



John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)



Parish Pastoral Centre:

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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

St Damasus, pope

Tuesday - 8:00am

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday 7:00pm

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Thursday - 9:00am

St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

16/17 DECEMBER

(Third 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

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

9th & 10th December, 2023

Prepare

A little girl was sitting on her grandmother's lap as she read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch her wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then her grandma's again. Finally she spoke up, "Nanna, did God make you?" "Yes sweetheart," she answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh" she paused, "Nanna, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed honey," she said "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling the respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

In today's Gospel John the Baptist announces to the people the good news that the long awaited day of salvation is about to dawn upon them. He urges the people to prepare 'a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' John makes his message clear by word and example that the Lord's coming does not depend on people's efforts. He ate and dressed simply and proclaimed clearly that he was only the forerunner of the Lord and not the Lord himself. John the Baptist is a great example of one who is secured in himself and he is not dominated by his ego. He

does not desire power, prestige or possession and for that reason he is really a free man. Knowing that he is loved by God, and he is sent for a particular role, he desires no other

possession. We too have to allow ourselves to be loved by God, and having experienced God's love we will become more secure and joyous in knowing our purpose in life. When we are aware of all that we have as gifts, we feel that we have more than enough and will want to share those presents and ourselves with others.

Let us pray that we can let go of our many addictions and ill feelings and nurture our lives in the love of God as we prepare to celebrate the coming of God's Son.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

523 St John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. 'Prophet of the Most High', John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being 'the friend of bridegroom', whom he points out as 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'. Going before Jesus 'in the spirit and power of Elijah', John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

Lord Jesus, sanctify our people and make us acceptable to You.

Reclaim and restore us to God's Everlasting Love. Amen.



**Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.**

Bible Trivia Questions

1. In what year was the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed? Why was this a significant event in the history of the early Church?
2. Where did the early Christians celebrate Baptism and the Eucharist? Why did they do it? *See the back page for answers*

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 6

The Year 6 will be graduated at a Mass on Monday 11th at 6pm. We wish them well for high school next year.

Why is Advent called the "little lent".

Advent is the start of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church. Traditionally, this is the time when the Church requires the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the feast of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. No one knows when this tradition started but it first began in the west.

Christmas retells the wondrous story of the redemption of mankind. People long ago waited for signs of the Messiah - in due time, the words of the prophets were fulfilled and Christ came to live among us.

Now, the prophets' words are filled with new meaning, as once again we prepare ourselves to celebrate the fresh coming of Jesus Christ. However, Jesus intends His apocalyptic images as a promise of our ultimate salvation, when He comes in glory at the *parousia* or end time. We therefore should prepare ourselves for that final day of glory.

Advent comes from the latin word "Adventus" which means *coming*. Traditionally, it has been celebrated with prayer and fasting, which is why it is known as the "little Lent."

JB Social Group Christmas at the Cathedral Bus Trip

For those attending this trip on Friday 15 December please be at the church car park between 6.00pm and 6.15pm to board the bus.

The bus will leave at 6.30pm and we will return around 11.00pm.

Contact Valerie Buhajiar on 0417 244 285 if you need further information or have any questions.



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 16/17 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	L Krslovic G Turnbull	L Barilla J Finucane	N Laureti S Ives	A Vanderwert R Capolupo
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	M Camilleri B Empeigne N La Rosa	J Finucane L Barilla L Agoo	S Hambrook E Villegas C Porreca M Aulsebrook	S Cook R Imbert



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



St Damasus

The son of a Roman priest, possibly of Spanish extraction, Damasus started as a deacon in his father's church, and served as a priest in what later became the basilica of San Lorenzo in Rome. He served Pope Liberius (352-366) and followed him into exile. When Liberius died, Damasus was elected bishop of Rome; but a minority elected and consecrated another deacon, Ursinus, as pope. The controversy between Damasus and the antipope resulted in violent battles in two basilicas, scandalizing the bishops of Italy. At the synod that Damasus called on the occasion of his birthday, he asked them to approve his actions. The bishops' reply was curt: "We assembled for a birthday, not to condemn a man unheard." Supporters of the antipope even managed to get Damasus accused of a grave crime—probably sexual—as late as A.D. 378. He had to clear himself before both a civil court and a Church synod. As pope, his lifestyle was simple in contrast to other ecclesiastics of Rome, and he was fierce in his denunciation of Arianism and other heresies. A misunderstanding of the Trinitarian terminology used by Rome threatened amicable relations with the Eastern Church, and Damasus was only moderately successful in dealing with that challenge. During his pontificate, Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman state, and Latin became the principal liturgical language as part of the pope's reforms. His encouragement of Saint Jerome's biblical studies led to the Vulgate, the Latin translation of Scripture which 12 centuries later the Council of Trent declared to be "authentic in public readings, disputations, preaching." **Feast Day: December 11**



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title of Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions, which are believed to have occurred in December 1531, and a venerated image on a cloak enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared on December 9th, 1531. According to the account, the Virgin Mary told Juan Diego, an Indian convert, to tell Bishop Juan de Zumárraga to build a chapel. Bishop Zumárraga asked Diego for a sign as proof that it was truly the Mother of God. Our Lady instructed Diego to gather some roses in his tilma [popular piety attests that Mary arranged the roses in the tilma herself] and present them to the bishop. As Diego did this, the roses fell to the floor, revealing the miraculous image of Mary as she appeared in real life.

Feast Day: December 12



St Lucy

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defence of the faith. Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on. Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them. When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Feast Day: December 13



St John of the Cross

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God. **Feast Day: December 14**

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

Any questions please call Tamara 0424 166 248



Invites you to our December Men's group Christmas BBQ
Friday 15th December in the Church Hall at 7pm



We are called to walk together with our Lord, sharing our meals and nurturing our spiritual life. All men are invited to this companionship!

7pm to 8pm - Gospel Reflection
8pm onwards BBQ

Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.

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

ROSARY

Joyful mystery of the Rosary should be prayed at home during December to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ "Emmanuel".



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 contact Valerie Buhajiar on 0417 244 285

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 10:00am

RECONCILIATION

Every Wednesday 7:30pm
Saturday 4:15-5:00pm



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 :

Tuesday 12th December at 3:45pm and
Thursday 21st December at 3:45pm.

Both rehearsals will take place in the church.

Any questions please contact Rosalie Capolupo 0404276332



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 or by telephoning the parish office on 9823 2572.

Blessing from the Community Care Fund

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.



ORDINATION TO THE DEACONITE 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.

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

Sick: Gabriella, Alexandra, Charles, Robert and Michael, 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, 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: Christine McCARTHY, Gerald BOSOKY, Andrew SMOLKOWICZ, Baby Lily HOARAU, John DEMICOLI, Dominic ATTARD

Anniversary: Joyce AZZOPARDI, Lewis VELLA

Other: Giovanna CAMILLERI, All Souls, Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita



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:

Third Sunday of Advent - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What I need to make straight in my life to prepare the way of the Lord is.....
- ♦ I have already experienced "a new heaven and a new earth" in.....
- ♦ One example of the ongoing promise of the Gospel in my life is.....

First reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second reading

2 Peter 3:8-1

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of

the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



The Gospel of the Lord

Bible Trivia Answers

1. In AD 70. For those Christians who still kept Jewish customs, the destruction of the Temple marked a break with the past and helped them to see that the message of Jesus belonged to all people.
2. They met regularly in private houses and were baptised and celebrate the Eucharist together there because meeting in public was often too dangerous.

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