



THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Fernando Montano

Assistant Priest

Fr Raymond Uguw

Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Dimian

Pastoral Associate

Mrs Nancy Eberhau

pa@stbernadette.org.au

Admin and Office Support

Ms Laura Burton

admin@stbernadette.org.au

Youth Ministry

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

2-3 DEC 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Continued from Last week

Eternal damnation remains a real possibility, but we are not granted, without special divine revelation, the knowledge of whether or which human beings are effectively involved in it. The thought of hell — and even less the improper use of biblical images — must not create anxiety or despair, but is a necessary and healthy reminder of freedom within the proclamation that the risen Jesus has conquered Satan, giving us the, Spirit of God who makes us cry "Abba, Father!" (Rm. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). This prospect, rich in hope, prevails in Christian proclamation. It is effectively reflected in the liturgical tradition of the Church, as the words of the Roman Canon attest: "Father, accept this offering from your whole family ... save us from final damnation, and count us among those you have chosen". Purgatory Is Necessary Purification

Before we enter into full communion with God, every trace of sin within us must be eliminated and every imperfection in our soul must be corrected

At the General Audience of Wednesday, 4 August 1999, following his catechesis on heaven and hell, the Holy Father reflected on Purgatory. He explained that physical integrity is necessary to enter into perfect communion with God therefore "the term purgatory does not indicate a place, but a condition of existence", where Christ "removes ... the remnants of imperfection".



1. As we have seen in the previous two catechesis, on the basis of the definitive option for or against God, the human being finds he faces one of these alternatives: either to live with the Lord in eternal beatitude, or to remain far from his presence.

For those who find themselves in a condition of being open to God, but still imperfectly, the journey towards full beatitude requires a purification, which the faith of the Church illustrates in the doctrine of "Purgatory" (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1030-1032).

To share in divine life we must be totally purified

2. In Sacred Scripture, we can grasp certain elements that help us to understand the meaning of this doctrine, even if it is not formally described. They express the belief that we cannot approach God without undergoing some kind of purification.

According to Old Testament religious law, what is destined for God must be perfect. As a result, physical integrity is also specifically required for the realities which come into contact with God at the sacrificial level such as, for example, sacrificial animals (cf. Lv 22: 22) or at the institutional level, as in the case of priests or ministers of worship (cf. Lv 21: 17-23). Total dedication to the God of the Covenant, along the lines of the great teachings found in Deuteronomy (cf. 6: 5), and which must correspond to this physical integrity, is required of individuals and society as a whole (cf. 1 Kgs 8: 61). It is a matter of loving God with all one's being, with purity of heart and the witness of deeds (cf. *ibid.*, 10: 12f.)

The need for integrity obviously becomes necessary after death, for entering into perfect and complete communion with God. Those who do not possess this integrity must undergo purification. This is suggested by a text of St Paul. The Apostle speaks of the value of each person's work which will be revealed on the day of judgement and says: "If the work which any man has built on the foundation [which is Christ] survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire" (1 Cor 3: 14-15).

To be continued

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.



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- FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Both Youth Group's meet every second Friday from 7:00-8:30pm in the hall. All welcome, bring a friend!

Junior Youth (yr 5-8)
End of year Christmas social

See our full term plan by scanning the QR code!



Senior Youth (yr 9-12)
End of year Christmas social

See our full term plan by scanning the QR code!



YOUNG ADULTS –SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

Join us Saturday 9th December, 6pm-9pm in the Hall for our end of year Christmas Social. Please bring a plate to share, and a gift to swap (\$10-\$20)

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

Our Young Adults are running a weekly Bible Study in the St Joseph's Room on Thursday nights from 7:30-9:00pm. We will be looking at the upcoming Sunday readings.

ROSTERS 9-10 DEC 2023

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Judith Donoghue John Geoghegan Lourdes Nathan	Ross Pinkerton Graeme Kearns Jacinta Kearns	Geoffrey Kemmis Jennifer Piyush Shane Robinson	Irene Ngu Jeethu Bobby May O'Connell	Laura Burton Rheza Tan
Communion ministers	Felicity Carvalho Douglas Carvalho Mary McMahon Bernard Home Pauline Home	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Campion Fernando +1	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin Rudy Suwandu	Lydia Flores Paul Irwin Florina Vanderwaals Mary Winslow Jeyaraj Winslow	
Bookshop	Kathleen Abernethy	Catherine Seddon	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Josie and Seng Yeoh	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N/A	Mon 11th Dec Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon	John Giorgiutti Joseph Boudib Mila Mina	Alexis Chang Laura Burton	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Anna Schweda Rebecca Aylmer	Lois and John Donnelly



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2023

Please return all hampers **THIS WEEKEND**. Hampers can be taken straight to the hall, where they will be blessed on Sunday night before being delivered on Monday and Tuesday. If you are available to help sorting or distributing hampers, please contact Carole on 0438 014 070.



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.

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



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2024

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

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES		
Thursday 7th Dec	8:00pm - 9:00pm during Holy Hour	
Saturday 9th Dec	8:30am - 9:00am	4:00pm - 4:30pm
Thursday 14th Dec	8:00pm - 9:00pm during Holy Hour	
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

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	

Help Catholic Care chaplains give comfort, faith, and hope to people suffering this Christmas



Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Donation envelopes can be found on the pews and in the Church Foyer. When making donations online, please remember to select St Bernadette's CASTLE HILL to ensure the donation is attributed to our quota.

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.

THE SIGN-ADVENT 2023
Advent Reflection books are available from the bookshop and Parish Office \$7 each. Cash only.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2024
Available from the bookshop \$10.50 each, Cash Only.

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

Upcoming Events	
Please see notices for further details.	
Dec	This Week
Mon 4th	Sorting/delivery of Vinnies Hampers
Tues 5th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	Reparation Prayer Group
Wed 6th	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Thurs 7th	Young Adults Bible Study
	Holy Hour 8:00pm-9:00pm
Sat 9th	Young Adults
December	This Month
12th Dec	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Feast Days This Week

4 Dec	Saint John Damascene
6 Dec	Saint Nicholas
7 Dec	Saint Ambrose
8 Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9 Dec	Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Readings Next Weekend

*9-10 December
2nd Sunday in Advent Year B*

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 40:-5,9-11	2 Pet 3:8-14	Mk 1:1-8

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased Lydia Freeman

For the Anniversaries of: John McAuliffe, Norah Woods, Bunaventurvada Yu

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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