andrew in Patras. St. Andrew is venerated in Georgia as the first preacher of Christianity in that territory and in Cyprus for having struck the rocks creating a gush of healing waters upon landing on the shore. His saltire cross is featured on the flag of Scotland and is represented in much of his iconography. He is commonly portrayed as an old man with long white hair and a beard, often holding the Gospel book or a scroll.

Feast Day: November 30

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:

Vili Sikahela & Everest Harlow

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



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 visiting
<https://www.trybooking.com/CNAHI>

Any questions please call Tamara 0424 166 248



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 last meeting for the year is Saturday, 9th December.

Location: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Time: 3.00pm-5.00pm

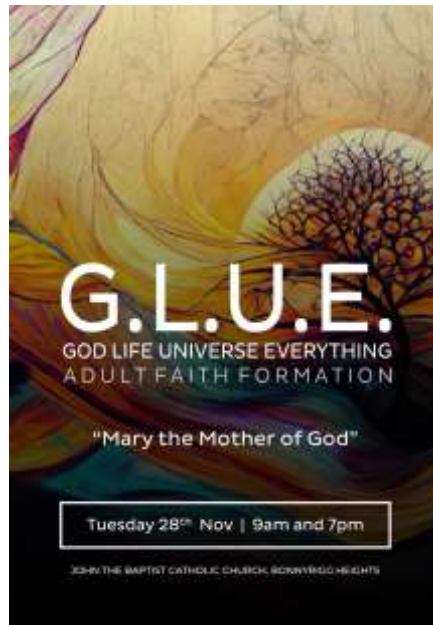
Cost: Free

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.



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!



Fr Ben has a podcast!



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

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.

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

ORDINATION TO THE DEACONITE ADRIAN SUYANTO

**December 16
St Mel's Catholic Church
7 Evaline Street Campsie
10:30am**

Adrian joined us in the Parish for four weeks last Advent. All welcome.



PARISH HOUSIE 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 office on 9823 2572.

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

Sick: Peter CASEY, Ed & Rita MALAPITAN, 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

Anniversary: Elsie ANDREAZZA, Mary D'CRUZ, M.R. VARGHESE, Joseph CAMILLERI

Other: Iluminada MENDOZA, Rina FAVOTTO, Giuseppe GAGLIANO, 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 - 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:

First Sunday of Advent - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The bases for whether I help another or not are.....
- ♦ The limits to my care and concern for others are.....
- ♦ What this gospel affirms and challenges in me about my bases and limits for reaching out to others are.....

First reading

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

22:1-3, 5-6

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king *until he has put all his enemies under his feet*

and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be *put under his feet*. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessing on him, who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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