



St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

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



Parish Priest: Rev Fr Dominic Dinh

Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au
Emergency: 0423 420 639

Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba

Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au
Emergency: 0451 910 634

Parish Pastoral Centre:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Office: 9823 2572

Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au

Website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

Office Hours: Tue- Fri 9.00am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 2

Monday - 8:00am

*The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Tuesday - 8:00am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Damasus I, pope

Thursday - 9:10am

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday - 9:10am

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Saturday - 9:10am

*St John of the Cross, priest,
doctor*

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 14/15

DECEMBER

*(Third Sunday of Advent
Year A)*

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
Sunday – 5:00 – 5:15pm

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office
or Fr Dominic 0423 420 639

Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

7th & 8th December, 2019

Prepare a way for the Lord

In the old days when a monarch had to travel through the wilderness where there was no road, a crew of workers would precede him, making the way passable for his chariot. In our times, many crooked roads have been made straight, many narrow roads have been widened, and many rough roads have been made smooth. All this has made travel easier and safer. But this is not what John the Baptist is talking about when he cries out, “*prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight*”. The word ‘way’ or ‘road’ stands for a person’s manner of life and conduct. The straight road stands for right living. The crooked road stands for wrong living.

John the Baptist preached repentance as a means to prepare for the coming Messiah. Preparing the way of the Lord is not just a temporary clean-up for the visitor, but an embracing of the new possibilities that are opening to us. “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near.” Repent, for no one is good enough for the kingdom. Only a repentant heart can be received into the kingdom. And you can’t get away with just a short-term repentance like kids being good for a few days before Santa comes, you’ve got to bear fruit worthy of repentance. Repentance basically means “turning around”, “changing direction”.

We’re not being called to turn away from everything that’s good in life. We’re being called to turn away from that which has passed its use-by date, that which no longer gives life, that which would now just anchor us in irrelevance and decay. And more significantly we are being called to turn to something, called to embrace of the new possibilities that are opening to us, to launch out with courage and grace into exciting new visions and hopes for the future. And the Christ who is born anew in every age will go with us always. During this second week of Advent, may I resolve to live with an open, forgiving heart and bless others with my peaceful presence.

Link in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Precursor, Prophet, and Baptist

717 - “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” John was “filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb” by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people.

720 - With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of “the divine likeness,” prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John’s baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.

Prayer of Thanks

Thank you Lord for yesterday with all its happy memories
Thank you Lord for today and the ability to enjoy it
Thank you Lord for tomorrow and things to look forward to.

Fr Richard

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



Sick: Michael PITTAS, Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER, Lorna WRIGHTMAN, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI,

Recently Deceased: Anna PEZZUTO, Paul VELLA, Ester MARIANO, Fr Paul STENHOUSE msc, Winifred Mary FERNS

Death Anniversary: Mariela SOTO, Barica GOLUBIC

Other: Iluminada MENDOZA, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude, Charlie SALIBA, Rita SALIBA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention

Saints of the Week



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary the feast had its origin in the East as the 'Conception of Mary by St Anne'. It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the Immaculate Conception ' and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

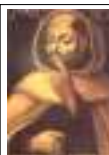
Feast Day: December 8



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



St John of the Cross, priest, doctor. Memorial. Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

Feast Day: December 14

Patron of contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets

IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2020



What is it: A ten-day live-in formation school for young people, with talks on the faith from awesome speakers, daily Mass & prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship, fun & fellowship & lots more!

When: 1-10 January, 2020

Where: The Glennie School, Toowoomba QLD

Who: 15-35 year olds

Special guest speaker: Dr Ralph Martin (USA), Professor of Sacred Theology, international speaker on evangelisation and the spiritual life. Dr Martin is a consultant to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation.

Other guest speakers: Archbishop Julian Porteous, Vince Fitzwilliams, James Parker, Jess Leach, Paul Elarde, Sisters of the Immaculata & more.

How much: \$390 (cost includes all accommodation, food, speakers and activities) before 18 Nov, \$450 after 18 Nov

For more info or to register:

www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims or 0406 372 608

Interested in volunteering to lend a helping hand to seniors? We need people in South West Sydney to visit seniors for a chat over a cup of tea and to help with light housework. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

Gifts of Faith. This Christmas give a gift with faith at the Centre. The Catholic charity *Aid to the Church in Need* has produced a **Gifts of Faith** catalogue in support of suffering and persecuted Christians. Copies can be found on the Church tables. Alternatively visit www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith or phone 1800 101 201. Order by 9 December to receive your **Gift of Faith** cards and envelopes in time for Christmas.

A Profoundly Rewarding Mission

Working in Education, Health and Trades? Assist to reduce poverty in overseas communities by sharing your skills. Mutual development assured! **There are five places left** on Palms Australia's January 4th – 12th Orientation Course. You must apply now for a [position](#) beginning any time in 2020. **Call or text 0422 4PALMS (M-F). palms.org.au**



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new envelopes for next Financial Year are now available for collection from the Parish Office.

Would you like to become a regular contributor to the Parish? or would you like to change your contribution method from envelopes to monthly credit card giving?

If so, please contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or email Leanne at info@johnthebaptist.org.au

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 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'.

Volunteers are needed to cleaning inside and outside the Church, around the car park ground, in preparing for Christmas, if you have an hour spare next Saturday 14 and 21 from 10am till 11am . Bring your gloves and shovel.....

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 5th January**. Following Mass Fr Dominic and Fr Richard will meet with you in the Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS



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

Wednesday 18th December at 3:45pm

Monday 23rd December at 3:45pm

Any questions or queries please contact Sylvana 0417 719 357 or Rosalie 0404 276 332

Thank you

To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2019.

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 2020. If anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Angela Galdas on 9606 8403 or 0410 964 196.



VOLUNTEERS FOR 2020 SUPPER AND MORNING TEA ROSTERS

Every Saturday following the 5.30pm Vigil and Sunday following 10am Masses a group of volunteers help with setting up and serving at supper/morning tea. If you would like to become a volunteer in 2020 please contact Teresa Vartuli on 0413 835 250 so that your name can be added to the roster. You will only need to attend once a month. Thank you for your support.

Lights of Christmas - Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral with a special Opening Night Concert featuring Friar Alessandro, the Voice from Assisi, and internationally acclaimed Australian pianist Vivian Choi. A wonderful free community event starting Thursday, 5 December with the Opening Night Concert from 7.30pm. A Sydney tradition, the Lights of Christmas runs every night until Christmas featuring a range of choirs.



Ministries Next Week 14/15 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	J Oliveri M Camilleri	R Golubic S Davies	C Goodyer M Aulsebrook	A Vanderwert M Vo
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	A Pace J Victorino A Jameson C Araco L Topic T Micali	L Barilla R Morellini M Jebrail M Esposito Delicia Vella	N Laureti G Dunn N Dubuisson S D'Cruz T Vartuli S Hambrook	G Vanderwert D Pham R Imbert M Abdal
CHURCH COUNTER	G Adam	E Villegas		
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	15/12/2019 R Marciano	22/12/2019 J Sultana	29/12/2019 D Triganza	5/01/2019 M De Luca
10AM MORNING TEAS	15/12/2019 Group 3	22/12/2019 Group 4	29/12/2019 Group 5	5/01/2019 Group 1

Upcoming Parish Activities Save the date!



Wednesday, 18th December

Getting Ready for CHRISTMAS

ADVENT MERCY NIGHT

Holy Mass ~ 7:00pm

Advent Reflection ~ 7:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation ~ 8:00pm

Benediction ~ 8:30pm

"Stay for a few minutes or for the whole time as the Spirit leads you"

Receive the Gift of Christ

"We're ready for Christmas, not when we have all the gifts, but when we are ready for Christ - when we're ready to give all of ourselves to Christ."

Ann Voskamp

MEN'S GROUP MEETING will be held on **Friday 20th December at 8:00pm**. The Men's Group meetings will be held every third Friday of the Month at 8:00pm. All men who feel they want to grow in their faith and discuss the scriptures with other men are welcome. For further information please contact Branko Poljak 0411 281 299.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Friday 13th December - Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 18th December - Advent Mercy Night

Further information will be provided closer to the dates.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

2nd Rite of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 18th December 8:00pm

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

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



Parish Contacts:

Parish Pastoral Council Chairman: Jeff Lai - 0409 288 812
Finance Committee: Tanya Scarvelis - 9823 2572
Community Care: Tina Dunn - 0439 492 920; Sharon Cook - 0410 494 700
Readers and Catechists: Nina Laureti - 9823 3277
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: : Linda Barilla - 9607 4993
Confirmation: Linda Barilla - 9607 4993
Reconciliation and First Communion: Tamara Vella - 0424 166 248 and
Kylie Farias - 0473 779 338

Altar Servers: Fr Richard - 9823 2572
Children's Liturgy: Angela Galdas - 9606 8403
Church Linen: Michelle De Luca - 0400 374 277
Church Cleaners: Ann Gorla - 0425 284 860
Piety Stall: Millie Breaden - 9823 2572
Morning Teas: Teresa Vartuli - 0413 835 250
Jordan Youth Group: Silvana Scarmardella - 9823 2572
Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski - 9823 2572
Young Adults: Caitlin Pace - 0490 518 369

Next Sunday:
Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)
First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The fire burning in me is..... The fire burning in me is.....The fire into which I must jump is.....
- ♦ Some "good fruit" that is evidence of my repentance is.....
- ♦ The fire that helps me "prepare the way of the Lord" is.....

First reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second reading

Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant

to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

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

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



The Gospel of the Lord

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