



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
Emergency: 0423 420 639

Office: 9823 2572
Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au
Website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm
Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang
Bookkeeper: Victoria Baltazar

MASSSES THIS WEEK PSALTER WEEK 4

Monday - No Mass
Tuesday - 9:00am
Wednesday 7:00pm
St John Bosco, priest
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:00am
The Presentation of the Lord
Saturday - 9:00am
St Blaise, bishop, martyr
St Ansgar, bishop

NEXT SUNDAY 3/4 FEBRUARY (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 27th & 28th January, 2024

Choose words wisely

Suffering from a bad case of the flu, the outraged patient yelled, "Three weeks??? The doctor can't see me for three weeks? I could well be dead by then." Calmly the voice at the other end of the line replied, "If so, would you have your wife call to cancel the appointment."

We often use words to teach, to convince, to console, to heal and to encourage or we can use words to deceive, to fight etc. In today's Gospel we see the very first miracle recorded by Mark, Jesus is interrupted while teaching in the synagogue by the shouts of a possessed man, a man who is controlled by an evil power. "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" Jesus' words command the power that dominates the man's life to leave him alone." At once the man becomes freed by the authority of Jesus' words. "And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and a loud cry went out of him." During election periods, we always listen well to the candidates for president or prime minister, whose words give people some hope for a better economy, better services etc. It is good for us to think about what we can do within our community, our family, for our neighbours and our children, by the use of our words. Do we use them to build up, to heal, to reconcile or we use them to hurt, to fight and to cause problems?



God's word is indefinitely more powerful than anything human beings can ever conceive of. God speaks and the world comes into being. His word creates life. Likewise Jesus' word draws people to faith. It heals people of their sickness and drives away the demons. It forgives and gives life.

Let us pray that we may always use our words wisely, so that what we say would bring about better results.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

888 Bishops, with priests as co-workers, have as their task 'to preach the gospel of God to all men', in keeping with the Lord's command. They are 'heralds of faith, who draw new disciples to Christ; they are authentic teachers' of the apostolic faith 'endowed with the authority of Christ'.

Welcome back all students to the
beginning of a new year.

May you take a leaf from St John Bosco and 'study from the heart.' Good luck and enjoy your schooling year!

ST JOHN BOSCO was born on a poor farm near Turin, Italy, in 1815. At an age when the modern child would be enjoying the pastime of a kindergarten education, he was out on the hillside tending sheep. At about his ninth year, when he expressed a desire to become a priest, it was found possible to let him commence his education by walking more than four miles daily for half a year. The other half, in Spring and Summer, was spent in the fields.

The day before he entered the seminary, his mother, laying her hands on his shoulders as he stood robed in his clerical dress said: "To see you dressed in this manner fills my heart with joy. But remember that it is not the dress that gives honour to the state, but the practice of virtue. If at any time you come to doubt your vocation, I beseech you, lay it aside at once. I would rather have a poor peasant for my son than a negligent priest. When you came into the world I consecrated you to Our Lady; when you began to study I bade you honour her and have recourse to her in all your difficulties; now I beg you to take her for your Queen."

Today the motto on the Salesian coat of arms: *Da mihi animas cetera tolle tibi* - "Give me only souls and keep all the rest" - bears witness to the fidelity of Don Bosco to the words of a truly Christian mother.

This admirable "Apostle of Youth" is almost our contemporary. He founded the Salesian Society of St Francis de Sales and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. His life's work was consecrated to the care of young boys and girls.

He died in 1888, **a priest and confessor "Father and Teacher of Youth"**.

"Education," he said, "is something from the heart, and God alone is its master; we cannot succeed in anything unless God gives us the key to these hearts."

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver.

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 3/4 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Pace A Vlahadamias	T Simpson J Poljak	E Villegas N Laureti	R Capolupo A Vanderwert
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	A Vlahadamias F Bushby M Camilleri	J Finucane L Barilla L Agoo	V Buhajiar S D'Cruz S Hambrook E Villegas	C Vella 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 John Bosco (Italian: Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco; 16 August 1815 – 31 January 1888), popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System. A follower of the spirituality and philosophy of Saint Francis de Sales, Bosco was an ardent Marian devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title Mary Help of Christians. He later dedicated his works to De Sales when he founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, based in Turin. Together with Maria Domenica Mazzarello, he founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls. He taught Dominic Savio, of whom he wrote a biography that helped the young boy be canonized. On 18 April 1869, one year after the construction of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, Don Bosco established the Association of Mary Help of Christians. In 1876 Bosco founded a movement of laity, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, with the same educational mission to the poor. In 1875, he began to publish the *Salesian Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* has remained in continuous publication, and is currently published in 50 different editions and 30 languages. Bosco established a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work. Following his beatification in 1929, he was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1934.

Feast Day: January 31



The Presentation of the Lord

Feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted in Rome during the seventh century. Celebrated forty days after Christmas, commemorating the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child, and recalling the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple. Christ is "the light to enlighten all nations", and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.

Feast Day: February 2



St Blaise of Sebaste was raised as a Christian in a rich family. He was a physician and bishop of Sebastea in historical Armenia who is venerated as a Christian saint and martyr. In a vision, God appeared to him and told him to flee. To avoid persecution, he lived in the hills with sick animals and cared for them. He was later

captured and while imprisoned, cured a boy choking on a fish bone. He was ordered to be killed for refusing to renounce his faith and love of God. Blaise is venerated as a saint in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox churches and is the patron saint of wool combers and ENT illnesses.

Feast Day: February 3




St Ansgar, also known as Anskar, "Apostle of the North", Saint Ansgar, Saint Anschar or Oscar, was Archbishop of Hamburg-Bremen in the northern part of the Kingdom of the East Franks. He was the first missionary in the area now known as Scandinavia. He engaged in missionary work in Denmark under King Harold and in Sweden under King Bjorn.

Andgar's successes were due to his great preaching ability, the austerity and holiness of his life and the miracle he is reported to have performed during his life.

Feast Day: February 3

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



 **Condolences** Our condolences are extended to the Ainsworth and Cordina families on the loss of Michael Wilton Ainsworth. Please keep the families in your prayers.

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



Speaking Words of Love Often we remain silent when we need to speak. Without words, it is hard to love well. When we say to our parents, children, lovers, or friends, "I love you very much" or "I care for you" or "I think of you often" or "You are my greatest gift," we choose to give life.

It is not always easy to express our love directly in words. But whenever we do, we discover we have offered a blessing that will be long remembered. When a son can say to his father, "Dad, I love you," and when a mother can say to her daughter, "Child, I love you," a whole new blessed place can be opened up, a space where it is good to dwell. Indeed, words have the power to create life.

Henri Nouwen

Parish Sacramental Coordinator Position

All Saints Parish Liverpool is seeking a Sacramental Coordinator.

Details of the position are available at <https://www.reachhr.com.au>, then click the tag under 'Featured Opportunities'.

CATECHIST SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

All Catechists and Helpers will renew their Commitment to teaching for 2024 at all Masses next weekend. We pray for all the children that we will teach, that they may experience us, the Church, as a welcoming community in which they can grow in faith, hope and love. Catechist Sunday is also an opportunity to reach out and recruit new members. We need 4 catechists to cover all classes.



Become a Catechist or Helper in 2024. Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public schools. Here at Bonnyrigg we teach over 1100 children in 6 different public schools on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2024. Starting off as a helper, you'll hand out activity books and help the Catechist. It is a commitment to teaching for half an hour every week.

You will need a WWCC number and attend some training sessions. **New Recruit training** will be held over **TWO** evenings on **Wednesday 14th and 21st February from 6.15pm to 9.00pm in the JB Parish Hall.** New recruits will need to attend both sessions.

Do something of eternal significance—be a Catechist or helper! We invite you to join this ministry and our wonderful JB Catechist Team.

Any enquiries please contact: Nina Laureti 0408 465 149, Vicki Scutella 0447 310 204 or Connie Dif 0413 694 007.

Catechist Training Dates for Western Region 2024

Liverpool, All Saints

Mondays: 12 February, 19 February & 26 February
9:30am-1:00pm Parking available via Elizabeth St.

Bonnyrigg, John the Baptist

Wednesday nights: 14 February, 21 February & 28 February
6:15pm-9:00pm Parking available

Fairfield, Our Lady of the Rosary

Friday nights: 16 February, 23 February & 1 March
9:30am-1:00pm Parking available

To register email Trevor

Email: trevor.dalbroi@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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: Rosalinda Marcelo GANDO, Nada BIRKIC, Remedios BALANSAY, 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: Michael Wilton AINSWORTH, Doris FARRUGIA, Irene CUISIA-RELLOSA, Michael, Geraldine JANSEN, Joseph and Anna FRANCKIEWIOZ, Basil SALAMANDAR, Consuelo DEL VALLE, Rita Jimenez OLANO, Francis AGIUS, Brendan BLAHA

Anniversary: Faustino Agoo Jr., Soledad Agoo Ibarra, Charlie BUSUTTIL, Sam FENECH

Other: Giuseppe GAGLIANO, Vincenza GAGLIANO, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, 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:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I have come face-to-face with God when..... this astonished me because.....
- ♦ Jesus is speaking to me with authority about.....
- ♦ I speak with true authority and power when.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Jonah

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

94:1-2, 6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second reading

I Corinthians 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

Gospel

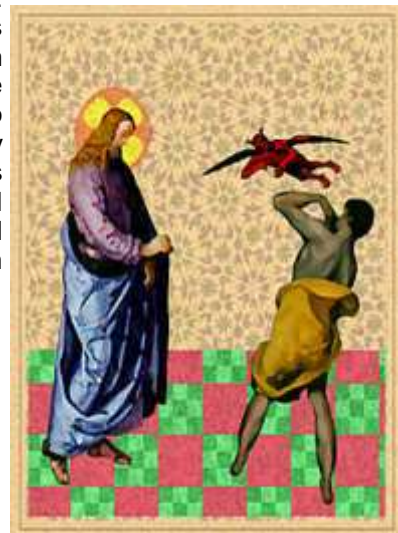
Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Copyright © 1996-2015 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.