



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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Emergency: 0423 420 639

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Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au
Website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours:
Tues, Wed & Fri - 9.30am to 4:30pm
Thursday - 9:00am to 4:00pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang
Bookkeeper: Victoria Baltazar

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 1

Monday - No Mass
Tuesday - 8:00am
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
The Chair of St Peter, apostle
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

24/25 FEBRUARY

(First Sunday of Lent 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

First Sunday of Lent (Year B)
17th & 18th February, 2024

Rejoice & share God's gifts

A man was bitten by a rabid dog, and it looked like he was going to die from rabies. The doctor told him to put his final affairs in order. So the man took pen and paper, and began writing furiously. In fact he wrote and wrote and wrote. Finally the doctor said, "That sure is a long will you're making." He snorted, "Will? No way! I'm making a list of all the people I'm going to bite!" The man is driven by his hatred to seek revenge.

In today's Gospel St. Mark tells "*and the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on Him.*" Jesus went to the desert before beginning his public life.

This was not the only time Jesus sought the desert. From time to time we see him withdraw to find relief from crowds and to refresh His spirit in solitude. Jesus is driven by his love for the Father so he continues to seek God for comfort and strength.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day which we have the ritual of putting ashes on our forehead, and fasting; accompanying with the words "*Repent and be faithful to the Good News.*" Repent calls us to renew ourselves, renew our actions, words and be conscious of our sinfulness. Fasting is not simply to abstain from eating meat and consuming less food, but it reminds us of our need for God, the need to deepen our Spiritual life. While we are fasting, we also spend a few minutes a day to deepen our relationship with God and others. Furthermore, we are called to do some charitable work, helping those who are hungry, homeless, in the third world countries and to be aware of the needs of the people around us; our family members and our neighbours.

Let us take a moment during this Lent season to rejoice for all the gifts which God has given to us. May we be generous in sharing God's gifts with those who are in need of our support.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

538 The gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remained there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. At the end of this time Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leave him 'until an opportune time'.



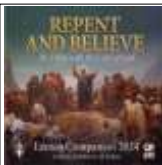
FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence (from items made with meat - includes all the Fridays of Lent) binds those who have completed their 14th year (CCL 97, 1251-52).



The Season of Lent

Lent is the most appropriate time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. Already on Ash Wednesday the people of God have heard the solemn invitation, *Turn away from sin and believe the Good News*. It is therefore fitting to have several penitential celebrations during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbour and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts. RP13. The Sacrament of Penance is better celebrated before rather than after the Easter Triduum. *ORDO 2016*



Lenten Program

Lent began this week (Ash Wednesday 14th February) and this will be a great opportunity for us to prepare ourselves, through prayer and to experience Christ's Passion more deeply.

We have Lenten Companion 2024 booklet "REPENT AND BELIEVE" Be Filled with the Love of God, published by Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney available for you to pick up on the table outside. Please feel free to use it by yourself, with your family members or forming a group. If you would like to join or organise Lenten Group this year, please contact Fr Dominic.

We congratulate the following Candidates and Elects who will be presented at the Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday.

Thi Kim Lien Cap, Carla Giuliani-Bruno, Joshua Naughton Saunders, Linda Walandow, Jordan Taranto, Benjamas Hannarong, Vincenzo Petrulla and Carmelo Petrulla

Feasts of the Week



The Chair of St Peter

The actual chair of Peter in Rome, the wooden throne at St. Peter's Basilica, was given to Pope John VIII by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Bald in the year 875. It was enclosed in bronze by the artist GianLorenzo Bernini in 1647. This feast day also commemorates the primatial authority of St. Peter. **Feast Day February 22**



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 24/25 FEB	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull J Victorino	L Barilla S Hely	M Hourmozi V Buhajiar	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:	T Vella M Finn A Vlahadamis	L Agoo Delicia Vella A Liberatore	S Hambrook E Villegas C Porreca M Aulsebrook	



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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
17th & 18th FEBRUARY



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for *all future generations*.

Meet **Ronita** from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet **Leaia** from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet **Memory** from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion.



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held during Lent commencing Friday 16th February at 7.00pm in the Church, on First Friday of the month 1st March Stations will be held at 6:00pm.

LENTEN GROUP

We are holding a Lenten Group on Monday 19th February commencing at 10:30am in the Parish Meeting Room the group will run for 6 weeks finishing on 25th March. For more information please contact Josie on 0407 203 593.



Ascension prayer group invites you

**Lenten program begins
on Thursday 22nd February 2024
at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall.**

For further details contact Susan 0415 342 672 or Trudi on 0414 608 538.

LENTEN RETREAT

Come experience an abundance of graces from God this Lenten season. Couples of Christ are hosting a Lenten retreat with Father Roni George from Divine retreat centre, Somersby. Bring yourself, friends and family to receive his healing touch. There will be worship, healing mass and adoration at Good Shepherd Church, 21 Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park on Friday March 22nd from 7pm to 9.30 pm.

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical, and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

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



Baptism:

This week, we welcome into the Catholic faith:

Lucas Khang Nguyen, Theodore Moothoo and Amelia Sims



May they always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.

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



FREEMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN DAY

**Wednesday 28 February
4:00pm – 7:30pm**

Registration essential to lock in an appointment time.

To Register see the Church notice board for the QR Code or visit the website: freemanbonnyrigg.syd.catholic.edu.au



CATECHIST NEWS

Thank you to our 6 new Catechists/ Helpers who have volunteered to be part of the Catechist Ministry. You have answered the call to proclaim the Good News to our little children in state schools.



DATES for the NEW Recruits TRAINING have changed - please note the new dates

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6.15 TO 9PM
IN THE MEETING ROOM NEAR THE CHURCH
(no meeting on Ash Wednesday)**

**FEB 21 - 1.1 Safeguarding Induction
FEB 28 - 1.2 Use of the Approved Curriculum
MARCH 6 - 1.3 Classroom Management**

**OUR FIRST CATECHIST MEETING IS ON
WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY**

Opening Mass at 7pm followed by meeting in the Parish Hall.

Vincent will also conduct a Safeguarding Refresher Course which is compulsory for all catechists and helpers. Hope to see you all there.

May 2024 be a wonderful year for us all.

Nina Laureti

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: 21 February, 28 February & 6 March
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



CHILDRENS LITURGY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Children's Liturgy has begun for 2024 but we are in need of a few more helpers for the 10:00am Mass. If you are able to assist please contact Angela Galdas on 0410 964 196. Thank you

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: Elizabeth Sabayanon GAMO, Wilfred TAMAYO, Rosley, Angel & Andrea, Nada BIRKIC, Matthew AZZOPARDI, Gabriella, Peter CASEY, 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, 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: Amado JIMENEZ Jr, John BALDI, Rosalinda Marcelo GANDO, Judette HOURMOZI, Michael Wilton AINSWORTH, Doris FARRUGIA, Irene CUISIA-RELLOSA, Michael

Anniversary: Anna Ty DO, Antonio COSTA and Nancy COSTA, Emanuele GULLO, Francesca GULLO

Other: Francis Xavier and Maria, Grandparents and All Souls, Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, St Anthony, St Jude and St Rita & Souls in Purgatory



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 Breaeden
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:

Second Sunday of Lent - (Year B)

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Reflection Questions

- ♦ The call of Lent - "Repent, and believe in the gospel" - means to me.....
- ♦ What drives me into the desert to face the sin within myself and find the mercy of God is.....
- ♦ The "angels" that minister to me while I remain in the desert are.....

First reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

24:4-9

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

I Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

