



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
Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au
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

MASSSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 4

Monday - No Mass
St Patrick, bishop
Tuesday - 8:00am
St Joseph, Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Saturday - 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY

23/24 MARCH

(Palm Sunday of the Passion
of the Lord 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

16th & 17th March, 2024

Surrender your heart to God

The last Sunday of Lent invites us to contemplate on the meaning of Jesus' life, suffering, death and resurrection: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain."*

One night at the end of July 1941, a prisoner escaped from a notorious concentration camp Auschwitz; next morning ten prisoners were chosen to die in his place. One prisoner cried loudly because he still had a young wife and a few young children. Father Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest listened to his crying, he said to the German officer: *"I am willing to take the place of this man."* *"Why do you want to die in his place?" He asked. "Because I am a catholic priest"* was the reply. While starving to death

Fr Kolbe continued to help other condemned prisoners prepare for their death. *"If it dies, it bears much fruit."* Fr Kolbe's death has shown forth his love for others and to glorify God. He imitated Jesus' action, who used his life, suffering and death to redeem us and to show how much God loved us. Even though Jesus was faced with temptation to preserve his life, *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."* However through prayer, Jesus recognised the presence of the Father's eternal life dwelling in him and he committed himself to His Father's will even if it meant he would suffer and die. It must have been clear to Jesus that death hides the mystery of life, and this mystery is revealed if one does not hold on to his natural life. *"My soul is troubled now. Father, save me from this hour?"* still Jesus chose to trust in God and to glorify God's name, he let go of his fear.

Let us pray that during this last week of Lent, we will contemplate on the example that Jesus had set. He willingly surrenders himself to the Father's desire. It is an act of the heart and will, an intelligent choice to renew his relationship with the Father. May we have the courage and grace to leave behind our hatred, selfish, pride, fear, doubt that prevent us from having a true relationship with Jesus and with people around us; by enriching ourselves with trust, generosity, courage and love.

Let us pray that during this last week of Lent, we will contemplate on the example that Jesus had set. He willingly surrenders himself to the Father's desire. It is an act of the heart and will, an intelligent choice to renew his relationship with the Father. May we have the courage and grace to leave behind our hatred, selfish, pride, fear, doubt that prevent us from having a true relationship with Jesus and with people around us; by enriching ourselves with trust, generosity, courage and love.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

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

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain
of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 12:24





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).

EASTER VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of Volunteers for Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers etc. for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Masses. If you can assist in any way please place your name and contact details on the sign up sheets on the Church noticeboard. Thankyou



CANDLES FOR THE EASER VIGIL will be available for sale next weekend from the Piety Store for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The candles can also be used when praying together as a family at home throughout the year.



PALMS

Parishioners if you have palms at home you are welcome to bring them with you next weekend for Palm Sunday.

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.



Ministries Next Week 23/24 MARCH	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Pace L Krslovic	L Barilla J Poljak	M Hourmozi S Ives	
Extraordinary MINISTERS EUCHARIST:	A Vlahadamis M Finn D Toma	Delicia Vella L Agoo J Finucane	S Hambrook N Laureti C Porreca E Villegas	



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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
16th & 17th MARCH



Partnership in action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.



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 ever **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.



YOUTH MASS

We will be holding a Youth Mass in the parish on Sunday evenings commencing at **5:30pm on Sunday 7th April** for all young people.

Following Mass pizza will be served. Please bring your friends along.



The Office of Safeguarding has updated the voluntary roles that require a Working With Children Check as follows:

♦ Youth Ministers, Workers and Leaders

- ♦ Catechists in State Schools
- ♦ Children's Choir Leaders
- ♦ Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
- ♦ Sacramental Group Leaders
- ♦ Children's Liturgy Leaders
- ♦ Acolytes, Senior Altar Servers

If you volunteer in any of these ministries a WWCC needs to be submitted to the Parish Office before commenting in the role. WWCCs are renewed every 5 years and the updated WCC also needs to be submitted to the Parish Office. Your date of birth and address is also required to allow the parish secretary to verify the WWCC with the Office of Child Protection.

Thank you

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:

Gabrielle Sayseng



May she always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout her life.



JORDAN YOUTH GROUP

Years 5, 6 and 7 students are welcome to join the Jordan Youth Group in our Parish commencing **Saturday March 23rd 2024 at 3-5pm in the Parish Hall**. Afternoon Tea will be provided at no cost.

Our aim is to encourage young people within our community to come together to socialise and learn about our Catholic faith. Children will participate in prayer, social activities, games, short films 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.

To register complete the form at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CQATW>

Youth Group will be held on:

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		



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.

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

Monday 25th March - No Mass

Tuesday 26th March - 8:00am Mass

Wednesday 27th March - 7:00pm Mass

Holy Thursday 28th March - No morning Mass, Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10:30am. Everyone is invited to the Mass.

7:00pm Mass of the Lords Supper, Prayers until Midnight

**Good Friday 29th March - 10am Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross
3:00pm The Lord's Passion**

**Holy Saturday 30th March - 9:00am Morning Prayer
Easter Vigil 7:00pm Mass**

Easter Sunday 31st March - 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm



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>

Feasts of the Week



St Patrick

One of the world's most popular saints. Enslaved as a young teen by pagans and Druids, he returned to God while in captivity. Escaping at age 20, he returned to his family and began studying for the priesthood. He preached throughout Ireland converting many for 40 years. He died at Saul, site of the first Church he built. **Feast Day: March 17**



St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A lowly village carpenter who was chosen by God to be the pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of our Blessed Lord. **Feast Day: March 19**

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, Gary LOMAS

Recently Deceased: Wayne PEARNS

Anniversary: Joseph Tsi Sing LAY, Rita SALIBA, Domenico CIAMPA, Eduardo MENDOZA

Other: Daniel VELLA, Michael GRIMA, Jimmy FENECH, Marion FENECH, Maryanne FENECH, Thanksgiving, 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:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The shape the grain of wheat dying takes in my everyday living is.....
- ♦ Concretely, to follow Jesus by being servant means to me
- ♦ I have glimpsed the glory of the cross in my own life when.....

First reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

50:3-4, 12-15

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 12:20-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour
him.

Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have
come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be
overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Copyright © 1996-2015 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.

