



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**

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Emergency: 0423 420 639

Assistant: Rev Fr Richard Ddumba

Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au
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Parish Pastoral Centre:

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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

St Blaise, bishop, martyr

St Ansgar, bishop

Tuesday - 8:00am

St Agatha, virgin, martyr

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

Thursday - 9:10am

St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

Friday - 9:10am

Saturday - 9:10am

St Jerome Emiliani

St Josephine Bakhita, virgi

NEXT SUNDAY

8/9 FEBRUARY

(Fifth Sunday in Ordinary

Time 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

The Presentation of the Lord (Year A)

1st and 2nd February 2020

A Loving Family

After a young couple brought their new baby home, the wife suggested that her husband should try his hand at changing diapers. "I'm busy" he said, "I'll do the next one." The next time came around and she asked again. The husband narrowed his eyes as he looked at his wife. "I didn't mean the next diaper, I meant the next baby."

Today, the Church celebrates the feast of 'The presentation of the Lord', the Church tells about reverence for all children that is all children should be revered like the Christ Child, "the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." A new dad recently told me that 'One of his greatest joys of his life has been carrying his baby child for the first time in the hospital. Even though there will be sleepless nights but it's worth it'. It is not a pie in the sky sort of Feast - say your prayers and all will be well. Instead, Mary and Joseph have to deal with many crisis right from the beginning of their relationship. Joseph have doubts about Mary's pregnancy and he had decided to leave her, they could not find a proper place for Mary to give birth, they have to protect Jesus from a persecution by king Herod, and today Mary is told by Simeon, "you see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected, and a sword will pierced your own soul too." Mary and Joseph both must be wondering what the prophecy meant, but their trust in God's providence enable them to listen to the word of God, treasure it with their hearts then act upon it. They overcame their crisis by sticking together, supporting one another and more importantly praying together in order to fulfill God's will. There are broken families when husbands and wives refuse to listen and support one another to overcome their differences in crisis. It has been said that the best gift that parents can give their children is to love one another.

As we celebrate 'the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord' let us treasure the gift of our children and continue to reflect on our own family's conflict and crisis, may Joseph and Mary inspire us with their examples, and may our family become more loving and caring.

PRAY FOR PEACE

St John Paul II sums up his message to believers and non-believers alike: "No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness".

It is worth noting that he repeats this phrase three times:

First he addresses it to all people of goodwill who are concerned for the future of humanity.

Secondly, he addresses it to those in positions of responsibility whose decisions impact upon the human community.

Thirdly, he addresses his message to those who nourish feelings of hatred, revenge or the will to destroy. To this last group the Pope insists that "I will not tire of repeating this warning: No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness".

Each Sunday at Mass we Catholics exchange a 'sign of peace'. Do we approach this symbolic gesture with suitable thoughts and reverence?



Fr Dominic

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



Sick: Fr Emmanuel SEO, Gary LOMAS, Col PURCELL, Michael PITTAS, Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Carmelo PIRRELLO, Bernadine BASTIANSZ

Death Anniversary: Janos KERI, Charlie BUSUTTIL, John Ban NGUYEN, Maria VU

Other: Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving to St Anthony and St Jude, Special Intentions.



Commemoration of Saint Josephine Bakhita Patron Saint of South Sudan and victims of modern slavery on Saturday 8th February 2020

The Archbishop will commemorate the Feast Day of St Bakhita at Midday Mass in St Mary's Cathedral with the South Catholic Community. Sydney Catholics are encouraged to attend.

Date: Saturday 8th February, 2020

Mass: 12pm at St Mary's Cathedral

Lunch: 1pm at Cathedral College Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, 2 St Mary's Road, Sydney

Saint Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869 and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she was later brought to freedom through the help of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. Through their guidance, she learned about God and served him faithfully until her death in 1947.

Mass to launch the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor
Thursday 20 February, St Mary's Cathedral at 5:30pm
Celebrant: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
All Welcome.

Saints of the Week



St Agatha also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. She was born around 231 in Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her. One of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge. To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. She suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus sent her off to prison a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her. Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Saviour, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture. This evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers. After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

Feast day: February 5

Patron of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer, against fire, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses



St Paul Miki

Paul was the son of a Japanese military leader. He was born at Tounucumada, Japan, was educated at the Jesuit college of Anziquiama, joined the Jesuits in 1580, and became known for his eloquent preaching. He was crucified on February 5 with twenty-five other Catholics during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, ruler of Japan in the name of the emperor. They were all canonized as the Martyrs of Japan in 1862

Feast Day February 6

Catechist 2020

"You did not choose me, no, I chose you: and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last". (John 15:16)

As we embark on our catechetical journey for 2020, this word proclaims and declares that **YOU** have been **CHOSEN** for this time and season to bring Christ to the little ones.

On Feb 1 and 2 we will celebrate *Catechist Sunday* at all Masses. This is the weekend we will acknowledge our **60** catechist/ helpers who teach **over 1100** primary school students in **6** of our local public schools. We recognise their response to their baptismal call to evangelise, the voluntary nature of their generosity, their commitment to half hour teaching every week and their love for the children in a work which is often unseen and unrecognised yet crucial and rewarding.

To fill all our classes we are in need of 4 Catechists at:

Cecil Hills Primary, Wednesdays 8:50am - 9:20am **Kindy**

2 x Year 5 catechists 9:20am - 10:00am

Edensor Park Primary, Wednesdays at 9:00am **Year 4**.

Other classes are on at:

GPK Edensor Park, Tuesdays, 9.00am to 10.30am - 3 sessions

Bonnyrigg Heights Primary, Wednesdays, 11.30am to 1.05pm - 3 sessions

Green Valley Primary, Wednesdays 2.00pm to 2.30pm

Busby West Primary, Fridays 9.10am to 10.15am - 2 sessions

Being a *Helper* is an invaluable service, assisting the Catechist in the classroom and working as a team.

The CCD offers all catechists/ helpers a variety of support, in the form of training courses to help in what we teach, how to teach and why it has to be age appropriate, resources, Retreats and Reflection Days.

We wish to congratulate the following catechists who will be receiving certificates for Years of Service to this ministry.

15 Years - Egette Salame

10 Years - Nabil Habib, Annette Insitari, Le Ly, Dianne Vella

5 Years - Imelda Adriano, Maria Calabrse, Janette Pato, Caterina Quiroga

Do something of eternal significance- be a Catechist or helper
We invite you to join this mission and our wonderful JB Team .
Any enquiries please contact: Nina Laureti 0408465149
Vicki Scutella 0447 310 204 or Connie Giannone 0413694007.

Part Time Position Available at St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

Email Fr Andrew (Xiang) Feng at stchris@tpg.com.au to obtain a job description by 7th February, 2020 and the closing date for applications for the position is 24th February, 2020.



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.

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION



Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass this Sunday 2nd February**. Following Mass Fr Dominic and Fr Richard will meet with you in the Parish Hall.

Tap Donation Device



There are two Tap Donation Devices at the Entrance of the church for people who want to use Credit Card or Phone App. Each time you tap, you donate \$5 to our parish. You can tap as many times as you wish but please give the machine 5 seconds to reset. Your donations are very much appreciated.

INVITATION to all interested in Catholic music and its history: Come to the OPEN NIGHT to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of The Gregorian Schola of Sydney. See and study digitized manuscripts with music copied hundreds of years ago including those composed by St Hildegard of Bingen d. 1179. Listen to the schola singing them. Join with them and take part in Q and A. It is unlikely that such an opportunity will be repeated. When: **Thursday, February 13**, commencing 6.30pm. Where: St Bede's Church, 43 Pyrmont Rd, Pyrmont. Why? This is all part of our search for the truth in passing on the faith and the message of the Gospel. Bookings are essential and recommended early. Email Stephens.harry@gmail.com. Entry by voluntary donation. Enquiries 0418 230 322.

Reach Beyond: Become Simply Rich....

All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. They're not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. [Palms Australia](http://www.palms.org.au) will provide you with thorough preparation and support. You will be rewarded with riches greater than you might imagine. Look at www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0422472567.

VOLUNTEERS FOR 2020 SUPPER AND MORNING TEA ROSTERS

If you would like to become a volunteer in 2020 we are in need of helpers for the suppers following the 5:30pm Mass on Saturdays. We are also starting morning tea after the 8:00am Mass on Sundays and are in need of helpers. If you can help 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.

ATTENTION READERS: The new roster is now available for collection after all Masses this weekend.

| Ministries Next Week 8/9 FEB | Sat 5.30 pm | Sun 8.00 am | Sun 10 am | Sun 5:30 pm |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| READERS: | G Turnbull J Victorino | J Poljak S Hely | M Aulsebrook C Goodyer | A Bento A Vanderwert |
| EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER | M Camilleri A Pace J Victorino A Jameson C Araco L Topic | L Barilla M Jebraill M Esposito Delicia Vella A Liberatore | T Nguyen M Aulsebrook R Hibbs J Habib A Bautista N Laureti | G Vanderwert D Pham R Imbert M Abdal |
| CHURCH COUNTER | J Oliveri | V Baltazar | | |
| CLEANERS: CHURCH | | | | |
| ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER | 9/02/2020 M De Luca | 16/02/2020 D Triganza | 23/02/2020 S Leonello | 1/03/2020 R Marciano |
| 10AM MORNING TEAS | 9/02/2020 Group 2 | 16/02/2020 Group 3 | 23/02/2020 Group 4 | 1/03/2020 Group 1 |

Formation & Training Workshops

Readers at Mass are invited to attend a beginning or refreshing workshop on Saturday 8th February from 9.30am – 10.30am follow by morning tea.

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

Scripture. It must be said that Christ himself 'is present in his word, since it is he who speaks when Scripture is read in Church.' Indeed, 'the liturgical celebration becomes the continuing, complete and effective proclamation of God's word The word of God, constantly proclaimed in the liturgy, is always a living and effectively word through the power of the Holy Spirit. It expresses the Father's love that never fails in its effectiveness towards us.' The Church has always realised that in the liturgical action the word of God is accompanied by the interior working of the Holy Spirit who makes it effective in the hearts of the faithful. *Verbum Domini (2010) 52.*



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are invited to attend a beginning or refreshing workshop on Saturday 8th February from 11am – 12pm.

All are welcome even if you are not actively involved in these ministries, the workshops aim to enrich your understanding about God's Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Please see Fr Dominic or contact the Parish Office if interested.

Lenten Program

The Lenten Program begins in a few weeks and is a great opportunity for Catholics to prepare themselves, through prayer, to experience Christ's Passion. If you would like to organise and lead a Lenten Group this year, please contact Fr Dominic or the Parish Office to ensure that your books are ordered in time.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

What do we believe as Catholics?

As Catholics, we believe in the 'Real Presence'. That is, when the bread and wine are consecrated on the altar by the priest, the physical appearances of the bread and wine do not change, but their inner nature does.

This doctrine of the Church, asserts that in the Holy Eucharist, Jesus *is* truly present—

Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Despite the Mass being celebrated in different ways throughout the early centuries, the belief of Christ, Present in the Eucharist, remains a fundamental truth.



- To Know, Worship and Love

Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of Love." (Blessed Pope John Paul II, Dominicae Canae)



THE RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

The National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Thérèse, and her parents, Louis and Zélie, will visit **Mary Immaculate Parish, Bossley Park on Tuesday 4th February, 2020 (Mass at 9am).**

Inviting you to come and take this opportunity to venerate the relics of one of the Catholic Church's most popular saints and her parents who helped nurture her faith.

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

Next Sunday:

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What I await most in my daily living is.....
- ♦ Like Simeon and Anna, I await the revelation of Christ in these ways.....
- ♦ The Holy Spirit opens me to see Christ in myself and others when I.....

First reading

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of Hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Christ too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The Word of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people, Israel.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;

because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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