



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
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Parish Pastoral Centre:

45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights, 2177

Office: 9823 2572

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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 WEEK 2

Monday - 8:00am

St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

Tuesday - 8:00am

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit

Thursday - 9:00am

Friday - 9:00am

St Damasus I, pope

Saturday - 9:00am

Our Lady of Guadalupe

NEXT SUNDAY

12/13 DECEMBER

(Third Sunday of Advent Year B)

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

Fatima First Saturday

Communion of

Reparation 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 B)

5th & 6th December, 2020

Prepare

A little girl was sitting on her grandmother's lap as she read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch her wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then her grandma's again. Finally she spoke up, "Nanna, did God make you?" "Yes sweet-heart," she answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh" she paused, "Nanna, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed honey," she said "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling the respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

In today's Gospel John the Baptist announces to the people the good news that the long awaited day of salvation is about to dawn upon them. He urges the people to prepare 'a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' John makes his message clear by word and example that the Lord's coming does not depend on people's efforts. He ate and dressed simply and proclaimed clearly that he was only the forerunner of the Lord and not the Lord himself. John the Baptist is a great example of one who is secure in himself and he is not dominated by his ego. He does not desire power, prestige or possession and for that reason he is really a free man who was called to be forerunner for Christ 'the Anointed One'. Knowing that he is loved by God he desires no other possession. We too have to allow ourselves to be loved by God, and having experienced God's love we will become more secure. When we are aware of all that we have as gifts, we feel that we have more than enough and will want to share those presents and ourselves with others.

Let us pray that we can let go of our many addictions and ill feelings and nurture our lives in the love of God as we prepare to celebrate the coming of God's Son.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

523 St John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. 'Prophet of the Most High', John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being 'the friend of bridegroom', whom he points out as 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'. Going before Jesus 'in the spirit and power of Elijah', John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

Lord Jesus, sanctify our people and make us acceptable to You. Reclaim and restore us to God's Everlasting Love.

Amen.

Fr Dominic



NSW eases restrictions to allow 300 in churches with 2m2 Rule

Up to 300 people is allowed to attend Mass provide the 2m² rule is observed

Parishioners who wish to attend Masses are required to provide their contact details (name and phone number or email address of one adult in each family) as they enter the Church.



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.

Faith Matters

Precepts of the Catholic Church

(See: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 2041-2043)

The Precepts of the Catholic Church are a description of the absolute **minimum actions** required of Catholics regarding the Church.

1. ***You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labour.***

We must "sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord" (Sunday), as well as the principal feast days, known as Catholic holy days of obligation.

2. ***You shall confess your sins at least once a year.***

We must prepare for the Eucharist by means of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This sacrament "continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness."

3. ***You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.***

This "guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy."

4. ***You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.***

"The fourth precept ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart."

5. ***You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.***

"The fifth precept means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability."

Other precepts:

To obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.

To participate in the Church's mission of Evangelization of Souls (Missionary Spirit of the Church).

Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days. Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ. The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

For more information please go to the nuns website: www.jamberooabbey.org.au and click on retreats



Leading US theologian Dr Scott Hahn to speak at Sydney Catholic youth virtual event

PDMKK Sydney, an Indonesian Catholic Charismatic Youth Group, is hosting a virtual event, with popular US- theologian Dr Scott Hahn who is credited with helping thousands of lapsed Catholics and Christians from other faiths embracing the Catholic faith.

Saturday 11 December at 11am

Admission: \$20 per person. Register online: <https://pdmkksydneyshine.eventbrite.com.au>

RECONCILIATION SACRAMENT ENROLMENT 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

John the Baptist Catholic Church, Bonnyrigg, welcomes all Baptised children in our local community and parish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Due to COVID19 we were unable to hold a reconciliation program in 2020, so next year in 2021 there will be 2 reconciliation programs.

1. **Term 1 2021 - All students enrolled in Year 4 and above in 2021**

2. **Term 4 2021 - All students enrolled in Year 3 and above in 2021.**

PLEASE NOTE - Year 4 students will make their reconciliation in the beginning of the year (Term 1) and then their communion mid-year (June 2021).

YEAR 4 2021 RECONCILIATION ENROLMENT

At this stage we are asking **ONLY** children enrolled in Year 4 and above in 2021 to enroll for reconciliation. We will hold a separate enrolment for Year 3 children for the second program in Term 3 2021.

If you wish to enroll your child please **complete the enrolment form by Sunday 6 December 2020**. Lessons groups will be arranged at the beginning of Term 1 2021, once enrolments are finalised.

To enroll your child please complete the online form at the link below (only year 4 2021).

Visit : <https://www.trybooking.com/BMZXM>

ENROLMENTS CLOSE 6 DECEMBER 5PM.

Attend the Enrolment Information Night

Once you have submitted your enrolment form, a parent will need to attend the information and enrolment evening in the John the Baptist church on **Tuesday 8 December at 7pm** (no children, due to number restrictions).

Please bring to the enrolment information night :

1. Your child's **baptism certificate** (showing date and parish); and
2. \$20 enrolment fee for program materials.

If you have any queries or need assistance, please call us we are happy to help you:

CORE Group Leaders: Tamara Vella on 0424 166 248 or Kylie Farias on 0473 779 338

WEDNESDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2020

Advent Mercy Night

Holy Mass - 7:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration

&

Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:30pm—8:30pm



Baptisms: If you wish to Baptise your child please contact the parish office to make an appointment with either Fr Dominic or Fr Richard.



We congratulate the family of Annabelle FORBES who will be baptised here this weekend.

RCIA: The RCIA sessions will continue on Thursday 10th December at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.



CHURCH WORKING BEE

Saturday 12th December 8am-1pm

If you can spare anytime at all on the morning of Saturday 12th December we would love to get the church and gardens looking their best for the Christmas masses. PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD - we have to look our best!

There are some cobwebs to clear and statues to polish! And some gardening and tidying around the church grounds and carpark area. Please bring any tools you may require and remember to sign on and sanitise before beginning work.

Any enquiries please call Grant 0409 958744

Lourdes Day Mass for the Sick at St Mary's Cathedral

Date: Saturday 5 December,

Time: 10am

Celebrant: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Those attending this Mass, hosted by the Order of Malta, will be blessed with Holy Water from the Grotto of Lourdes in France.

Attendance at the Mass is limited to 300 people. It will also be livestreamed via the St Mary's Cathedral You Tube channel at this address: <https://bit.ly/3fxlbGf>



Catholic Mission would like to sincerely thank all parishioners who contributed to the appeal and raised \$975. With your help, Bishop Kike can continue to reach out and help rebuild the lives of those who are suffering from trauma and depression brought on through illness and injury caused by landmines in Cambodia. **Total amount raised: \$975**

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



Sick: Grace DANFIELD, John Da RIN, Raelene GARCIA, Aileen CLARKE, Melda MIZZI, Gabriel STORNELLI, Janelle CLIFTON, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI

Recently Deceased: Stephen ENGLISH, Mary GRECH

Death Anniversary: Joseph CAMILLERI, Gabriel SAFI

Other: Tony CINI, Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm; 8:00pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am; 9:30am and 11:00am

Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral



St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on **10 December** with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11pm, concluding on Christmas Day.

Immaculata Mission School 2021: Made for Heaven!

Start the New Year by going deeper in faith through awesome talks, friendship & fellowship, daily Mass & prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship & lots more!

When: 1-5 January, 2021

Where: St James Catholic College, Cygnet Tasmania

Cost per person: \$220

(with basic shared accommodation),

\$170 (with no accommodation) - includes food, speakers, activities and youth and children's ministry - all ages, families welcome

Speakers: Archbishop Julian Porteus, Fr Rob Galea, James Parker, Paul Elarde, Sisters of the Immaculata & lay community.

For more information or to register:

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

Saints of the Week



St Ambrose

St Ambrose, also known as Aurelius Ambrosius, is one of the four original doctors of the Church. He was the Bishop of Milan and became one of the most important theological figures of the 4th century. He was a successful lawyer prior to becoming a bishop. As bishop, he donated all of his land and gave his money to the poor. Ambrose authored many of the Church's important writings and hymns. He is credited with composing the repertory Ambrosian chant, also known as the Antiphonal Chant. He is also credited with composing the hymn "Te Deum," which is believed to have been written when he baptized Augustine of Hippo.

Feast Day: December 7



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the conception of the Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her son Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church teaches that God acted upon Mary in the first moment of her conception keeping her "immaculate".

Feast Day: December 8

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 - 0408 465 149
 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
 Men's Group: Branko Poljak - 0411 281 299

Next Sunday:**Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
 Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ What I need to make straight in my life to prepare the way of the Lord is.....
- ♦ I have already experienced "a new heaven and a new earth" in.....
- ♦ One example of the ongoing promise of the Gospel in my life is.....

First reading**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11****A reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
 that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
 that she has received from the hand of the Lord
 double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
 Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
 Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid
 low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
 then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind
 shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
 Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
 Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all
 things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies
 all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
 gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast
 and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm****84:9-14**

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your
 salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
 a voice that speaks of peace,
 peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
 and his glory will dwell in our land.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
 justice and peace have embraced.
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
 and justice look down from heaven.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper
 and our earth shall yield its fruit.
 Justice shall march before him
 and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second reading**2 Peter 3:8-14****A reading from the second letter of St Peter**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:
 that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a

thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to
 carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow;
 but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost
 and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of
 the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky
 will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the
 earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should
 be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the
 Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and
 the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what
 he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place
 where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends,
 while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot
 or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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**Mark 13:1-8****A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son
 of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:
 Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
 he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
 and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the
 wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
 forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of
 Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised
 by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John
 wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and
 wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone
 is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am,
 and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his
 sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise
 you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord