



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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9823 2572

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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 - 9:00am

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday - 8:00am

Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

Wednesday 7:00pm

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

6/7 JANUARY

(The Epiphany of the Lord 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

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

30th & 31st December, 2023

Be a loving family

A couple renew their marital vows at their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. At the reception after Mass, the husband is asked by the master of ceremonies, *"If you were given the chance to start life anew, would you marry the same woman?"* Caught by surprise, the husband ponders on the question in silence. While the wife waits for his reply nervously. Then in front of all the guests, he says emphatically, *"Yes, I definitely will!"* On hearing this, the wife bursts into tears. *"these are tears of joy,"* she explains. *"I'm not perfect, but I try my best to be one because of his love."*

Love makes perfect!

This Sunday the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the **Holy Family** to highlight the importance of the family, 'the domestic church'. The word family often associates with members being 'at home' for one another. This is becoming more and more of a problem in our society when we are not at home with ourselves and we spend less time to be together. As a result we find it hard to listen attentively to one another. There are many broken families when husbands and wives are not willing to listen, care and support one another to overcome their differences in crisis.

In today's Gospel we read about both Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, according to the Law of the Lord. Simeon prompted by the Holy Spirit, "Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too'. while they did not understand what he said to them, Joseph and Mary have shown their willing to respond patiently and lovingly, and Mary *'kept all these things in her heart.'* Patient and love will strengthen the relationship of family members and help them to overcome critical moments.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brings into focus the most important aspect of family life which is love. It has been said that the best gift that parents can give their children is to love one another. The secret of an enduring family life is to put the love of God in every aspect of daily living. It is true that love endures and conquers all, and the love of God will make it possible for every family to overcome all obstacles.

Let us reflect on our own family's conflict and crisis, may Jesus, Mary and Joseph inspire us with their examples and may our families become more loving and more caring.



God, May everyone in my family feel your presence, forgiveness and love. Amen!



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

Ministries Next Week 6/7 JAN	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull A Vlahadamis	L Agoo T Simpson	M Hourmozi J Mataele	R Capolupo V Arbanas
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	A Vlahadamis F Bushby M Camilleri	L Agoo Delicia Vella A Liberatore	C Porreca M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	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. 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 Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He was one of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually he decided to become a monk and found a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made bishop of Caesaria. In this post until his death in 379, he continued to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity.

Feast day: January 2



St Gregory Nazianzen was a Doctor of the Church, born at Arianzus in Asia Minor, probably in 325, and died in 389. He was the son of Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus (329-374.) After his baptism at 30, Gregory gladly accepted his friend Basil's invitation to join him in a newly founded monastery. The solitude was broken when Gregory's father, a bishop, needed help in his diocese and estate. It seems that Gregory was ordained a priest practically by force, and only reluctantly accepted the responsibility. He skillfully avoided a schism that threatened when his own father made compromises with Arianism. At 41, Gregory was chosen suffragan bishop of Caesarea and like his good friend St. Basil, had a hard time fighting against Arianism and opposing the then-Arian emperor, Valens. It was in Constantinople, where he tried to bring back Christians from Arianism, where he began giving the great sermons on the Trinity for which he is famous. His last days were spent in solitude and austerity. He wrote religious poetry, some of it autobiographical, of great depth and beauty. He was acclaimed simply as "the Theologian."

Feast day: January 2



The Most Holy Name of Jesus Many of the Saints had a great love for the Holy Name of Jesus. Among a few, there was the Apostle Paul, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, St. Dominic, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis de Sales and St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Holy Name of Jesus represents the incarnation of God among men on earth. It is the Name above all names. It is the Most Holy Name that deserves the greatest honour and glories, above all other feasts. Because of our living hope in the Name of "Jesus", we have the assurance of our resurrection and eternal salvation.

Feast Day: January 3

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



MASS FOR MARY MOTHER OF GOD AND NEW YEAR
Monday 1st January at 9:00am
followed by morning tea

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.

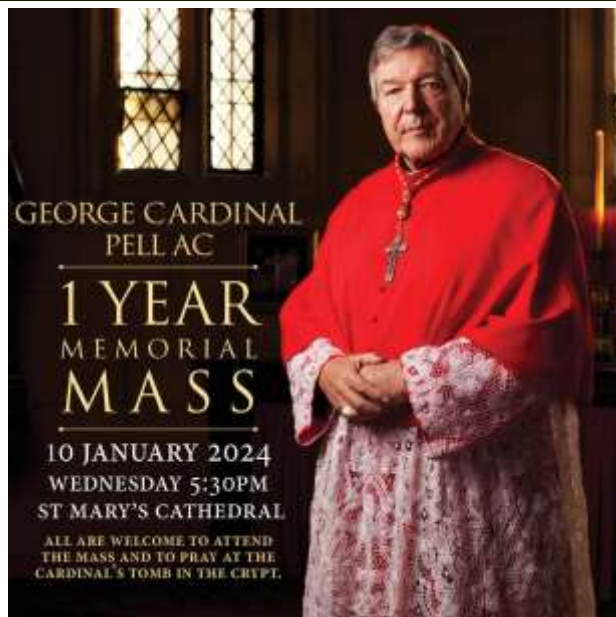


VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU MASS AND DINNER

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.



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

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, Bradley FENECH

Anniversary: Maria BARIC, Vittorio VITACCO, Mariana FOTI, Elisha FOTI

Other: Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, 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 Epiphany of the Lord - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ Holiness means to me.....
- ♦ I grow in holiness when..... I help others grow in holiness when..... Others help me grow in holiness when.....
- ♦ What keeps me from growing in holiness is.....
- ♦ What increases my desire to grow in holiness is.....

First reading

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

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

104:1-6, 8-9

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second reading

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that*

your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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