



# 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 1

Monday - No Mass

St John Damascene, priest,  
doctor

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday 7:00pm  
St Nicholas, bishop

Thursday - 9:00am

St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

Friday - 9:00am

Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday - 9:00am

St Juan Diego

Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit

## NEXT SUNDAY

9/10 DECEMBER

(Second 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

## First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

2nd & 3rd December, 2023

# Waiting

Tim: Hey Paul, I saw Rose your girl friend goes out with Steve last night.

Paul: Which Steve?

Tim: Steve, the captain of our Football club. Are you going to do something about this?

Paul: I'll wait!

Tim: What are you waiting for? I thought you love Rose.

Paul: I'll wait to catch her going out with someone else smaller, Steve is too strong for me to handle.

This week we celebrate the beginning of our Advent Season. Derived from a Latin root, Advent means 'Coming' or 'Arrival'. Lasting only four weeks, it is traditionally a season of quiet and joyful expectancy. Advent has a two-fold character: a time of preparation for the festival of the Nativity when the first coming of God's Son to the world is recalled and a period of reflection pointing us to Christ's second coming at the end of time. *"Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."*

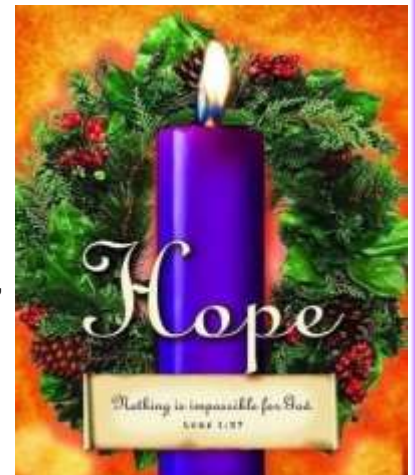
This season calls us to conversion, preparation and a constant sense of watchfulness. We need to be aware of our busyness of life during this season that is not to be over-burdened slaves to a consumerist Christmas. The fact is that we all are busy around Christmas time but we should wisely recognise our priority and what is more important to our lives? Therefore, we are called to spend a few minutes a day to reflect on how we can prepare to celebrate Christ's birth in a more meaningful way. Reflection is a way of just being in awareness of our own needs. It helps us to be present to our own reality. Then we will become more sensitive to the coming of God's Son not just during Christmas but in all situations and events of our lives.

Let us pray that we will be alert enough to see Christ in all events and experience the joy of the gift from eternity to be born within us.

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

672 According to the Lord, the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by 'distress' and the trial of evil which does not spare the church and ushers in the struggles of the last days. It is a time of waiting and watching.

**Lord Jesus, Your Everlasting Light restores our eternal hopes. You are our Righteousness and Redeemer forever. Amen.**



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 10:00am

### RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 27th December 7:30pm  
Saturday 4:15-5:00pm



### 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 9/10 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	L Krslovic A Pace	L Agoo L Barilla	M Aulsebrook V Buhajiar	J Lentini V Arbanas
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:</b>	T Vella A Vlahadamis F Bushby	A Liberatore F Foti D Sullivan	N Laureti G Dunn V Buhajiar S D'Cruz	G Vanderwert S Cook

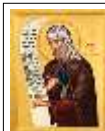


### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

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](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.

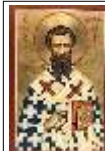
## Feasts of the Week



**St John Damascene** spent most of his life in the Monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, and all of his life under Muslim rule, indeed protected by it. He was born in Damascus, received a classical and theological education, and followed his father in a government position under the Arabs. After a few years, he resigned and went to the Monastery of Saint Sabas. He is famous in three areas: First, he is known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images. Paradoxically, it was the Eastern Christian emperor Leo who forbade the practice, and it was because John lived in Muslim territory that his enemies could not silence him. Second, he is famous for his treatise, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, a summary of the Greek Fathers, of which he became the last. It is said that this book is for Eastern schools what the Summa of Aquinas became for the West. Third, he is known as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church, the other being Romanus the Melodist. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known. Saint John Damascene's liturgical feast is celebrated on April 30. **Feast Day: December 4**



**St Nicholas** of Bari was born in Lycia (today's Turkey). From an early age he was a very generous person, especially towards the poor and needy and did this in a quiet way using his inheritance; he would select house where he knew people were poor and would drop gold coins down the chimney. Sometimes he would leave money in shoes that people left on their doorstep. Nicholas moved to Myra where he was ordained as a priest, and later as a bishop. He was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution and only released when Constantine the Great came to power. He was also beaten and tortured when it was uncovered that he was helping the poor. St Nicholas is associated with Christmas because of his tradition of giving secret gifts to children. His tradition continued after his death and formed part of today's Christmas celebrations. Candy canes are a symbol of St Nicholas' crozier (staff). **Feast Day: December 6**



**St Ambrose**  
St Ambrose, also known as Aurelius Ambrosius, is one of the four original doctors of the Church. He was the Bishop of Milan and became one of the most important theological figure of the 4th century. He was a successful lawyer prior to becoming a bishop. As bishop, he donated all of his land and gave his money to the poor. Ambrose authored many of the Church's important writings and hymns. He is credited with composing the repertory Ambrosian chant, also known as the Antiphonal Chant. He is also credited with composing the hymn "Te Deum," which is believed to have been written when he baptized Augustine of Hippo. **Feast Day: December 7**



**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
the feast had its origin in the East as the 'Conception of Mary by St Anne'. It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the Immaculate Conception' and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be. **Feast Day: December 8**



**St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin** St. Juan Diego was a native American peasant who is known for telling the world about Our Lady of Guadalupe. He was born in 1474 and lived in Cuautitlán, which is near Mexico City. Every day he would walk to Mass some distance away. One of these days, he was going to church and came to a hill called Tepeyac. A beautiful woman appeared to him and identified herself as the Virgin Mary. She told Juan to go to the bishop and have him build a shrine to her. Juan bravely went to see the bishop, but he was uncertain of his story and asked for a sign. In an apparition several days later, Our Lady told him to collect some flowers and take them to the bishop. Juan Diego took some flowers and put them in his tilma, or cloak. When he went to the bishop, the flowers spilled out and on his tilma was a beautiful image of Our Lady. **Feast Day: December 9**



**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:

*Emily Mochrie & Mia Emmerson*

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 next 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.



## CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY MASS 5:30PM

If your child would like to be part of John the Baptist Christmas Eve Children Mass either in the nativity play or as a reader please attend the following rehearsals :

Monday 11th December at 3:45 and

Thursday 21st December at 3:45 .

Both rehearsals will take place in the church.

Any questions please contact Rosalie Capolupo 0404276332 or Tina Dunn 0439492920



Dear Parishioners,

**Our Jesse Tree** in the Church this year will benefit those families in our parish community who are struggling. If you would like to contribute please take an envelope from the tree and make a cash donation. Please leave the envelope in the basket during Mass times only, or place it on the collection plate or pass it to Father or the ladies in the Piety Store. If you know of anyone in difficult circumstances this Christmas, please let Fr Dominic know by email [info@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:info@johnthebaptist.org.au) or by telephoning the parish office on 9823 2572.

Blessing from the Community Care Fund

**Congratulations** to Guy Zangari who will be bestowed with a Papal Honour by Holy Father Pope Francis for the Knighthood of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great this coming Thursday 7th December at St Mary's Cathedral by His Grace Anthony Fisher OP.

## Advent Wreath

The origins of the Advent wreath are apparently from Germany. It is one of the pre-Christian practices adopted by Christians. During the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, the Germanic people gathered wreaths of evergreen and lit fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world. Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet (or blue) and the fourth could be rose (or pink), but four violet (or blue or white) candles can also be used. In our wreath there are four painted columns with lanterns on the top representing advent candles.

### The Symbols

**The Circle of the Wreath:** God Himself, His eternity and His endless mercy, without neither beginning nor end.

**The Green of the Wreath:** Our hope of newness, renewal and eternal life.

**The Candles:** The Light of God that came into the world through Christ to bring newness, life and hope.

**Four Candles:** The four weeks of Advent, representing the four centuries between the time of the Prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

**Three Coloured (purple or blue) Candles:** A period of waiting, expectation and preparation.

**The First Candle:** A time of expectation and hope.

**The Second Candle:** The peace that is to come.

**The Pink (or Rose) Candle:** for the Third Week: It symbolizes joy for the promise is almost fulfilled.

**The Fourth Candle:** The love of God for mankind

## ORDINATION TO THE DEACONATE ADRIAN SUYANTO December 16 at 10:30am

**St Mel's Catholic Church, 7 Evaline Street, Campsie**

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



### PARISH HOUSEIE VOLUNTEERS:

We are in need of volunteers to help with our Parish Houseie 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 contact Valerie Buhajiar on 0417 244 285

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

Sick: Albert CALLEJA, Peter CASEY, Ed & Rita MALAPITAN, Kathy BOWLING, Alex, Levi ONG, Carmen CARUANA, Fernanda CHUNG, Rivan POULS, Antonietta De MARTIN, Olivia TOOLE, Benito CARBONE, Lellah 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: Christine MCCARTHY, Gerald BOSOKY, Andrew SMOLKOWICZ, Baby Lily HOARAU, John DEMICOLI, Dominic ATTARD, Rufina REIS, Marija DRENOVAC

Anniversary: Joseph CAMILLERI, Mario ZAMMIT, Gabriel SAFI

Other: Tony CINI, 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: Valerie Buhajiar /  
Money Counting: Victoria Baltazar  
Men's Group: Branko Poljak

**For any inquiries, please call the parish office.**

## Next Sunday:

### Second Sunday of Advent - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I experience fatigue and weariness because.....
- ♦ Christian living seems too demanding when.....
- ♦ At times like these, Jesus comes to renew my discipleship by.....

## First reading

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

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

## Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

### The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



### The Gospel of the Lord



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