



# 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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**Website:** [www.johnthebaptist.org.au](http://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 3

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

## NEXT SUNDAY

9/10 MARCH

(Fourth 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

## Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

2nd & 3rd March, 2024

## Self reflect

One foggy, stormy night at sea, a ship's captain caught sight of what looked like the light of another ship heading straight toward him. He ordered his signalman to relay a message to the oncoming ship: "*Change your course twenty degrees to the north.*" Immediately, there came the reply: "*Change your course twenty degrees to the south.*" The light was getting closer, so the Captain responded firmly, "*I'm the Captain, and I tell you to change your course north!*" But the reply was equally firm, "*I'm only a seaman, but you must change your course south!*" Outraged at such insolence as the light boomed nearer and nearer, the Captain fired back the message, "*You idiot! I'm giving you one last chance to change your course north. I am a battleship!*" To which he received a cool reply, "*I'm giving you one last chance to change your course south. I am a lighthouse.*"

The people in the Gospel today react similar to the Captain of the ship self-centred. They demanded, "*What sign can you show us for doing this?*"

Instead, they should be self-reflecting upon Jesus' action and words. Jesus was defiant, forceful and showing his frustration. The wanton proliferation of commerce within the temple precinct was tantamount to desecrating the house of God. Jesus' action was not directly only against the money-changers and sellers of animals but also against the temple authorities who allowed people to turn God's house into a 'marketplace.'



Furthermore, Jesus' words "*destroy this temple (Jesus' body), and in three days I will raise it up*" reminded us what true worship entails. It is not enough to worship in the temple, but the spirit of praising God must be taken to heart and show out in a life of loving-service. When we actually live Jesus' message we will find it easier to forgive those who offended us, and we will be eager to reach out to heal broken relationship. We will find courage in dealing with challenges and difficulties, we will find joy and hope in living our life.

May this Lenten season cleanse us from our greed, anger, prejudice, jealousy and anything that distracts us from living a life that Jesus had lived and shown us.

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

2072 Since they express man's fundamental duties towards God and towards his neighbour, the Ten Commandments reveal, in their primordial content, grave obligations. They are fundamentally immutable, and they obliged always and everywhere. No one can dispense from them. The Ten Commandments are engraved by God in the human heart.



## FASTING & ABSTINENCE

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



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 2nd & 3rd MARCH



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

### 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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

## 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, John the Baptist Primary School.



## Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives.

**Learn more:** Join our Mission Webinar **March 5th, 2024, 6:00 - 6:30**



**Palms Australia**

63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

**Learn Even More:** Join our two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together. Contact: 02 9560 5333



## 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

Ministries Next Week 9/10 MARCH	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
<b>READERS:</b>	J Victorino A Pace	L Agoo J Finucane	G Zangari M Zangari	R Capolupo V Arbanas
<b>Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCARIST:</b>	A Jameson T Oraha A Pace	L Barilla L Agoo Delicia Vella	V Buhajiar S D'Cruz S Hambrook E Villegas	S Cook G Vanderwert



## 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](mailto: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.



### 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



Years 5 & 6 students & Year 7 High School students are welcome to join the Jordan Youth Group in our Parish commencing **Saturday March 23rd 2024.**

Our aim is to encourage young people within our community to come together to socially engage, learn, pray, and become involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith.

Children will be involved in prayer, social activities, games, short films, reflection, and group discussions. The Jordan Youth Group is run by a group of regular parishioners from our community who hold current Working with Children checks.

**Details and dates for 2024 are listed below:**

**Location:** John the Baptist Parish Hall

**Cost:** FREE - Afternoon Tea will be provided

**Time:** 3:00pm - 5:00pm

#### SATURDAYS

23rd March	29th June	28th September
20th April	27th July	26th October
25th May	31st August	23rd November

**End of Year Jordan Group Celebration - Saturday 14th December**

A parent/Guardian must sign their child in and out when dropping off and picking up. For further information please contact the parish office.



### Open Day

Saturday 9th March 2024  
11am - 1pm

The Open Day commences with a presentation in the College Hall at 11am



Journeying with Compassion

### 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.



### JOHN THE BAPTIST OPEN DAY 2024

Enrolments are now open for current year **5 students** for Catholic Secondary Schools for Year 7 2026 and will close in late March.

Catholic School Open Day times are available at <https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/visit-a-school>

Start your child's application for Year 7 now at <https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/enrol-now>

Our Catholic Secondary Schools are high-performing and incredibly popular. The vast majority of SCS Secondary Schools will fill all their places for Year 7 2026 in this enrolment period. If you would like your child to attend an SCS Secondary school we recommend applying now.

Enrolments are now also welcome at John the Baptist Catholic Primary School for kindergarten 2025. Please see attached link.

<https://jbbonnyrigg.syd.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/enrol-now>



### JB SOCIAL GROUP

Join us and discover the beauty of the spectacular

Sydney Harbour on a 2 hour sightseeing Sydney Harbour Discovery Lunch Cruise on Friday 12 April.

Along the way we will stop for morning tea at the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

The cruise will include a freshly prepared bbq buffet lunch and refreshments. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased on board at own cost.

The cost will be \$95 per person which covers the coach, cruise, lunch (excluding alcoholic beverages) and morning tea.

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 9.15 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 as soon as possible.

Full payment will be required to be made to Leanne in the parish office by Tuesday 19 March. Please note that as the cruise operators are requiring an early finalisation of numbers and payment, cancellations after this date cannot be refunded. Should you wish to attend and are experiencing financial hardship please speak with Father Dominic.



### You are invited

The Ascension prayer community will meet next **Thursday 7th March at 7:00pm** in the Parish Hall. Our meetings are fortnightly and begins with an evening of Praise and worship, teaching/scripture, reflections and group discussions followed by fellowship. For more details please contact Susan on 0415 342 672.

**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: Wayne PEARNS, Amado JIMENEZ Jr, John BALDI, Rosalinda Marcelo GANDO

Anniversary: Lily FENECH

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 Breden  
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:

### Fourth Sunday of Lent - (Year B)

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

## Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ If Jesus were to visit me as his temple, what would need cleaning is.....
- ♦ Not only does Jesus cleanse the Temple, he replaced it with his own body. What this means to me is.....
- ♦ I can grow in may grasp that I am a temple of God if I.....

## First reading

### A reading from the book of Exodus

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

## The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

18:8-11

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

## Second reading

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

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

John 2:13-25

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

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

## The Gospel of the Lord.

