



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 - No Mass

St John I, pope, martyr

Tuesday - No Mass

Wednesday - No Mass

St Bernardine of Siena, priest

Thursday - No Mass

*St Christopher Magallanes,
priest, and companions,
martyrs*

Friday - No Mass

St Rita of Cascia, religious

Saturday - No Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

23/24 MAY

*(The Ascension of the Lord
Year A)*

Saturday Vigil Mass:

5:30pm

Sunday Masses:

8:00am, 10:00am and

5:30pm

**CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

**Cancelled until further
notice**

1st Friday of the Month:

7:00pm Mass in

Vietnamese

**Cancelled until further
notice**

1st Saturday of the Month

Fatima Devotions 7.45am

Adoration/Benediction

8.30am

**Cancelled until further
notice**

Reconciliations:

Saturdays – 4:15–5:00pm

Sunday – 5:00 –5:15pm

**Cancelled until further
notice**

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

16th & 17th May, 2020

Love: God's First Gift

In *The Count of Monte Cristo* classic, there is a scene in it where two men are being led into a public square to be rather gruesomely executed. But they walk with completely different demeanours, because one of them knows that the Count has intervened on his behalf and that at any moment, the courier will arrive with the order to pardon and release him. The other may, of course, harbour some wishful thinking that somehow, he might be pardoned, but no amount of wishful thinking can give him any confidence with which to face the future.

Hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is the confidence of the man who knows that even though he is still a prisoner at this moment, his release has already been secured. This hope is precisely the confidence of knowing that Christ has already defeated the forces of hostility and death. This is what we celebrate during the season of Easter. We are not vaguely wishing he might. We know he already has. We know he has because he continues to live and to love us freely and generously.

This portion of Jesus' farewell discourse falls on the heels of last week's gospel. As you remember, Jesus stated he lived in an intimate love with the Father. Now, Jesus would empower his followers to love same way he did. Jesus told his disciples to follow his example. Love each other. The love relationship between the Father and the Son, between the Son and his followers, became the paradigm for life in the Christian community.

Only when we begin to love God and reflect that love in daily living can we gain true insight. And influence others. When we, as Christians, show love, we reveal the life of God among people. Why? Simply because we affirm the presence of the Risen Lord with us. And we show others life of the Spirit within us. Love, then, is "the shoe leather of faith." Love is faith in action.

Catechism Theme: The Holy Spirit and the Church (737 – 739)

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to bring everyone to Christ. The Spirit prepares everyone and invites them to Christ. With the gift of Christ's risen life, the Spirit unites all believers to Christ and places them in communion with the Father. Since the Spirit unites all in Christ, the Spirit builds up the Church Christ found on earth.

Fr Richard

LIVESTREAMING OF HOLY MASS AND SERVICES

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 10:00am

Please go to our Parish YOUTUBE channel - "John the Baptist Parish, Bonnyrigg Heights" to watch our live stream Masses. You may wish to SUBSCRIBE to this channel which will make it easier to access each week.

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms are postponed until further notice.

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation is postponed until further notice

Children's Liturgy of the Word is postponed until further notice.

JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS 2021

Enrolment packs for 2021 are available from the school office during office hours. Applications are welcome from those families living within the parish and will need to be fully completed and returned the end of May. If you have any enquiries please call the school office on 9823 5042.

Supporting our Seafarers during the Pandemic

Donations of personal hygiene products are urgently sought for Care Packages being put together for the thousands of seafarers trapped on ships coming into Sydney waters.

Chaplain to the Seafarers, Sr Mary Leahy, said donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, knitted beanies and chocolates are desperately needed for the thousands of seamen currently stranded on ships on our waterfront due to the Coronavirus.

Sr Mary has spent the past 20 years helping those who earn a living on the seas and said she has never seen conditions so dire.

Donations can be dropped off at All Saints Catholic Parish Office, George Street, Liverpool.

PARISH HOUSIE at Liverpool Catholic Club on Saturday afternoons has been **POSTPONED** until further notice.

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 \$10 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.

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.

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



Sick: Vikki MOXHAM, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Fr Emmanuel SEO, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Mary FLYNN, Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Fr Peter MORRISSEY, Fr Patrick McAULIFFE (former Parish Priest at Cabramatta) Kathleen KENSEY

Death Anniversary:

Other: Michael GRIMA, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, All the Souls in Purgatory

Are you struggling in this time of crisis?

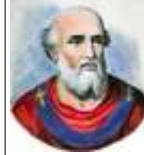
Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress.

CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health.

For help finding help, call CCareline on 13 18 19



Saints of the Week



St John 1 - Pope

A native of Tuscany in Italy, John was elected Pope while he was still an archdeacon upon the death of Pope Hormisdas in 523. At that time, the ruler of Italy was Theodoric the Goth who subscribed to the Arian brand of Christianity, but had tolerated and even favoured his Catholic subjects. Theodoric's policy underwent a drastic change as a result of two events: the treasonable (in the sovereign's view) correspondence between ranking members of the Roman Senate and Constantinople and the severe edict against heretics enacted by the emperor Justin I. Theodoric threatened to wage war against Justin but ultimately decided to negotiate with him through a delegation of five Bishops and four senators. At its head he named Pope John. Little is known for certain about the nature of the message. What is known is that he succeeded in persuading the Emperor to mitigate his treatment of the Arians and thus avoid reprisals against the Catholics in Italy. The Pope's visit also brought about the reconciliation of the Western and Eastern Churches.

Feast Day: May 18th



St Bernadine of Siena

St Bernadine worked in the largest hospital in Siena, caring for plague victims, giving his all in this task. After then caring for a sick relative, he joined the Franciscans and was ordained in 1404. He criss-crossed Italy on foot, preaching several times a day. Especially known for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, Bernadine devised a symbol—IHS, the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek—in Gothic letters on a blazing sun. He died at age 64 on 20th May, 1444. Only six years later, in 1450, Pope Nicholas V canonized him as a saint.

Feast Day: May 20th



St Christopher Magallanes

Saint Cristóbal Magallanes Jara, also known as Christopher Magallanes was born in 1869. He is a martyr and saint venerated in the Catholic Church who was killed without trial on the way to say Mass during the Cristero War after the trumped up charge of inciting rebellion in 1927. He was Beatified on November 22, 1992 and Canonized on May 21, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

Feast Day: May 21st



St Rita of Cascia

St Rita was born Margherita Lotti in Roccaporena, Italy in 1381. She forced into an arranged marriage with a terrible man. She was mistreated for years. After 12 years of marriage, her husband was killed and her 2 sons died shortly after. She entered the convent and followed a life of charity. After praying to Our Lord to "let her suffer like you," she was struck in the forehead with a thorn from the crucifix. The wound never healed and cause her pain until the day she died on May 22, 1457. Following her death, she was buried at the basilica of Cascia, and was later discovered to be incorrupt.

Feast day: May 22nd
Patron of lost causes

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:**The Ascension of the Lord (Year A)**

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ I regard "commandments" as..... The relationship between loving Jesus and keeping his commandments is.....
- ♦ Because the "Spirit of truth" has been given to me by the Father, I must.....
- ♦ The world sees Jesus in me when I.....

First reading**Acts 8:5-8, 14-17****A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm****65:1-7, 16, 20****Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
 O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
 shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,
 tremendous his deeds among men.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

He turned the sea into dry land,
 they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;
 he rules for ever by his might.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Come and hear, all who fear God.
 I will tell what he did for my soul:
 Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
 nor withhold his love from me.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**Second reading****1 Peter 3:15-18****A reading from the First letter of St Peter**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord**Gospel Acclamation****John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
 and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
 Alleluia!

Gospel**John 14:15-21****A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
 and he will give you another Advocate
 to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth
 whom the world can never receive
 since it neither sees nor knows him;
 but you know him,
 because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,
 because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father
 and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
 will be one who loves me;
 and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
 and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord