



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:
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 2

Monday - No Mass
Tuesday - 8:00am
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

2/3 MARCH

(Second 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

Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)
14th & 25th February, 2024

Transfiguration

A black man talks to his friend, a white man: "when I was born I was black, when I grew up I was black, when I am sick I am black, when I go in the sun I am black, when I am cold I am black and when I die I'll be black. But you: when you're born you are pink, when you grow up you are white, when you are sick, you are green, when you go in the sun you turn red, when you are cold you turn blue and when you die you turn purple. And you have the nerve to call me coloured!!!"

In today's Gospel, Mark tells us about Jesus' Transfiguration, not only his external appearance is changed, but also with him are Elijah, the prophet and Moses, the liberator and from the cloud came a voice: "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him."

The command, "Listen to him," reinforces Yahweh's exhortation in the book of Deuteronomy (18:15) which identifies Jesus as the bearer of the word of God. In Mark's gospel, the transfiguration is about the revelation granted to the disciples who needed a glimpse of God's glory to prevent them from being scandalized at seeing Jesus' death, soon after he endured the sufferings which he fully accepted for our sake. They had a very limited understanding of what Jesus was about. Jesus took three of his



disciples up the mountain so that they can hear his Father's voice calling him "Beloved Son". He wanted to show them that he is truly the Son of God and is himself divine who also needs to be sustained as he continued on his mission. The big temptation is that of Peter who wants to build a tent, a monument to freeze the moment of presence. The poet William Blake said, "He who binds himself to a joy, does the winged life destroy, but he who kisses the joy as it flies, lives in eternity's sunrise."

As God's children, we are meant to experience Jesus' Transfiguration when we celebrate the Sacraments, when we listen to His Word, when we spend time in prayer. Let us pray that we will be strengthened and encouraged in our life journey.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1438 The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in the memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works.)

**Don't have negative thoughts or things you cannot control.
Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.**



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*

Praying: becoming a prayerful and spiritual person takes a lifetime. We learn how to pray and we learn different ways of praying at different stages of our lives. Many of us have an intellectual knowledge of God but our personal relationship with God needs to be developed too.

We build a deeper relationship with God in the same way we develop our human relationships. It is only when we spend one-on-one time with a person that we truly have a chance to understand him or her and begin a deeper friendship. So it is with God.

What is prayer? Prayer is spending time with God. Prayer is both private and communal. When you want to catch up with a friend, you usually make a specific time to do this. If you want to grow in intimate friendship with a person, you need to spend time with that person and share who you really are with them. And so it is with God. If you want to grow in your relationship with God, you spend time with God and share your life and concerns. It helps to give some specific time to God each day so that God is an integral part of your life.

How did Jesus pray? Jesus Christ tended to pray in deserted places, in Nature, on his own, and early in the morning: (Mk 1:35), when you pray, go to your room...(Mt 6:6), he went into the synagogue (Lk 4:16), he went up the mountain...(Mt 14:23)

To Know, Worship and love - Catholic Studies p.304

Something to give up for lent:

- Give up harsh words: use gentle ones.
- Give up anger: take up peace.
- Give up pessimism: take up hope.
- Give up complaining: value what you already have.
- Give up bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
- Give up selfishness: take up compassion.
- Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
- Give up stress: take up prayer.
- Give up condemning others: discover Jesus within them.
- Give up worrying: take up trust in God.



**SECONDSUNDAY
OF LENT
24th & 25th FEBRUARY**



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run

by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**



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.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



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.

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>

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



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.

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:

Martina & Roman Duran Batistic



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



Years 5 & 6 students & Year 7 High School students are welcome to join the Jordan Youth Group in our Parish Hall on **Saturday 23rd March at 3:00pm**. It is free and afternoon tea will be provided. More information next week.



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

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

Stations of the Cross At Bringelly with Father Dominic- Tuesday 19th March

Continuing our tradition, the Southwest Network of Family Educators warmly invite you to walk the **Way of the Cross** with Father Dominic and other priests on **Tuesday 19th March**- St Joseph's day- at the tranquil and beautiful oasis that is **St Joseph Conference Centre, 30 Tyson Road Bringelly**. This is a **FREE** event, but you may make a small donation directly to St Joseph's on the day. Meeting at 10.30am, walk starts at 11am, followed by a BYO picnic lunch if you wish for after. We are hoping to offer Reconciliation also.

ALL are welcome so bring family members if you wish. The path is concrete and it is an easy walk along the marble statues depicting the Passion of Christ. Register via the QR code below or on the poster outside church, or Please contact me if you have any enquiries- 0439 492920- Tina Dunn Family Educator,



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

Anniversary: Eduardo PEREY, John the Baptist and Maria

Other: 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: Tamara Vella
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:

Third Sunday of Lent - (Year B)

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Reflection Questions

- ♦ This gospel is filled with hope and glory. This encourages me during my Lenten journey because.....
- ♦ I experience the downs and ups of desert and transfiguration in my own life when.....
- ♦ Where I glimpse God's excessive love for me (see second reading) is.....

First reading

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

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

115:10, 15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted,'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;

I will call on the Lord's name.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second reading

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

