



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

Office: 9823 2572
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 4

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

NEXT SUNDAY

16/17 MARCH
(Fifth 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

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

9th & 10th March, 2024

See through the eyes of God

A little four year old girl was dying of a very rare disease. Her one hope was in having a blood transfusion, and the only possible person who could give matching blood was her six year old brother. The paediatrician handling the case talked very sensitively to the little boy. "Your little sister is very sick" she said, "and we think that if we can take out some of your blood and put it into her it might make her better. Would you be willing to let us take it?" the little boy paused for a moment and then nodded his head in consent. A few days later, when the little boy came back with his parents to visit his sister they met the paediatrician. She said to him, "It is so wonderful! Your blood saved your sister, she is going to be all right now." but the little boy's eyes filled with tears and he burst out crying. The doctor asked him what was wrong? "when," he asked her, "am I going to die?" all the time he had believed that he himself was going to die in giving his blood for his little sister but he had been willing to do it!

Today's Gospel tells us of this kind of love, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life." Believing in that Son and in that Father is not always easy. Particularly for those who lose their family members, even children in death, for those who suffer some kind of terminal illness; it is indeed very hard to see God's love and goodness behind it all. But God so loved the world that he sent his own son to be part of the world's conditions and he himself suffered grievously. It is through Jesus' life, death and resurrection that has given us hope and assurance when we are faced with difficulties and challenges in our life.

Jesus came into the world as a light—"but people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For whoever does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God." The great, mysterious truth of God needs to be brought into the light. It is always there like the sunlight behind the clouds. It is often hard for us to believe in the sunlight during a typhoon, so too it is often hard for us to believe in God's love in times of calamity.

Let us pray that our faith will help us not so much to see different things, but to see everything differently especially in times of trial.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

540 Jesus' temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: 'For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning. 'By the solemn forty days of Lent the church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.





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*

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.



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.

Ministries Next Week 16/17 MARCH	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull A Vlahadamis	S Hely T Simpson	M Aulsebrook J Mataele	R Capolupo A Vanderwert
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	T Vartuli M Finn T Vella	A Liberatore F Foti D Sullivan	C Porreca M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib	R Imbert 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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
9th & 10th MARCH



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

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: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every **Friday** during Lent at **7.00pm** in the Church.

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.



Invites you to our March Men's Group meeting
Friday 15th March at 7:30pm

This month, we'll be having our usual Gospel reading followed by coffee and an informal chat amongst the group members.

Newcomers are welcome, hope to see you there!

March is also the month of our yearly St Joseph Motor Pilgrimage and will run from 15th - 17th March, for more information contact us or to book go to trybooking.com/CLFCD

Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.

To join the men's group or to find out more, email jbmg@johnthebaptist.org.au or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520

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:

*Harvey Ehrenfeld and
Andre & Adrian De La Cuadra*



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



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 on 9823 2572



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

PIETY STORE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SUNDAY MORNINGS

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>



SYDNEY HARBOUR LUNCH CRUISE



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.

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.

We will be departing from the Western Sydney Parklands Plough & Harrow entrance off Elizabeth Drive. There is plenty of all day car parking available. Please be assembled by **9.15 am** as the bus will depart shortly thereafter. We should return around 3.30pm to 4.00pm.

Should you wish to attend and are experiencing financial hardship please speak with Father Dominic.

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

Anniversary: Patrick LEE, John JOANNIDES, Fr John B CHIANG

Other: Vincenza GAGLIANO, Giuseppe GAGLIANO, 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 Breaden
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:

Fifth Sunday of Lent - (Year B)

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-30

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ My daily living witnesses a preference for darkness or light when.....
- ♦ I might come closer to the Light during this Lent if I.....
- ♦ "God so loved the world....." (second reading). How I have experienced this love of God for me is.....

First reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

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Second reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

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 3:14-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence
pronounced:
that though the light has come into the
world
men have shown they prefer darkness
to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what
he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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