



# 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 WEEK 3**

**Monday - 8:00am**

**Tuesday - 8:00am**

*St John I, pope, martyr*

**Wednesday - 7:00pm**

**Thursday - 9:00am**

*St Bernadine of Siena, priest*

**Friday - 9:00am**

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

**Saturday - 9:00am**

*St Rita of Cascia, religious*

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**22/23 MAY**

*(Pentecost Sunday 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  
or Fr Richard 0451 910 634

## The Ascension of the Lord (Year B)

15th & 16th May, 2021

### Proclaim

Three friends are asked... "When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning upon you, what would you like to hear them say about you?" The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was the greatest doctor of my time, and a great family man." The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher what a huge difference I've made in the children of tomorrow." The Last Guy cheekily replies... "Well... If I had my druthers... I would like to hear them say ... "Look...!" "Look...!" "Look...!" "He's moving...!" "... OH MY GOODNESS..." "HE'S ALIVE".

St Mark's Gospel story concludes with the scene of the Ascension. In his final words, Jesus commissions his disciples to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. Christ commands us to evangelize. He tells us to bring new members into the Church and teach them to do the same. The gospel is to be proclaimed to all creation in all activities and acts of those who have been renewed by baptism. The believers are to be the yeast that transforms human history.

This proclamation of the good news is telling the story of Jesus' saving actions - his life, death and resurrection. This Jesus' story is to be translated into our lives in order to continue his mission on earth. Consequently, Jesus' mission becomes ours. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus becomes the story of our lives and the story of what brings us life. We share with others how God is working in our lives. We share the story that shapes our story.

Even after the Ascension, Jesus is not distant from his disciples. His Ascension emboldens us to hope for a home in heaven ourselves, and until then to proclaim the Gospel, baptize, and teach the faith so that Christ will be known and loved in every time and place. So, let us invite others into the Kingdom through our prayer, word, and example. Let us be the presence of Christ to others. How the thought of the Ascension should lift our lives above our petty, selfish concerns, to live with Jesus where he is now—in the glory of the Father!

**Catechism of the Catholic Church Themes:**

**Christ already reigns through his Church... (CCC 668-670)**

Christ's Ascension into heaven symbolized his Lordship. He now revealed his participation in the Father's power and authority. What the Son possessed by his divine nature, he manifests in the economy of salvation. While Christ now reigns with his Father, he still dwells in his Body, the Church. Through the Church, Christ acts in the world. Through the Church he announces the immanence of God's Kingdom. The Church, imperfect as an assembly of sinners, still dares to declare the Kingdom.

**Fr Richard**

## NSW Restrictions for Churches due to Covid-19

Places of worship are now allowed to have one person per the 2m<sup>2</sup> with no maximum cap. From Monday, 29 March, no cap on numbers at funerals and weddings, provided a 2m<sup>2</sup> rule is observed.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- **Masks are mandatory this weekend except with a medical exemption.**
- **Parishioners who wish to attend Masses are required to provide their contact details as they enter the Church. Registration forms are available on tables at the entrance of the Church.**
- **You could also use the QR Code option to register before entering the Church.**

## Faith Matters

### Does Christ's ascension mean that the bible implies heaven to be above our heads?

No. The Ascension shows us the freedom of the Resurrected body and was a visible sign of Jesus' entering heaven in his glorified human nature; Christ's Ascension is not intended to teach us that heaven is literally above our heads. The Church teaches, "heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness" (CCC 1024).



Our Parish **HOUSIE TEAM** is also in need of some new members to assist once a month at the Liverpool Catholic Club. The Parish Housie which is run on Saturday afternoons between 2pm and 4.30pm is our main form of **fundraising for our future new church** and is resuming on Saturday 13th March. **Prizes total at least \$6700 each week! IT is also a great social opportunity for catching up with friends!**

Duties include selling bingo books, reconciling cash and prizes- someone else calls the numbers and games- so please consider if you would love to contribute to the parish and community in this way- Contact Grant 0409 958744 or the parish office on 9823 2572.

### Scholarship at the Cathedral with Archbishop Anthony

**Fisher OP:** Loss of Trust and Crisis of Leadership: Responses with the Help of St Thomas Aquinas.

After a year's break, during the COVID-19 pandemic, these free public talks are now resuming again, led by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia's Institute for Ethics and Society.

20 May 2021, Chapter Hall, St Mary's Cathedral 6:30pm

Register Online: <https://www.satcathedral.org>



"They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other Apostles, Brothers - what then must we do?" Acts 2:37

The National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. Join a diocesan group with your Bishop, or with your Men's Ministry/Parish group or individually. Three sessions will be provided online, along with reflection questions for group discussion or individual reflection.

**Aim:** To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world.

**Cost:** FREE

**Registration:** [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

**Program:** Available from Saturday 31st July 2021

**Sydney City Procession for the Feast of Mary Help of Christians Patroness of Australia - 3.00pm Sunday 23 May 2021** From St Peter's Surry Hills with a pilgrim blessing and then on to St Mary's Cathedral for the 5.00pm Solemn Choral First Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information please contact the Servants of Mary Help of Christians or Steven Buhagiar from the Archdiocesan Life Marriage and Family.

## BIBLE TRIVIA



1. Who was the first man murdered and mentioned in the Bible? Why?
2. Who is regarded as the last prophet in the Old Testament by Jesus?
3. Who is the greatest King of the Jews?
4. Name the man who replaced Judas after he committed suicide?



Ignite Conference 2021 would like to invite you to a 'Meet and Greet' to share more with you as leaders and key stakeholders about this 'bold vision' for the Church.

Date: Wednesday 2nd June 2021

Time: 6:30-9:00pm

Venue: The Peter Cosgrove Centre, ACU Campus, North Sydney

Nibbles and drinks will be served.

Please register by Friday, May 28th at <https://app.tickets.org.au/iy/MeetandGreetSYD>

**Numbers are limited due to Covid, so it's invite only, but please let us know if you would like to bring anyone along with you or in your place.**

## RECYCLE YOUR OLD GLASSES

Sr Marie Elena supporting residents at the Scalabrini Village in Austral, also organises support for a Mission in Manila and Mindanao in the Philippines where the disparity between the rich and the poor is extreme. Among other ways of supporting this mission Sr Marie Elena collects old glasses, both prescribed and non-prescribed (including sunglasses) for the benefit of those with poor vision who are unable to afford to have their eyes tested and then purchase the prescribed glasses they require. If you have any old glasses which you no longer require, and would like to donate them to this very worthy cause, Sr Marie Elena would be most grateful.

**Donated glasses can be left at the Piety Store.**

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

**CONFIRMATION** will take place on **Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th September at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please keep watching this space for changes and updates.  
Any enquiries please contact Linda Barilla on 0409 914 083.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** will take place on the weekends of 12th and 13th June, 19th and 20th June.

**Jordan Youth Group Resumes!**  
Students in year 5, 6 & 7 come together to engage, learn, pray and be involved in spiritual life and explore our Catholic faith. Join us for discussions, games, activities and reflection.  
We gather on a Saturday once a month: 3.30pm - 5.15pm .  
We resume on Saturday, 22nd May in the Parish hall.  
Register your child today: either fill up the **form** in the Church Alcove or call the Parish office.

**John The Baptist MEN'S GROUP**  
Invites you to our May Men's group meeting **Friday 21st May at 7:00pm in the Church hall**  
**This month we'll start off with a BBQ followed by a presentation from Sr Thomasine from Schoenstatt about Marian devotion, Why Mary**  
Together we empower each other to become Christ-like role models in our families and community.  
To join the men's group or to find out more, email [jbmensgroup@gmail.com](mailto:jbmensgroup@gmail.com) or call/SMS Daniel on 0411 254 520

**ATTENTION READERS:**  
The new reader's roster is now available for collection.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:**  
The new roster is now available for collection.

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

**Sick:** Joe OLIVERI, Pamela LEVERS, Bozana VUKOV, Joyce SCHEMBRI, Bernadette DIMACALE, Lachlan BENSON, Rowena SANCHEZ, Gino BORG, Gung Jec MENG, Thip SAKOUNKHU, Cindy CALDEJON, Julia CEFAL, Raelene GARCIA, Melda MIZZI, Gabriel STORNELLI, Rita SHAH, Virgilio MARIANO, Kristian SERIC, Gary LOMAS, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Giuseppina LETTIERI, Paul NEWELL

**Recently Deceased:** Romeo CABILUWA, John Da RIN, Garapati Ashok KUMAR, Alberto ILLESCAS, Maureen CASTLE, Anabel LIE, Aileen CLARKE, Wilma ONG, Carmen ENRIQUEZ, Herminia LLANA

**Anniversary:** Erica Lo MONACO, Maria SAFI, Maria Binh NGUYEN & Mattha, Uong THI A & Maria Pham THI TRI, PILOMENA

**Other:** Michael GRIMA, Marion FENECH, Jimmy FENECH and Maryann FENECH, Clifford FERNANDES, Gloria O'BRIEN, Thanksgiving St Anthony and St Jude.



**GARDNER NEEDED:** We are looking for someone to assist us with parish gardens one day a week. Preferably someone retired or semi-retired but still strong. Let Fr Dominic or Fr Richard know if you're interested or call the parish office for more details.

**Emmanuel Pentecost Retreat - Saturday 22nd-Sunday 23rd May 2021**  
The Emmanuel Community in Sydney welcomes you to join us for our Pentecost Retreat in 2021! The theme is "Be Filled", inspired by Acts 13:52. This retreat is an open event for all aged over 18 and is designed to enflame our hearts and receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles and Mary did at the first Pentecost.  
Location: Mount Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville  
247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW 2566  
Cost: \$130 Adults or \$100 Students – including all meals and twin share accommodation.  
Registration is now open. Book by clicking on the link below <https://www.trybooking.com/BQOMO>  
For more information please email [emmanuel Sydney events@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuel Sydney events@gmail.com)

*Feasts 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. 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: 18th May**

**St. Bernardine of Siena**  
A Franciscan friar and preacher, St. Bernardine is known as "the Apostle of Italy" for his efforts to revive the country's Catholic faith during the 15th century. He demonstrated a remarkable concern for the poor as an outgrowth of his love for God. He always travelled on foot, sometimes speaking for hours in one place, then doing the same in another town.  
**Feast Day: 20th May**

**St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions**  
St. Christopher, along with 21 other priests and three lay companions, were martyred between 1915 and 1937, by shooting or hanging, throughout eight Mexican states. The last words heard spoken by Magallanes were from his cell, when he shouted, "I am innocent and I die innocent. I forgive with all my heart those responsible for my death, and I ask God that the shedding of my blood serve the peace of our divided Mexico". Pope John Paul II beatified the Cristero martyrs in 1992 and canonized them in 2000.  
**Feast day: 21st May**

**St. Rita of Cascia**  
Born at Roccaporena in central Italy, Rita of Cascia was a wife, mother, widow, and member of a religious community. Her holiness was reflected in each phase of her life. Beatified in 1626, Rita was not canonized until 1900. She has acquired the reputation, together with Saint Jude, as a saint of impossible cases. Many people visit her tomb each year.  
**Feast Day: 22nd May**

**Parish Ministries:**

Parish Pastoral Council Chairman: Jeff Lai  
 Finance Committee: Tanya Scarvelis  
 Community Care: Tina Dunn & Sharon Cook  
 Readers and Catechists: Nina Laureti  
 Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: : Linda Barilla  
 Confirmation: Linda Barilla  
 Reconciliation and First Communion: Tamara Vella & Kylie Farias  
 Altar Servers - Fr Richard

Children's Liturgy: Angela Galdas  
 Church Linen: Michelle De Luca  
 Church Cleaners: Ann Gorla  
 Piety Stall: Millie Breden  
 Morning Teas: Teresa Vartuli  
 Jordan Youth Group: Silvana Scamardella  
 Housie and Money Counting: Yvonne Smolinski  
 Men's Group: Branko Poljak

**For any inquiries, please call the parish office.**

**Next Sunday:****Pentecost Sunday - (Year B)**

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

**Reflection Questions.....**

- ◆ Knowing that Jesus prays for me, I.....
- ◆ Some of the resistance I've met in being faithful to Jesus' mission is..... Who/what has helped me overcome this resistance is.....
- ◆ Knowing that I am one with Christ, his Father, and their Spirit helps me.....

**First reading****Acts 1:1-11****A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**The Word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm 97:1-4**  
**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
 cry to God with shouts of joy!  
 For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
 great king over all the earth.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
 the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
 Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
 sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
 the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
 Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
 sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

**Second reading****Ephesians 4:1-13****A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would:

*When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.*

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

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

Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Go and teach all people my gospel.  
 I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
 Alleluia!

**Gospel****Mark 16:15-20****A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

**The Gospel of the Lord****Trivia answers**

1. Abel. Jealousy
2. John the Baptist
3. King David
4. Matthias