



St. John the Baptist Catholic

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights



(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)

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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

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MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 2

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Damasus I, pope

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday - 9:10am

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Friday - 9:10am

*St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor*

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 15/16

DECEMBER

*(Third Sunday of Advent
Year C)*

Saturday Vigil Mass:

5:30pm

Sunday Masses:

8:00am, 10:00am and

5:30pm

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

1st Friday of the Month:

**7:00pm Mass in
Vietnamese**

1st Saturday of the Month

**Fatima Devotions 7.45am
Adoration/Benediction
8.30am**

Reconciliations:

Saturdays – 4:15 – 5:00pm

Anointing of the Sick

**Contact the Parish Office
or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639**

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8th & 9th December, 2018

Prepare

A guy walking in the desert desperately needed a drink. As he followed the dunes, he came upon another man riding a camel. He asked the man if he had something to drink. The man on the camel said "No, but if you like, I have a nice selection of ties. Would you like to buy one?" "No!" The man replied. "Are you crazy? I need something to drink, not a tie!" So the man on the camel rode on, and the walking man continued his slow and very thirsty trek for several hours. Finally, he came upon a pub. He gratefully approached the doorman at the pub and said "Thank God I made it! Can I get in and get some water?" The doorman frowned at him and said, "Not without a tie." The moral of the story is 'be prepared at all times!'

In today's Gospel, John the son of Zechariah announces to the people the good news that the long awaited day of salvation is about to dawn upon them. He urges the people to prepare 'a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' John makes his message clear by 'proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' and he calls people to make an effort to prepare for the Lord's coming. "Clear him a straight path. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be leveled. The windings shall be made straight." This message which John spoke directly to his people more than two thousand years ago is also a relevant message for us today.

Give up a bad habit! Be more understanding! Be more tolerant!

Trust in God even at the worst moment of our lives!

This is how we are going to prepare and open ourselves to the God who will be born for us. Our response to John's message, on the other hand, is not only as a receiver of it, but also as a giver. Like him, each one of us has a mission to help people straighten out their lives, make smoother their paths, and to bring Christ's message of hope, love, justice and peace to all people.

Let us pray that we can let go of our many addictions and ill feelings and nurture our lives in the love of God as we prepare to celebrate the coming of God's Son.

Why is Advent called the "little lent".

Advent is the start of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church. Traditionally, this is the time when the Church requires the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the feast of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. No one knows when this tradition started but it first began in the west.

Christmas retells the wondrous story of the redemption of mankind. People long ago waited for signs of the Messiah - in due time, the words of the prophets were fulfilled and Christ came to live among us.

Now, the prophets' words are filled with new meaning, as once again we prepare ourselves to celebrate the fresh coming of Jesus Christ. However, Jesus intends His apocalyptic images as a promise of our ultimate salvation, when He comes in glory at the *parousia* or end time. We therefore should prepare ourselves for that final day of glory.

Advent comes from the latin word "Adventus" which means *coming*. Traditionally, it has been celebrated with prayer and fasting, which is why it is known as the "little Lent."

Fr Dominic

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:



Sick: Bishop Bill WRIGHT, Janelle CLIFTON, Isabelle CROUCHE, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Peter ANDERSON, Col PURCELL, Inez BUGEJA, Claudio Da SILVA, Charlie SALIBA, Bozana VUKOV, Diana VUKOV, Judy VELLA, Giuse, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Nancy VARTULI, Jessie ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: Margaret TAYLOR, Mariella SOTO, Gioakim Van Chuyen NGUYEN

Death Anniversary: Barica GOLUBIC, Joaquim Da COSTA, Mateus Noronha RIBEIRO

Other: Iluminada MENDOZA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy and Maryann FENECH Special Intention

Saints of the Week



St Lucy

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defence of the faith. Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on. Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them. When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Feast day: December 13
Patron of Blindness



We congratulate the families of Matteo BARILLA and Alessia CAPOLINO who will be baptised here this Sunday 9th December.



JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CALENDAR is available for purchase for \$5.00 from the Piety Store outside the Church.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A CATECHIST/HELPER?

Faith is pure gift; a gift received and a gift given. A catechist is right there at the centre of this exchange of gifts. Our children are the future. We as parents, catechists, teachers, clergy and Religious need to be instruments of God giving the gift of faith to them, to help them understand that God is always there for them. I encourage you to become these instruments of God's love.

What is involved? You are invited by the Church to share our faith with over **1100** children in our **6 public schools** who receive **30 minutes of Scripture** each week during the school term. Classes are on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday mornings and afternoon and Friday mornings.

What do I need? A willingness to share your faith life and a Working with Children Check (WWCC)

What help will I get? Support and encouragement from our vibrant group of 65 catechists who share their faith interests and goals. CCD provides practical training courses including compulsory safeguarding training to help you to develop teaching skills and to make the best use of your own gifts. Training will start weeks 2 and 3 of Term 1, 2019.

Each Catechist has a Teacher's Manual containing easy to follow lesson plans and each child receives a Student Activity Book. We use the "Christ Our Light and Life" Curriculum.

We do not expect you to teach as soon as you begin. You will be invited to start as a helper. A helper assists a Catechist in class and is not required to give a lesson; then, when you feel ready and have begun training you may like to start to prepare lessons and teach.

Due to work and family commitments and some catechists teaching 2 or 3 classes we need **6 catechists to cover all classes in 2019.**

I personally thank the wonderful JB Catechist Team and pray that God will continue to bless them in bringing the hope and joy of Jesus to the children entrusted in our care.

If you would like more information about the mission of a Catechist or Helper, please speak to Fr Dominic or Fr Richard or contact the Parish Office on 98232572 or JB Coordinator Nina Laureti 0408465149.



St John of the Cross was born Juan de Yepes y Alvarez, in Fontiveros, Avila, Spain in 1542. His father was employed by wealthy family members as an accountant, but they disowned him when he married a poor woman from the lower class. As a result of his family's poverty, John's family suffered greatly. As a child, John was sent to a boarding school for poor and orphaned children. He was given a religious education from a young age and chose to follow a religious path. In 1563, he was able to join the Carmelite Order and took the name, "John of St. Matthias." He made vows the following year, and was sent to the university in Salamanca to study theology and philosophy. John became a priest in 1567. He was attracted by the simple and quiet life. He encountered Theresa of Avila, a charismatic Carmelite nun. Theresa asked John to follow her. John was attracted by the strict routine followed by Theresa, a routine she hoped to reintroduce to her order, as well as her devotion to prayer and simplicity. Her followers went barefoot, and were therefore known as the discalced Carmelites. On Nov. 28, 1568, Theresa founded a new monastery. The same day, John changed his name again to John of the Cross. Within a couple years, John and his fellow friars, relocated to a larger site for their monastery. He remained at this location until 1572. Around 1575, a rift within the Carmelite order began to grow and create controversy between various monastic houses. There was disagreement between the Discalced Carmelites and the ordinary Carmelites, over reform. In late 1577, John was ordered to leave the monastery in Avila and to return to his original house. However, John's work to reform the order had already been approved by the Papal Nuncio, who was a higher authority. Based on that, John chose to ignore the lower order and stay. On December 2, 1577, a group of Carmelites broke into John's residence and kidnapped him. He was taken by force to the order's main house in Toledo. He was brought before a court and placed on trial for disobedience. He was punished by imprisonment. A cell was made for him in the monastery that was so small he could barely lie on the floor. He was fed only bread and water, and occasional scraps of salt fish. Each week he was taken into public and lashed, then returned to his cell. His only luxuries were a prayer book and an oil lamp to read it by. To pass the time he wrote poems on paper that was smuggled to him by the friar charged with guarding his cell. After nine months, John managed to pry his cell door from its hinges and escape. He joined Teresa's nuns in Toledo, and spent six weeks in the hospital to recover. In 1579, he was sent to the town of Baeza to be rector of a new college and to support the Discalced Carmelites in Andalusia. In 1580, Pope Gregory formally authorized the split between the Discalced Carmelites and the rest of the order. This ended the rift within the order. At that time, there were about 500 members in the order living in 22 houses. During the last few years of his life, John travelled and established new houses across Spain. In 1591, John became ill with a skin condition that resulted in an infection. He died on December 14, 1591.

Feast Day: December 14
Patron of contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets



PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass on Sunday 6th January**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Richard and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

2nd Rite of Reconciliation:

Tuesday 11th December 7:30-8:30pm

Wednesday 19th December 7:30pm

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm Children's Mass, 8:00pm and Midnight

Christmas Day: 8:00am and 10:00am



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

If you would like your child to participate in the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Mass, please attend the following rehearsals:

Friday 14th December at 3:30pm and

Friday 21st December at 3:30pm.

Both rehearsals will be held in the Church.

If you have any questions please contact Rosalie: 0404 276 332 or Sylvana: 0417 197 357.



To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2018.

The community of John the Baptist would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for the commitment and care you have given the children of our Parish. Thank you for sharing your faith with our children and helping them in their journey of faith, to know and love God more.



May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your family. God bless you.

Please let Angela or your co-ordinator know (ASAP) whether you would like to continue being a Children's Liturgy Leader in 2019. We are especially **in need of Leaders and helpers for the 10am Mass in 2019**. If anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or 0410 964 196.

After your final Children's Liturgy for the year, please leave your folder and photocopies for 2018 in the Children's Liturgy cupboard. Thank you

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: The new Roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

Ministries Next Week 15/16 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	M Abdal J Victorino	I O'Connor J Poljak	M Aulsebrook J Habib	A Bento R Capolupo
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	D Vella L Tononcelli E Vella M Camilleri A Pace J Victorino	M Jebrail Delicia Vella A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor	R Hibbs J Habib A Bautista N Laureti G Dunn N Dubuisson	G Vanderwert D Pham R Imbert M Abdal
CHURCH COUNTER	G Adam	E Villegas		
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	16/12/2018	23/12/2018	30/12/2018	6/01/2019
	Z Penitani	R Marciano	M De Luca	A Portolesi
10AM MORNING TEAS	16/12/2018	23/12/2018	30/12/2018	6/01/2019
	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 1

**Upcoming Parish Activities
Save the date!**

Year 6 Graduation Mass 18th December at 6:30pm.

JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CARE FUND

Over many years, the St Vincent de Paul Conference has supported many deserving families. Although people in need can still obtain support by attending the Vinnies' Centre on the corner of Elizabeth Drive and Humphries Road (Ph: 9823 1222), as from the start of 2018, the work done by the volunteers from this Parish Conference has changed.

Our Parish will now be supporting people at a more local level through the newly established JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CARE FUND. This new initiative does not discriminate and provides care and support for people of our community who are in need, irrespective of religion or their particular situation in life. Their need may be financial, social, or emotional.

The PIETY STORE, managed by parish volunteers will now direct their profits to this community fund and any donations from the POOR BOXES will also be added to this fund.

A contribution from the SPRING FAIR, coupled with the profits from the PIETY STALL, has also supplemented this fund.

A committee consisting of Fr Dominic PP, Tina Dunn, Millie Braden and Jim Finucane plus three other members (to be determined) will oversee the fund and coordinate assistance for those identified as needing support.

Early next year, we are hoping to extend our commitment to aid a national/international cause. It is the intention of the committee that this will focus on a different cause each year.

To date, THE COMMUNITY CARE FUND has raised approximately, \$10,500. From this amount, assistance has been given to:

- Drought relief.....\$1,000
- Mental health support for one of our youth.....\$450

A FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the fund, showing donations and expenditure, will be published every 2 months in the Parish Newsletter.

Now for Christmas!

This year we will not be collecting foodstuffs for Parish Hampers. However, if you wish to donate to a Christmas appeal, please consider a donation to THE COMMUNITY CARE FUND through the PARISH POOR BOXES in the Church and Piety Store.

Be assured that all money donated to this fund will be utilised solely for community needs that and transparency will be a priority.

In conclusion, if you know of any person in need this Christmas, or at any other time, please contact Fr Dominic, the parish office, or any member of the committee.

Thank you for your continued support of others.

John the Baptist Community Care Committee



The Ascension Prayer Group will resume in the New Year and our first meeting will be on 31st January.

On behalf of the Ascension Prayer Group we wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Communion Antiphon: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Next Sunday:

Third Sunday of Advent - (Year C)

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The call to "prepare the way of the Lord" means I must.....
- ♦ My daily living opens up for others the way to the Lord when I.....
- ♦ Repentance means to me.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

125:1-6

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Baruch 5:1-9

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

