



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 4

Monday - 8:00am

Tuesday - 8:00am

Christmas Eve:

5:30pm Children's Mass

8:00pm

Midnight

Wednesday - *The Nativity of the Lord* Christmas Day

8:00am and 10:00am

Thursday - 9:10am

St Stephen, the first martyr

Friday - 9:10am

St John, apostle, evangelist

Saturday - 9:10am

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

NEXT SUNDAY

28/29 DECEMBER

(The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

21st & 22nd December, 2019

A Name that Saves

Young Jesus comes running into St. Joseph's carpenter shop... "Daddy, did you call me?" "Ah no, son, I just hit my thumb with a hammer." What can a name tell about the person who owns it? Not much, unless it happens to be a well-chosen nickname. With some Biblical names, however, it is different. For instance, Abraham meant "Father of a great people" (Gen. 17:5) and Moses meant "Rescued from the Waters" (Ex. 2:10.) Above all, our blessed Lord has names which tell us everything about him.

The name God gave Joseph's "son" spelled out the child's character and destiny. He was to be called Jesus, which means "God saves." When Matthew stated Jesus would "save his people from their sins," he did not imply Christ would stop people from sinning. Salvation meant the restoration of God's relationship with humanity. Moreover, the name "Emmanuel" means "God in our midst." With the birth of Jesus, God is with his people - God-is-with-us! He shares our life experience.

If this seems mysterious to us, it must have been baffling for Mary and Joseph. With great patience and humility, both Mary and Joseph accepted the part for which God had chosen them. Such moments of crisis reveal aspects of ourselves we don't often see or appreciate. Culture and experience tell us to take control, to plan for the future, and trust in our own abilities.

Christmas presents an alternate view, trust in God. Life may get in the way of our plans, but we will have the strength to survive and thrive because we trust the One who is really in control. We might not be in control. But God is. Just like Mary and Joseph, faithful acceptance is asked from each of us, when Christ comes into our lives, as "God-is-with-us. What situations, relationships, or events do you feel are out of your control? Present them to God and pray for his will and his blessing.

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 Richard

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



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

Recently Deceased: Andrew O'DWYER, Nola CONROY, Anna PEZZUTO, Paul VELLA, Ester MARIANO

Death Anniversary: Marianna FOTI, Sherwin DAVID

Other: Gregorio BACARRO, Ana Karla UNTALAN, Teofilo DIONISIO, lifford FERNANDEZ, Gloria O'BRIEN, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Special Intention, Thanksgiving Intention to St Anthony and St Jude of favours received



Condolences Our condolences are extended to Errol and Margaret O'Dwyer and their family on the loss of their dear son. Please keep the family in your prayers.



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 & fun & fellowship & lots more!

When: 1-10 January, 2020

Where: The Glennie School, Toowoomba QLD

Who: 15-35 year olds

For more info or to register:

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

JOHN THE BAPTIST DECEMBER, 2019 COMMUNITY CARE REPORT

Over the past year, thanks to the initiative of Father Dominic, The Community Care Group was established to support people of our community and elsewhere, who are in need, irrespective of their faith commitment or their particular life situation.

The committee, consisting of Fathers Dominic and Richard, Santina Dunn, Sharon Cook, Millie Breaden, Josie Barilla, Valerie Buhajiar, Rosie Imbert and Jim Finucane, oversee the fund and co-ordinate assistance for those identified as needing support.

All profits from the Piety Store, Poor Box donations and other fund raising efforts contribute to the fund. This year the fund has contributed to:

- Rainwater Harvesting System for Kizto Primary School in Uganda..... \$5,200
- Christmas hampers for the needy of our Parish community..... \$2,150
- Assistance to young people and youth groups..... \$1,900
- Bereavement support..... \$160

Your continued support of the Piety Store and Poor Box donations will allow us to broaden and expand these works. A special note of thanks and appreciation to Millie Breaden and Pauline McAndrew and the volunteer ladies who donate their time to this ministry. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Please contribute to the Jesse Tree at the front of the church. All designated donations (to date over \$760) will be allocated to drought/bushfire appeals and to Community Care.

Christmas can be a difficult time for families. So, if you know of any person in need at this time, please contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or a member of the Community Care Committee (Santina Dunn: 0439 492 920; Sharon Cook: 0410 494 700; Jim Finucane: 0438902046).

May the feast of the birth of the Christ Child renew your hope, inspire your faith and fill you with love at this special time.

Jim Finucane on behalf of the Community Care Committee.

Saints of the Week



St Stephen Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

Feast day: December 26
Patron of Deacons, altar servers, bricklayers, casket makers and stonemasons



St John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John's older brother was St. James the Great, another one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Saviour made him the guardian of His Mother. John is known as the author of the Gospel of John and four other books in the New Testament - the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. St. John is called the Apostle of Charity. He died in Ephesus after AD 98, where a stately church was erected over his tomb

Feast day: December 27
Patron of love, loyalty, friendship and authors.



The Holy Innocents
In the New Testament, the Massacre of the Innocents is the incident in the nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew in which Herod the Great, king of Judea, orders the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

Feast day: December 26



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.

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

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 :

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 28/29 DEC	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	G Turnbull J Oliveri	L Barilla J Poljak	C Goodyer E Villegas	
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	A Pace J Victorio A Jameson C Araco L Topic T Micali	L Tononcelli S Xuereb D Triganza R Morellini L Barilla	J Habib A Bautista N Laureti G Dunn N Dubuisson S D'Cruz	
CHURCH COUNTER	M Privitera			
CLEANERS: CHURCH				
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	29/12/2019	5/01/2020	12/01/2020	19/01/2020
	D Triganza	M De Luca	S Leonello	R Marciano
10AM MORNING TEAS	29/12/2019	5/01/2019	12/01/2020	19/01/2019
	Group 5	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3

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.

St John the Baptist Parish
Together we proclaim "Jesus the Good News"

We are seeking new members for Parish Pastoral Council 2020.

Our parish needs Christian leadership to help make decisions about activities, pastoral life and growth of the community. If you are a person from our faith community who can enable others to develop and give life to our parish mission of together, proclaiming, inviting, sanctifying and transforming towards Jesus the Good News.

Please consider to nominate yourself or you can nominate someone who have the mentioned gifts. There are nomination forms at the entrance of the church, please fill it out and return to the office by **15 January 2020**.

On behalf of the parish I would like to thank you to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council who have served the community faithfully since I arrived to the parish two years ago, I hope that you will continue to serve the parish in other meaningful ways.

HOME BLESSING

Lord Jesus, come into our home and bless it.

Bless the doors of our home.

May they always be open to the needy and the lonely.

Bless the rooms of our home.

May they always be filled with Your presence

Above all, bless each member of our family.

May their minds be ever open to Your Word.

May their hands be ever out-stretched to the needy.

And may their hearts be ever turned toward You.

Amen.



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 Scamardella - 9823 2572
Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski - 9823 2572
Young Adults: Caitlin Pace - 0490 518 369

Next Sunday:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year A)

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The birth of Jesus Christ came about *in me* when.....
- ♦ Those who have played a significant role in Jesus' being born in me are..... The role each played was.....
- ♦ My life witnesses *Emmanuel* ("God is with us") to others whenever I.....

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us."

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.



23:1-6

Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord