



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 3

Monday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 8:00am
Wednesday - 7:00pm
Thursday - 9:10am
Friday - 9:10am
Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 21/22

DECEMBER

*(Fourth 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
or Fr Richard 0451 910 634

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

14th & 15th December, 2019

Faith & Trust

The minister of aged care went to visit a nursing home. He walked up to a lady in a wheel chair and said, "Madam, do you know who I am?" she answered, pointing toward the enquiry desk, "No sir, I do not know who you are but if you go to that desk they can tell you".

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist while in prison, sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" John was imprisoned for speaking out against the king's adulterous act. While suffering in prison he probably wondered why Jesus as the Messiah did nothing to get rid of the injustice, or punishing the cruel and evil king. John's notion of the Messiah was similar to the Jews at the time, i.e. He comes as a Judge who will reward the good and punish the bad. We often have this similar idea about God who is an Almighty but very controlling and domineering.

Let us reflect on what Jesus has to say. "The blind see again and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor....happy is the one who does not lose faith in me." Such are the actions that Jesus undertakes! His identity is clear for all who have eyes and ears to see it. We often get discouraged when our prayers to God go seemingly unanswered or at least not happening the way we expected, if we reflect on what Jesus was about then we should experience more hope, joy, peace in whatever situation we are in.

Let us pray that 'we do not lose faith' but continue to deepen our faith and trust in Jesus, so that we can show his face to the world as we prepare for Christmas.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

719 John the Baptist is 'more than a prophet'. In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the 'voice' of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light". In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfils the longing of the angels. 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God....Behold, the Lamb of God.

St John the Baptist Christmas Schedule

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Vigil

All children are invited to dress as Shepherds and Angels for the Vigil Mass

Christmas Vigil Mass - 5.30pm, 8.00pm, & Midnight Mass.

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

Masses 8.00am & 10.00am.



Fr Dominic

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



IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2020

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

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

Recently Deceased: Nola CONROY, Anna PEZZUTO, Paul VELLA, Ester MARIANO

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.

Death Anniversary: Isidoro DEL VALLE, Lourdes G SANTOS, Augusto F SANTOS Jnr, Maria Concepcion BACARRO, Joseph Tsing Sing LAY

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

Other: Clifford FERNANDEZ, Gloria O'BRIEN, Chester and Helena BRODA, Vladyslav and Henryka KROL, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude for favours received, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention

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



Was Jesus born on December 25?

Does it Matter? The important thing is, this is the day the world celebrates and commemorates the fulfilment of the promise of God to send the Messiah to us— The Birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The birth stories are proclamations of faith, not exact historical

accounts. The central meaning is about Jesus' identity. He is the Son of God.

The early Christian church did not celebrate Jesus' birth until A.D. 440 where the Catholic Church officially proclaimed December 25 as the day of celebration of the birth of Christ. It is unlikely that Jesus was born on 25th of December but Christmas in Christianity marks the beginning of the larger season of Christmastide, which lasts twelve days.

Thank you God for the joy you give us.

We ask as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again that you would remain present with us. Amen



RELICS OF SAINTS THERESE, AND HER PARENTS LOUIS AND ZELIE

The National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Therese, and her parents, Louis and Zelie, will be making their way around the Archdiocese of Sydney in February and March 2020.

Please see church noticeboard for venues, dates and times.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual 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.

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](http://www.palms.org.au) beginning any time in 2020.

Call or text 0422 4PALMS (M-F). [palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)



STANDING AUTHORITY FOR RECURRENT PERIODIC PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Title: _____ (Mr & Mrs, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) Surname: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Card: Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Planned Giving Amount: \$ _____ Month Quarter Year Tax Receipt Required (30% tax deductibility)

Cardholder's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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.



We congratulate the families of Paloma PARAGALLI and Marcello RUISI who will be Baptised here this Sunday 15th December.

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.

**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



CHURCH WORKING BEE

Volunteers are needed to clean inside and outside the Church, around the car park ground, in preparing for Christmas, if you have an hour spare next Saturday 21 from 10am till 11am it would be most appreciated. Please bring your gloves and shovel.....

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.

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 21/22 DEC | Sat 5.30 pm | Sun 8.00 am | Sun 10 am | Sun 5:30 pm |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| READERS: | A Vlahadamis E Vella | J Finucane M Jebrail | M Zangari G Zangari | |
| EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER | A Gorla B Empeigne A Vlahadamis D Vella E Vella M Camilleri | A Liberatore F Foti B O'Connor S Sullivan J Finucane | H Fenech E Villegas C Porreca T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs | |
| CHURCH COUNTER | F Aloe | J Coiera | T Moriana | |
| CLEANERS: CHURCH | | | | |
| ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER | 22/12/2019 J Sultana | 29/12/2019 D Triganza | 5/01/2020 M De Luca | 12/01/2020 S Leonello |
| 10AM MORNING TEAS | 22/12/2019 Group 4 | 29/12/2019 Group 5 | 5/01/2019 Group 1 | 12/01/2020 Group 2 |

OUR PARISH

Mission Statement

Proclaiming: in our daily lives by our words and actions we spread God's love in our families, Parish community, workplace, in the broader community and to the rest of the world.

Inviting: welcome and inspire people to share our faith and to actively participate in the life of the Parish and the wider Church.

Sanctifying: the Parish provides avenues of support for its members through the sacramental life and spiritual growth opportunities.

Transforming: we use our gifts to transform the local and wider community, through engagement in works which create a more just and compassionate society that promotes love and mutual respect.

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:
 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Reflection Questions.....

- ◆ The works that I have heard and seen that make me believe that Jesus is "the Christ" are.....
- ◆ My actions reveal that I believe Jesus is "the Christ" in that..... I see Jesus in others when they act in these ways.....
- ◆ During this Advent, I hope to see.....

First reading**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
 let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
 let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
 let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
 the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
 they shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
 steady all trembling knees
 and say to all faint hearts,
 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
 vengeance is coming,
 the retribution of God;
 he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 the ears of the deaf unsealed,
 then the lame shall leap like a deer
 and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
 for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
 everlasting joy on their faces;
 joy and gladness will go with them
 and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm****Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger
 and upholds the widow and orphan.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the just
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Second reading**A reading from the letter of St James**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord**Gospel Acclamation**

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
 he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord