



September 7 & 8, 2019 - TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Issue Number 858

## THE NATIVITY OF MARY

Hello everybody!

On the 8th of September the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since, this year, the feast falls on a Sunday, the celebration of Sunday takes precedence over the feast. However, I wanted to use this small space to speak more about this beautiful celebration.

This feast is connected with a fifth century basilica built on the site of the pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1-9) on the traditional location of the home of St. Joachim and Anna. The feast was introduced in the City of Rome by Pope Sergius I (650-701). The traditional fixed date is September the 8th, nine months after the celebration on December 8th which marks the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

In the Eastern calendar the Nativity of Mary is the first Marian feast, since their liturgical calendar begins in September. The last

Marian solemnity in this calendar is the Assumption of Mary celebrated on the 15th of August.

The Bible does not give an account of the nativity of Mary. The narratives around it come from the apocryphal book known as the Protoevangelium of James, a book written in the second half of the second century AD. According to this account, the parents of Mary are Anna and Joachim who were unable to conceive and prayed very hard for a child. The book says that, when Anna was praying "Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by, saying: Anna, Anna, the Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world. And Anna said: As the Lord my God lives, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God; and it shall minister to Him in holy things all the days of its life". (A reference to 1 Samuel 1:11). The narratives of the Gospel of James remind us a lot of the narratives of the Nativity of Jesus. The moment of the nativity of Mary is very simply mentioned "And her months were fulfilled, and in the ninth month Anna brought forth. And she said to the midwife: What have I brought forth? And she said: A girl. And said Anna: My soul has been magnified this day. And she laid her down. And the days having been fulfilled, Anna was purified, and gave the breast to the child, and called her name Mary".



Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said.

The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

Mary's birthday is one of the three we celebrate in the Christian calendar together with the one of St John the Baptist (24th of June, six months before Christmas) and the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

Saint Thomas of Villanova (1488-1555) explained in a sermon that Mary is the heavenly dawn, not only for the world, but especially for each individual soul.

Therefore we can say that the celebration of the Nativity of Mary also teaches us never to lose heart. The Immaculate Mother came into the world at a time when her parents were losing hope. Indeed, they thought all was lost. There is a lesson for all of us here. We often become discouraged when, calling on heaven to assist us, our request is not immediately granted. So, let us not become discouraged and cease praying! The Almighty will intervene at the very moment when we believe ourselves completely abandoned; he will always extend his hand of mercy.

The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace. I invite you to pray also for the Lord to bring that peace to our world, our country and our families.

*Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

(from The Roman Missal)

Peace in Jesus  
Fr. Fernando Montano



## Today's Readings

### First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not

granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

### Second Reading: Philemon 9-10,12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

### Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

### Feast Days this Week

Friday 13 September - St John Chrysostom

Saturday 14 September - Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### Readings Next Weekend

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17;

Luke 15:1-32

**ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS:** All married couples and their families are warmly invited to the Diocese of Parramatta's Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday 27 October at 11.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. A light lunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow. Please register your names and numbers of years married, and the numbers attending the lunch by contacting the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 8838 3460 or email [imf@parracatholic.org](mailto:imf@parracatholic.org).

**LOL BAULKHAM HILLS GOLDEN JUBILEE:** Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Baulkham Hills South is celebrating its Golden Jubilee (1969-2019). Celebrations will commence with Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday 12th October, followed by a social gathering at 7.00pm. Bishop Vincent will celebrate the Golden Jubilee Mass at 9.30am on 13th October with a luncheon to follow. For more information or to assist, contact Louise in the LOL office on 9639 8385 or [lol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:lol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au) or speak to coordinator Bernie on [bryall@joey.s.org](mailto:bryall@joey.s.org) or 0419 925 404.

### MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND DYING ONGOING FORMATION:

The Office for Worship is organising a formation day for those already involved in the ministry, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and the Dying on Saturday 14th September at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown, from 9:30am until 2pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. RSVP by 10th September to the Office for Worship team on [anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org) or 8838 3456.

### Rite of Christian Initiation – RCIA

A life changing opportunity for those considering becoming a Catholic Christian.

The journey begins on Wednesday 30th October in the Marian Centre.

The gatherings are every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

If you are interested please RSVP to the Parish Office on 9634 2622 by 18th October.

### ST PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA FEAST DAY:

Everyone is invited to the Feast Day of St Padre Pio at St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park on 22nd September. The procession will start at 9.30am, followed by the feast day Mass, veneration and blessing by St Padre Pio's Holy Relic and other festivities. A Triduum will precede the feast day from 19 to 21 September. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 4737 9735.

## PARISH RETREAT DAY

Thursday 10th October from 9.30am to 3.00pm  
in the Parish Hall

*Disciples on Mission: Pondering and Celebrating the  
Ministry of the Baptised.*

Presented by Sr Leone Palliser, exploring the numerous ways we are living the gospel in the ordinary events in daily life.

Morning tea and lunch provided.

RSVP by Tuesday 1st October to the Parish Office on 9634 2622. Please advise any dietary requirements.

### BISHOP'S COLLECTION FOR RETIRED AND SICK

**CLERGY:** Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the Bishop's Collection for Retired and Sick Priests last weekend. An amount of \$7469 was donated from this parish. For those who were unable to contribute, some envelopes are available in the foyer and can be placed on the collection plate or dropped into the letterbox at the front door of the Parish Office. Tax deductible receipts for those who request them will be sent by February 2020.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2019:** Lesson 5 will be held this Monday 9th September at 7.00pm and Saturday 14th September at 4.30pm in the Parish Hall. Children, accompanied by at least one parent, must attend one of these sessions. For information contact Alice on [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au) or 9634 2622 (Monday & Tuesday).

**HOLY HOUR:** Parishioners and visitors are invited to Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Thursday evening from 8 to 9pm.

**VOLUNTEER IN THE KIMBERLEY:** The Catholic Diocese of Broome, WA is looking for volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church. There are various tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are preferred for a period of six months. For details, please contact Anneliese Rohr on (08) 9192 1060, email [volunteers@broomedioocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broomedioocese.org) or visit [www.broomedioocese.org/volunteering](http://www.broomedioocese.org/volunteering).

**THE CHAT AND CRAFT GROUP** meets in the Marian Centre on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month with the next meeting on this Friday, 13th September from 10.00am. You are welcome to join them for an enjoyable few hours of conversation and craft. For information phone Ellen on 9634 7276.



**CARDS & MAHJONG:** All ages are welcome to come to the Marian Centre on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 1.30pm to join the 'Beyond 60' group for an enjoyable few hours of games. The next afternoon will be held this Friday 13th September. For information: Carmen on 9634 4014.



**IntoLife: Years 5-8** Friday 13th September. 7.00-8.30pm. Brave: SOCIAL\_NERF WAR. We will be having a pizza night and NERF war, so bring your NERF guns (bullets and spare guns will be provided). Bring a friend and a gold coin donation.



**LifeNight: Years 9-12** Sunday 8th September 7.00-8.45pm. The Mass: The Liturgy of the Eucharist. Dinner included. Bring a friend and a gold coin donation.

*"IntoLife is a night of fun, games, meeting new people, learning about God and how to serve others. Come join us, you won't regret it! I've never seen a sad person"-Mark*

*"Nothing compares to coming here. You can't beat it!"- Anna*

**More information?** Please contact Laura Burton on 0433 259 234 or [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au).

### Find us on Facebook and Instagram

We have just launched our youth social media pages. Follow us on Facebook at St Bernadette's Youth Castle Hill and on Instagram at St Bernadette's Youth Castlehill\_lifeteen to get the latest updates and info of both youth groups.

### Youth Camp - Save the date

We will be holding our youth camp in summer! The camp will be January 7th to 9th 2020 (Tues-Thurs) for students entering year 6 to year 11. Opportunities for trainee leadership positions for students in year 12 and above. For more information contact Laura Burton (Youth Minister) on 0433259234 or [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au)

**THE REPARATION PRAYER GROUP** meets on Tuesday evenings from 8.00 to 9.00pm in the Parish Office Basement for Rosary and prayer. All welcome.

**GERMAN CATHEDRALS AND OBERAMMERGAU PILGRIMAGE 2020:** Fr Chris Dixon is leading a pilgrimage titled "German Cathedral Pilgrimage and the Passion Play at Oberammergau" for 13 days leaving 25th August 2020 and returning 6th September 2020. For more information and further details contact Fr Chris at [annangrove@hotmail.com](mailto:annangrove@hotmail.com).

**TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP** meets in the Marian Centre on Tuesdays at 10.00am discussing the Sunday Mass readings and praying the Rosary.

## ST BERNADETTE'S MELBOURNE CUP FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON & FASHION PARADE

Tuesday 5th November from 12.00- 4.00pm

Where: Springfield House, 245 Newline Road, Dural

Price: \$75pp – canapes, two course lunch, champagne, wine, soft drink

Prizes for Best Hat, Leona Edmiston Fashion Parade, Cup Sweeps and more!

Tickets on sale from Tuesday 10th September on St Bernadette's website:

[www.stbernadette.org.au](http://www.stbernadette.org.au) or from the Parish Office.

Numbers are limited so organise a table of 10 now and get your tickets early!

Please email your required seating arrangements to Malisa Barsic by 20th October.

Enquiries: Amira - 0418 837 885 or Malisa - [mbarsic@its.jnj.com](mailto:mbarsic@its.jnj.com).



**St Bernadette's Parish Community**  
**Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154**

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)  
 Web page: <http://www.stbernadette.org.au>

**Parish Staff**

Rev Fernando Montano, Parish Priest  
 Rev Shinto Francis, Assistant Priest  
 Mr Adam Carlow, Seminarian  
 Mrs Nancy Eberhaut, Pastoral Associate  
 Ms Laura Burton, Youth Minister  
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw JP, Sacramental Co-ordinator  
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager  
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)  
 Mr Darren Edwards, Groundsman

**Mass Times for this Week**

**Sunday** Sat 6.00pm  
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am (incense)  
 6.00pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

**Weekdays** Mon 6.45am  
 Tue 6.45am  
 Wed 6.45, 9.15am  
 Thurs 6.45am  
 Fri 6.45am,  
 Sat 8.00am

**Reconciliation** Sat 8.30am - 9.00am, 4.30pm - 5.00pm

**Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am**

**Baptisms:** By appointment only. Contact Frances Gallagher at the Parish Office. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mrs Leanne Nettleton (Principal) 9407 6600

**Please pray for** Judith Howe, Sr Ellen Conway, Peg Holden, Frank Agostino and Catherine Home who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Adam & Sofija Sustek, Kathleen Dunn and Thomas Nice and in remembrance of Bob Maher.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Harper Dowdall, Bob Redmond, Gloria, Edith Gartner, Bernie Rogers, John Doyle, Felipa Camat, Klaus Hahn, David Rix, Masaki Iwatani, Helen Shaw, Kym Holden, Michelle McLoughlin, Maria Robayo, Peter Viler, John Reynolds, Christina McAuley, Vicky Crawford, Betty Granata, Xander Ranieri, Robert Waddell, Yvonne Hill, June Phelan, Grace Boitano, Josephine Robayo and Debra Clayton.

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND - 14 & 15 September, 2019**

<b>ACOLYTES/ SERVERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>MINISTERS OF COMMUNION</b>
<b>VIGIL</b> Dennis Frketic S1	Louise Jongejan Gary Tierney Cheryl Braisby	Ross & Sue Pinkerton, Annarita Mezger, Maureen & Ray Scully, Louise Jongejan, Conni Tierney, Keith D'Sylva, Delphine Fernandes
<b>7.30am</b> Joseph Frketic S2	Wayne Vergano Jackie Willard Margaret Ash	Patrick Bowie, Andrea Tomic, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
<b>9.00am</b> Budi Kawiadji S3	Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Brian & Jenny Blacklock, Neil Bone, Tony Vermeer, Erin Myers, Jana Fizely, Ann O'Brien, Rosalie Sampath
<b>10.30am</b> Matthew D'Souza S4	Beard Family Jan Crawford John Rajkumar	Anita Christy, Dorothy Finucane, Mark Beard, Bernadette Boulos, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

**6.00PM PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - 15 September, 2019**

<b>Servers</b> Joshua Formosa S5	<b>Projectionist</b> Josh Becker  <b>Offertory</b> Brendan Hassan	<b>Piano</b> Jolene Chua	<b>Drums</b> Noah Bellerose  <b>Woodwind</b> Izaak De Padua	<b>Singers</b> Alice Bradshaw Rachel Chua Patricia Wibisono Natalie Mathias Josh Holden
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<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Karen Grace Elaine Edmiston  <b>FLOWER ROSTER</b> Maria Gobbo  <b>CHURCH LINEN</b> Tess De Santo	<b>CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING</b> Karen D'Souza. Leader, Cheryl D'Sylva, Jana Fizely, Elena Neira  <b>COUNTING (1st Collection)</b> Marie Woodward Jan Mooney	<b>COUNTING (2nd Collection)</b> Matthew Troy, Catherine Low, Julie Hooper, Ryan Coelho  <b>BOOKSHOP</b> Laurie Burrige / Catherine Seddon / Christine & Hubert Jenneke / Crystal Good / Susan Bennett
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