



# 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 4

Monday - 8:00am &  
10:00am

*The Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas Day)*

Tuesday - 8:00am

*St Stephen, the first martyr*

Wednesday 7:00pm

*St John the Apostle,  
evangelist*

Thursday - 9:00am

*The Holy Innocents, martyrs*

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

## NEXT SUNDAY

30/31 DECEMBER

(The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph 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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

23rd & 24th December, 2023

## Rejoice in God's love

An American man (just arrived to Australia) had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping, his wife had been listening to radio when she heard the announcer says, "*Be very careful and watch driving on M5 now, there is a motorist driving the wrong way!*" His wife rang him on the mobile phone to warn him, and his reply was: "*You tell me, there are hundreds of them here*".

In today's Gospel we read the story which is written many years after the death and Resurrection of Jesus, which tells of the angel Gabriel coming to visit Mary in the town of Nazareth. It is the story of the definitive love entrance of God into human history. Angel Gabriel announces, "*Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you*" which takes away Mary's fear and makes her declare herself: "*I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.*" This was not something that happened just for Mary but something that was for the whole world. God loved the world so much that He sent His only begotten Son that we may have life to the full through Him.



In this fourth week of Advent, we are reminded of what God has done, he has become one of us (like us all but sin) to share our joys and sorrows. He did not simply lift us out of our humanity but by joining us in it made us God-touched and gave us a dignity that is beyond belief. He is no longer a remote God out there but a God who dwells among us. This is the great meaning of Christmas. It is celebrating a God who so loved us that he came to be with us and in us.

Let us pray that we will experience the joy of God is with us and His love for us as we continue to prepare for His coming in Christmas' celebration.

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

488 'God sent forth his Son', but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free cooperation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, á virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary'. The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.

**Lord Jesus Christ, let us live securely in Your peace and be blessed forever by Your Holy Name. Amen.**



Thank you to those who attended and assisted with our Jordan Youth Group throughout the year. It was great to see the children of our

Parish come together to make friends, and engage in prayer and activities.

We ended with our Christmas party to celebrate the wonderful year we had.

Jordan Youth Group will be back in 2024. Details to follow in the New Year.



#### 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

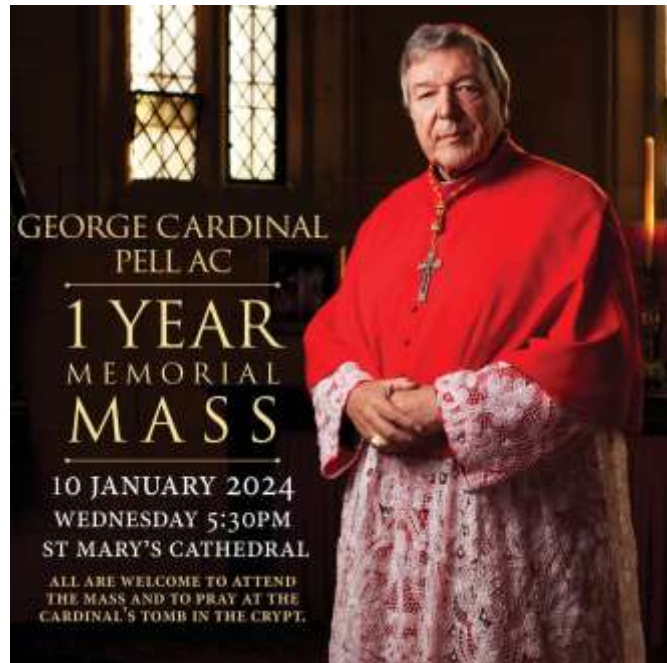
**For costs, additional information and**

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



#### 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



## Feasts of the Week



**St Stephen** was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian. As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their practical needs. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church, enabling them to attend more to teaching. Of the seven ordained, Stephen was the oldest and given the title of "archdeacon," the chief among them. Great preaching and miracles were attributed to Stephen. Stephen's popularity created enemies, they accused him of blasphemy, of speaking against God and Moses. Stephen was put on trial, he was charged with predicting that Jesus would destroy the Temple and for preaching against Mosaic law. Stephen was filled with wisdom from heaven. He responded by detailing the history of Israel and outlining the blessings God had bestowed upon his chosen people. As Stephen concluded his defence, he looked up and saw a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "Look, I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." That vision was taken as the final proof of blasphemy to the Jews who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah or Son of God. For them, Jesus could not possibly be beside the Father in Heaven. The crowd rushed upon Stephen and carried him outside of the city to stone him to death. As Stephen was being brutally stoned, he spoke his last words, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Words which echoed the very words of Jesus on the Cross. Following those words, Stephen died, in the Lord.

**Feast Day: December 26**



**St John the Apostle** the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John's older brother was St. James the Great, another one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles.

Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder." John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death.

**Feast Day: December 27**



#### The Holy Innocents

Feast of the Holy Innocents, also called Childermas or Innocents' Day, Christian feast in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16-18).

The Catholic Church regards them as the first Christian martyrs.

**Feast Day: December 28**

Ministries Next Week 30/31 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	M Camilleri A Pace	J Poljak S Hely	G Zangari M Zangari	R Capolupo J Lentini
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:</b>	T Vartuli T Vella M Finn	D Sullivan J Finucane L Barilla	V Buhajiar S D'Cruz S Hambrook E Villegas	R Imbert G Vanderwert



#### 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.



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



### 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



**It is time to say Goodbye.....**

### FAREWELL MASS FR BENJAMIN SALIBA

**Sunday 31st December at 10:00am**  
followed by morning tea.

All parishioners are welcome to attend.  
Please bring a plate of food to share and enjoy.



### VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU MASS AND DINNER

As the members of John the Baptist parish, we all enjoy the benefits of voluntary work. You are selfless people who work out of the goodness of your heart. We would like you to know how much we appreciate you. Hence I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Volunteers' Gathering, which is being held on **Friday 19th January 2024.**

**Thanksgiving Mass at 6:00pm**  
**Followed by Dinner at 7:00pm**

If you wish to attend please complete the tear of slip below with your name, number of people attending and contact details for catering purposes and hand in to Fr Dominic or the parish office.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 10:00am



### MASS FOR MARY MOTHER OF GOD AND NEW YEAR

Monday 1st January at 9:00am  
followed by morning tea



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

### 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.



**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: Matthew AZZOPARDI, Gabriella, Alexandra, Charles, Robert and Michael, 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: Maria Vittoria ZADRO, Guilan BORSATO, Albert CALLEJA, Isidore DESOUSA, Bradley FENECH, Christine MCCARTHY, Gerald BOSOKY

Anniversary: Isidoro Del VALLE, Marcial NAVARRO, Edgardo NAVARRO, Akram and Margaret JOSEPH, Vittorio VITACCO, Mariana FOTI, Elisha FOTI

Other: Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Thanksgiving, Giovanna CAMILLERI, Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita



### THANKSGIVING MASS AND FAREWELL DINNER - Friday 19th January 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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:

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - (Year B)

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ God acts in the lives of David and Mary. I experience God acting in my life when..... through..... by.....
- ♦ God is acting to make the Word flesh in my life today by.....
- ♦ Like Mary, I bear the Word for others when.....

## First reading

**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16**

### A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

**88:2-5, 27, 29**

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'He will say to me: "You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me."  
I will keep my love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last.'

### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## Second reading

**Romans 16:25-27**

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

**Luke 1:26-38**

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

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

