



# John the Baptist Catholic Parish

## Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

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



**Parish Priest: Rev Fr Dominic Dinh**

Email: [pp@johnthebaptist.org.au](mailto:pp@johnthebaptist.org.au)

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**Assistant: Rev Fr Benjamin Saliba**

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**Parish Pastoral Centre:**

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

**Office:** 9823 2572 **Fax:** 9822 9954

**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

## Christmas Eve, Midnight, and Christmas Day (Year B) 24th & 25th December, 2023



### Christmas Message

My dear friends in Christ, with all the Christians around the world we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God who brings us hope, joy, love and Peace.

Christmas is a wonderful season to lift up our hearts to give thanks to God for the great gift of His Son who is 'Emmanuel-God is with us'. God loves the world so much that He gave his only Son to the world so that through Jesus Christ, we will share the life of God, which needs to find a place first of all in our own hearts so that we can share it with others. Let us use this event to renew and deepen our relationships with God, with our family members and friends especially those whom we find hard to get on well with. At the same time we are aware of the great needs in our world - those who are affected by war, violence, global economic recession, those lack clothing, food, shelter and freedom.

It has been a wonderful year 2023, thank you for your kindness, support and good wishes. On behalf of Fr Ben and the presbytery staff, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you who have shared generously your time, effort and resource in building up our parish and to serve those most in need.

May the hope, joy, peace and love that Christ brings to our world be with you and your family. We wish you and your families many blessings during this holy season and a joyous new year 2024.

Yours in Christ  
Fr Dominic.

### HOME BLESSING

Lord Jesus, come into our home and bless it.  
Bless the doors of our home.

May they always be open to the lonely and those in need. Bless the rooms of our home. May they always be filled with Your presence

Above all, bless each member of our family. May our minds be ever open to Your Word. May our hands be ever outstretched to the needy.

And may our hearts be ever turned toward You when we receive you in the Eucharist.





## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024



### Prayer before the Crib

Heavenly Father, as we wonder and hesitate like the Shepherds of Bethlehem, fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in this helpless Babe the revelation of your love, and the radiant vision of your glory.

Filled with wonder at the nearness of our God in Mary's new-born Child, may we now offer Him our praise, worship and thanksgiving, and give Him the love and loyalty of our hearts. Amen.



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

### **NEW PARISHIONERS AND PARISH PLANNED GIVING**

If you would like to become a member of the Parish please complete a Parish Registration Form. If you are interested in joining our Parish Planned giving please place your name on the envelope request forms provided. You can also contribute through **Direct Debit** with periodic deductions. These can be organised by filling in a yellow Standing Authority form. All forms are available in the Church alcove or by contacting the Parish Secretary on 9823 2572.

### **LETTERS TO GOD FROM CHILDREN**

**Dear God,** Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you have now?

*Norma 8yrs*

**Dear God,** I went to a wedding and they kissed right in the church. Is that OK?

*Nancy 7yrs*

**Dear God,** Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.

*Joyce 4yrs*

**Dear God,** I bet it is very hard for you to love all the people in the world. There are only five people in my family and I can never do it.

*Sam 6yrs*

## **OUR PARISH**

### **Mission Statement**

**Proclaiming:** in our daily lives by our words and actions we spread God's love in our families, Parish community, workplace, in the broader community and to the rest of the world.

**Inviting:** welcome and inspire people to share our faith and to actively participate in the life of the Parish and the wider Church.

**Sanctifying:** the Parish provides avenues of support for its members through the sacramental life and spiritual growth opportunities.

**Transforming:** we use our gifts to transform the local and wider community, through engagement in works which create a more just and compassionate society that promotes love and mutual respect.

*John the Baptist Parish  
Together we proclaim "Jesus the Good News"*

### **PARISH MINISTRIES**

We are always in need of people to help in our various Parish Ministries. If you are able to help at anytime throughout the year please contact the group Coordinator to find out more details. Thank you!

**Parish Council (Chair):** Jeff Lai

**Finance Committee:** Rosa Marciano

**Community Care:** Josie Barilla

**Readers:** Nina Laureti

**Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers:** Linda Barilla

**Catechist:** Nina Laureti

**Acolytes and Altar Servers:** Fr Dominic - 9823 2572.

**Children's Liturgy:** Angela Galdas

**Parish Morning Teas:** Teresa Vartuli

**Church Cleaning:** Ann Gorla

**Church Linen:** Michelle De Luca

**Jordan Youth:** Silvana Scamardella

**Men's Group:** Branko Poljak

**Piety Stall:** Millie Breden

**Parish Housie:** Valerie Buhajiar

**Money Counting:** Victoria Baltazar - Parish Office - 9823 2572.

### **SACRAMENTAL CONTACTS:**

**Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:** Tamara Vella

**Confirmation:** Linda Barilla

### *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, Christine MCCARTHY, Gerald BOSOKY

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

Other: Ghazwan KOREAL, Gazala KOREAL, Hazem KOREAL, Mansour HANNA, Jehad HANNA, Gardani HANNA, Sara HANNA, Margo HANNA, Varto HANNA, Henzi HANNA, Goro KHAMMO, Hani KHAMMO, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Giovanna CAMILLERI, Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita



# The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Night

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** *The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.*

### First reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the barb across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

95:1-3, 11-13

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**



### Second reading

Titus 2:11-14

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

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

Luke 12:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:  
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

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

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

#### The Gospel of the Lord



# Christmas Day Mass

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

**Entrance Antiphon:** *A child is born for us, a son given to us; dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

### First reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

#### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

97:1-6

**All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
With the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
Acclaim the King, the Lord.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*



### Second reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

#### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

#### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

#### The Gospel of the Lord