



THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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ym@stbernadette.org.au

Groundskeeper

Mr Darren Edwards

SCHOOL

St Bernadette's Primary

(02)9407 6600

Principal: Bianca Cooke



WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday

6:45am

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

6:45am, 9:15am

Saturday and Public Holidays

8:00am

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil

5:00pm

Sunday

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am,

6:00pm

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday

8:30am-9:00am

4:00pm-4:30pm

Or by appointment

16-17 DEC 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B



Hello Everybody!

The third Sunday of Advent; reminds us that advent is time of waiting with Mary to celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a good time to reflect on the pregnancy of Mary as she waited in joyful expectation for the birth of her son. The moment of the Incarnation took place not on Christmas Day at his birth, but at the Annunciation which we celebrate on March 25 - nine months earlier. Jesus the Eternal Word took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, after she consented to God's plan announced by the Archangel Gabriel. Reflecting on Mary's pregnancy can teach us patience and the attitude of joyful expectation that all of us should have as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and as we wait for his second coming in glory at the end of time.

This attitude of joyful expectation is the one that accompanies the pregnancy of every woman as we await with patience and joy the birth of her pre-born child. Each child is made in the image and likeness of God no matter what their handicaps or circumstances of conception. Every child deserves a chance to be born and to continue to grow and develop outside the womb. Jesus identifies with the pre-born since he himself was a pre-born child. Jesus went through all the stages of development that we go through. At no time did he become more human. He simply went through different stages of human development as we all did.

Mary also can identify with every pregnant mother in a difficult pregnancy. She did not fully understand God's plan, yet she trusted. True devotion to Mary means imitating her virtues – her faith, her trust, and her willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of her son and others as she stayed with Elizabeth for three months to help Elizabeth deliver St. John the Baptist. When Mary visited St. Elizabeth John the Baptist leapt for joy within St. Elizabeth's womb as he recognized Christ's presence in Mary. This should lead us to an even greater respect for the lives of pre-born children and inspire us to work for their protection. Jesus says "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters that you do to me." (Mat. 25, 40) St. Joseph cared for Mary during her pregnancy. He is an example for all men of the stewardship they are called to exercise. Men are called to respect the wonder of procreation and to care for pregnant women emotionally, materially, and spiritually. During their pregnancies women who become vulnerable should be able to rely on the support of their husbands and other men in their life who should respect and assist women as the mystery of life unfolds within them.

It is fitting that there are major feasts of Our Lady during the celebration of Advent – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a celebration which just happened last week. Mary appeared as a pregnant woman to Blessed Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She identified herself to be "the perpetual and perfect Virgin Mary, holy mother of the true God through whom everything lives, the Creator and Master of heaven and earth". She also proclaimed herself as Juan Diego's "merciful mother, the mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all humankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry out to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me." Mary showed love to a people who had just found themselves destroyed and unprotected after the destruction of their magnificent City Tenochtitlan, at a time of hopelessness and sorrow. Pope John Paul II proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe to be the Patroness of the Americas. She is also recognized as the Patroness of the Unborn.

Mary said yes to God and Jesus Christ was conceived in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life, so Mary is truly the Mother of Our Life. From the cross Jesus our Life gave Mary to us to be our mother. Mary throughout history has come to the aid of her people.

Advent calls us to preparation, to strengthen our faith with the help of the Holy Spirit, to enter into that quiet place with the Child -- there we find true meaning in our life. It is a place where all that we are is revealed; it is a place in which the Day Star rises in the East, driving out the darkness, replacing it with an ineffable light of Love which can never be forgotten nor extinguished. Mary urges us to enter into Advent, into "the Way." As we gaze with the eyes of faith upon that mystery, which is anticipated in Advent, looking ahead toward the Child who lay in the manger, Mary whispers: look at my Son. "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5). This week we are reminded that Advent is also a time of Joy!

Peace in Jesus



Fr. Fernando Montano

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

Donations can be made using the bank details below, the QR code, or via the Tap-and-go machines and cash collection boxes in the church. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



SUPPORT DONATIONS

For EFT to the First Collection - supporting the priests

BSB 067 950
 Account No 00004265
 Account Name Diocesan Clergy
 Reference **6006 Your name**

EFT to the Second Collection – for support of the Parish

BSB 067 950
 Account No 00000032
 Account Name Castle Hill Catholic Church
 Reference **Second Collection (Your Name)**

SACRAMENTS

For First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs for school children please contact Mrs Christine Jenneke (Sacramental Co-ordinator) at sacraments@stbernadette.org.au or 0433 183 322

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at admin@stbernadette.org.au for bookings and further details.

Baptisms are held on the 1st, 2nd and 5th (when occurring) Sunday of each month at 12noon.

Note the church law: parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth indeed even before it, they are to approach the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867§1]

NEW TO THE PARISH

We would like to welcome all new parishioners. *Welcome*
 If you are new to the parish, please collect a registration form from the foyer or the Parish Office and please come and say hello to one of the Clergy or Nancy at mass.

Youth



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



On Instagram

@st_bernadettes_youth
 @st_bernadettes_young_adults



On Facebook

@St Bernadette's youth Castle Hill
 @St Bernadette's Young Adults

YOUTH GROUP

Our Junior and Senior Youth Groups are now on break. We will return in February 2024.

Parents, we would like to invite you to an announcement only WhatsApp group so we can keep you informed about youth group next year. To join scan the QR code or add via this link:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HtQsmDeo1whKm1Yd3p9s4R>



Any questions please reach out to Fr Matthew at ym@stbernadette.org.au or 9634 2622



YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young adults nights and Bible Study are now one break. We will return in February 2024.

ROSTERS 23-24 DEC 2023

| Ministry \ Mass | Vigil | 7:30am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 6:00pm |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------|
| Lectors | Caroline Dumapit Malisa Barsic Sean Eberhaut | Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza | Adelina Tabila Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando | Jan Crawford Leo Stanton | N/A |
| Communion ministers | Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside | Lucille Wilson Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee | Mary Tondini Ranmalee De Silva Lynda Sillick Yvette Braganza Shane Robinson | Teresa Somansundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos | N/A |
| Bookshop | Maureen Fearnside | Catherine Seddon | Christine and Hubert Jenneke | Maria Gobbo | N/A |
| Flowers | 1st Collection | 2nd Collection | Children's Liturgy | Housekeeping | Church Linen |
| Olivia Cheng | N/A | N/A | N/A | Bernadette Logue Marjorie Anderson Robyn Morgan | Tess De Santo |

CHILDREN'S 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

The 5pm mass on Christmas Eve will be a Children's mass. As part of the mass the children act out the Gospel reading. Come dressed as an angel or shepherd. If your child is interested in being a part of the Christmas Eve play, there will be a rehearsal on **Tuesday 19th Dec at 4:00pm in the church**. For more information contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpong.com or speak to Mrs Younis.



CHURCH AND PARISH OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY

The Church and Parish Office will be closed Wednesday 20th from 12noon. The Church and Parish Office will reopen Thursday 21st as per usual. We apologies for the inconvenience.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Saturday 16th Dec | 8:30am - 9:00am | 4:00pm - 4:30pm |
| Thursday 21st Dec | 8:00pm - 9:00pm during Holy Hour | |
| Saturday 23rd Dec | 8:30am - 9:00am | 4:00pm - 4:30pm |



THE GIVING TREE

This advent, The Giving Tree is decorated with envelopes for **The House of Welcome (white envelopes)**, and **St Bernadette's Refugee Group (red envelopes)** Cash donations can be placed in the envelopes, and dropped into the donation box at the base of the tree, or the 1st and 2nd collection boxes at the front of the church. Further information on both groups can be found next to the tree.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2024

Enrollments are now open for the sacrament of Penance in 2024. This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 2 and above (yr 3 in 2024), who have received the sacrament of Baptism. For more information, please contact Mrs Christine Jenneke (Sacramental Coordinator) on 0433 183 322 or sacraments@stbernadette.org.au



ST BERNADETTE STATUE

The statue of Our Lady with St Bernadette is available for Parishioners to borrow for a week during 2024. Consider booking it for a special occasion: feast day, birthday, anniversary, thanksgiving, a special intention or simply to encourage family prayer. The bookings roster for the new year is on the noticeboard in the foyer. For enquiries and bookings contact Janina Mousley on 9899 6060 or 0444 599 502



Christmas Mass Times 2023

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 24th Dec | 7:30am | Sunday Mass |
| | 9:00am | Sunday Mass |
| | 10:30am | Sunday Mass |
| Christmas Eve | 5:00pm | Children's Mass |
| | 7:30pm | Family Mass |
| | 9:30pm | Youth Mass |
| Mon 25th Dec Christmas Day | 12:00am | Midnight Mass Carols from 11:30pm |
| | 7:30am | |
| | 9:00am | |
| | 10:30am | |
| No evening Mass on Christmas Day | | |
| Tues 26th Dec to Fri 29th Dec | 8am mass only | Church will be closed after 8am Mass. Parish Office closed. |
| Sat 30th Dec | 8am, 5pm (Vigil) | As per normal |
| Sun 31st Dec | 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm | As per normal |
| Mon 1st Jan, Tues 2nd Jan | 8am mass only | Church will be closed after 8am Mass. Parish Office closed. |
| Wed 3rd Jan onwards | 6:45am 9:15am | Office and Church open as per normal |

FOR SALE

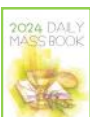


LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2024

Break Open the Word for 2024 books are available for sale at the Parish Office. Cost \$25 each. Cash only.

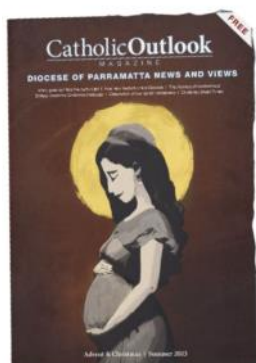
DAILY MASS BOOKS 2024 \$30

2024 Daily mass books available from the bookshop and the Parish Office. \$30 each. Cash only.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS \$7

Pack of 10 Christmas cards available from the bookshop after Sunday masses. \$7 each. Cash only.



CATHOLIC OUTLOOK OUT NOW

Grab your free copy of the Summer Edition of the Catholic Outlook. Free copies are available in the church foyer. Keep up on news from around the Parramatta Diocese, hear stories from events over the past few months, and read articles from members of our Diocese.

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

| Dec | This Week |
|------------|---|
| Tues 19th | Tuesday Morning Prayer Group Reparation Prayer Group |
| Thurs 21st | Holy Hour 8:00pm-9:00pm (reconciliation available) |

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

*For as the earth makes fresh things
grow, as a garden makes seeds spring
up, so will the Lord make both
integrity and praise spring up in the
sight of the nations.'*



Isaiah 61:11



Readings Next Weekend

23-24 December

4th Sunday in Advent Year B

| First Reading | Second reading | Gospel |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 | Rom 16:25-27 | Lk 1:26-38 |

Feast Days This Week

21 Dec

Saint Peter Canisius

23 Dec

Saint John of Kanty

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased Nijneh Afram

For the Anniversaries of Xavier Padanilam

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Barbara Ison, Flavia Panto, Brian De Silva, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Maree Malvern, Nida Farmiento, Elizabeth Mifsud,