



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

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 1

Monday - No Mass
St Agatha, virgin, martyr
Tuesday - 9:00am
St Paul Miki and
companions, martyrs
Wednesday 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
St Jerome Emiliani
St Josphine Bakhita, virgin
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am
St Scholastica, virgin

NEXT SUNDAY

10/11 FEBRUARY

(6th 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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
3rd & 4th February, 2024

Compassion

A priest went to visit a woman who, he heard, had been sick for some time. To his experienced eye, she looked near death, yet he had not been summoned to administer the sacraments. He went into the next room and phoned the woman's doctor. The doctor confirmed the priest's suspicions; she was slowly dying. The priest broke the news to her gently. *"But I've known it for some time, Father!"* she protested. *"Then why didn't you send for me?"* *"Oh, Father, I didn't want to frighten my husband."* *"I think he'd better know,"* said the priest and he went downstairs and told him. *"But, Father, I've known it all along,"* the husband said. *"Then why didn't you send for me?"* *"I didn't want to frighten my wife."*

Today's Gospel we hear Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law from her sickness: *"And the fever left her,"* and also *"he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he cast out many devils."* The concept of sickness and suffering as the signs of God's punishment was dealt with in the book of Job. His friends



tried to convince him that he must have done evil for he was suffering evil. But Job continued to show his faith in God and accepted whatever was happening to him with gratitude. We can never answer the question why God acts in a particular way and we must resist the idea that we can control God, and make God act as we would want, either by our goodness or by our badness. Yet the idea of suffering being a punishment for sins continued on during Jesus' time. Thus Mark wanted to emphasize God's compassion through Jesus' healing and freeing people from their sickness and suffering. *"They brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils."* As disciples of Jesus we are called to follow his example that is showing compassion toward others. Compassion enables us to open our mind and heart to the needs of others, and it gives us the courage and strength to reach out to them.

Let us pray that we may show our compassion to those who are in need particularly those who are living with us and around us.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1501 Illness and suffering have always been among the gravest problems confronted in human life. In illness, man experiences his powerlessness, his limitations and his finitude. Every illness can make us glimpse death.

Dear Parishioners,

Please take home a copy of the Lenten Companion for 2024 "Repent and Believe".
Please feel free to use it by yourself, with your family members or forming a group.

PIETY STORE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All the Piety Store profits go towards our Community Care Fund. The fund is there to help people and in some cases charities, who are in need. (e.g. Bushfire and Flood relief).

With sufficient interest in this important ministry in our church, we are hoping that you would only be rostered, in pairs, once a month for approx. half an hour before mass and approx. 20 minutes after mass.

If you are interested please leave your name and contact details with the current volunteers in the Piety Store or phone Leanne in the Parish Office on 9823 2572

We look forward to hearing from you, Pauline and Millie.



JB Social Group

Join us as we travel to the eastern suburbs to visit **Vaucluse House**



Museum on Friday 1 March. Vaucluse House is situated on 10 hectares of picturesque gardens and grounds which stretch down to the harbour. Vaucluse House is one of Sydney's only surviving 19th century harbour side estates dating back to 1803. The sandstone mansion was the home of explorer and barrister William Wentworth and many of the family's possessions are displayed throughout the house.

Following our visit we will travel to Circular Quay where there is a selection of restaurants and cafes to choose from for lunch. The cost will be \$30 which covers the coach and morning tea. Lunch is at your own expense. (Entry into Vaucluse House is free.) Anyone wishing to attend but is experiencing difficulties please speak with Father Dominic.

We will be departing from the Western Sydney Parklands Plough & Harrow entrance off Elizabeth Drive. There is plenty of all day car parking available. When you enter the Parklands you immediately come to a "T" intersection, turn right and head towards the car park. People will need to be assembled by 8.15 am as the bus will depart shortly thereafter. We should return around 3.30pm to 4.00pm.

For all enquiries and to reserve a seat/s, please contact Valerie on 0417 244 285 to advise number attending and your contact phone number.



OLD PALMS It is time to prepare for Ash Wednesday on 14th February. We are asking parishioners to bring in their old palms from last year to the church by Sunday 11th February so that they can be burned on Shrove Tuesday to use as ashes. Please leave them in the baskets at the back of the Church. Thank you



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 10/11 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Victorino G Turnbull	S Hely L Barilla	G Zangari M Zangari	J Lentini V Arbanas
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	B Empeigne N La Rosa A Jameson	Delicia Vella A Liveratore F Foti	C Porreca M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	G Vanderwert C Vella



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 Agatha also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. She was born around 231 in Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She rejected the amorous advances of the Roman prefect Quintianus, who thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and marry him. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha. He expected her to give into his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture. This evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers. Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds and he had her stripped naked and rolled over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards and returned to prison where she died.

Feast Day: February 5



St Paul Miki Paul was the son of a Japanese military leader. He was born at Tounucumada, Japan, was educated at the Jesuit college of Anziquiama, joined the Jesuits in 1580, and became known for his eloquent preaching. He was crucified on February 5 with twenty-five other Catholics during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, ruler of Japan in the name of the emperor. They were all canonized as the Martyrs of Japan in 1862. **Feast Day: February 6**



St Josephine Bakhita also known as 'Mother Moretta' (our Black Mother) bore 144 physical scars throughout her life which were received after she was kidnapped at the age of nine and sold into slavery. Such was the trauma experienced that she forgot her birth name and her kidnappers gave her the name Bakhita meaning 'fortunate'. She experienced the moral and physical humiliations associated with slavery. In 1882 her suffering was alleviated after she was bought for the Italian Consul. With Italian families Bakhita received kindness, respect, peace and joy. A change in the family's circumstances meant that she was entrusted to the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of the Catechumens in Venice. It was there that Bakhita came to know about God whom, 'she had experienced in her heart without knowing who He was' since she was a child. She was received into the Catholic Church in 1890, joining the sisters and making final profession in 1896. The next fifty years of her life were spent witnessing to God's love through cooking, sewing, embroidery and attending to the door. When she was on door duty, she would gently lay her hands on the heads of the children who attended the nearby school and caress them. Her voice was pleasing to the little ones, comforting to the poor and suffering. Bakhita was a source of encouragement to many and her constant smile won people's hearts. **Feast Day: February 8**



St Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict, consecrated her life to God from her earliest youth. After her brother went to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery, she took up her abode in the neighbourhood at Plombariola, where she founded and governed a monastery of nuns, about five miles from that of St. Benedict, who, it appears, also directed his sister and her nuns. She visited her brother once a year, and as she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he went in company with some of his brethren to meet her at a house some distance away. These visits were spent in conferring together on spiritual matters. On one occasion they had passed the time as usual in prayer and pious conversation and in the evening they sat down to take their reflection. St. Scholastica begged her brother to remain until the next day. St. Benedict refused to spend the night outside his monastery. She had recourse to prayer and a furious thunderstorm burst so that neither St. Benedict nor any of his companions could return home. They spent the night in spiritual conferences. The next morning they parted to meet no more on earth. Three days later St. Scholastica died, and her holy brother beheld her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven. He sent his brethren to bring her body to his monastery and laid it in the tomb he had prepared for himself. She died about the year 543, and St. Benedict followed her soon after. **Feast Day: February 10**

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 this 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



You are Invited

The ascension Prayer Community is inviting everyone to our prayer meetings. The meetings start with Praise and Worship, followed by teaching/sharing, fellowship and much more. So why not come along and join us, to enjoy a time of reflection, teaching, sharing and great fellowship.

When: Thursday 8th February at 7:10pm

Where: John the Baptist Parish Hall

Contact: Susan
(02) 9607 5137 or
0415 342 672

G.L.U.E.

GOD LIFE UNIVERSE EVERYTHING
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

"Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving
- doing Lent right"

Tuesday 27th February 2024 | 7pm

JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS

The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes would like to invite the Parishioners and Friends of St John the Baptist to join them on Sunday 11th February, 2024 The **Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes** for the Mass and Blessing of the Sick. Proceedings will commence with the recitation of the Rosary at 2.30pm. The Mass & Blessing of the Sick will follow at 3.00pm. All welcome.

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

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'.

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: Judette HOURMOZI, Michael Wilton AINSWORTH, Doris FARRUGIA, Irene CUISIA-RELLOSA, Michael, Geraldine JANSEN, Joseph and Anna FRANCKIEWIOZ, Basil SAMANDAR, Consuelo DEL VALLE, Rita Jimenez OLANO,

Anniversary: Pavo TEKLIĆ

Other: 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 Breaden
Morning Teas: Teresa Vartuli
Jordan Youth Group: Silvana Scamardella
Housie: Valerie Buhajiar /
Money Counting: Victoria Baltazar
Men's Group: Branko Poljak
Ascension Prayer Group: Susan D'Cruz
For any inquiries, please call the parish office.

Next Sunday:

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What needs healing in my life is..... I experience the healing power of Jesus when.....
- ♦ What helps me become more aware of the suffering of others is.....
- ♦ Jesus gives me hope by.....

First reading

A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

Second reading

I Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

146:1-6

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak: I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:29-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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