



# THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY

## ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

367 Old Northern Road  
Castle Hill NSW 2154

Ph: (02) 9634 2622

e: [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

w: [www.stbernadette.org.au](http://www.stbernadette.org.au)

Facebook: /Castlehillparish

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 Eberhaut

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



23-24 DEC 2023

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Hello Everybody!!



This year we will have a very short Advent. The Forth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. We might be tempted to think that attending Mass in the Morning will substitute our attendance to Mass during the Christmas Masses. I would like to remind you all that the Obligation of a Sunday Mass still applies and so does the obligation to attend the Mass at Christmas. We live in times when we want everything to be easy and convenient. However, Catholics rejoice all over the world for the arrival of Jesus and we still use the last Sunday of Advent to prepare for this important event that changed history for ever.

The preparation of the Fourth week of Advent has introduced us to important figures that helped us to prepare during the Advent season, however, Jesus has been the centre of every liturgy of the Church, as Christmas approaches, we need to dedicate time to meditate in his coming, or better said: his comings.

Jesus was born into our history - at a fixed point in time in the past. Jesus comes to us now, in a whole variety of ways. Jesus promised that he will come again in glory, at the end of time.

### The Incarnation: Jesus has come

This is not the coming we await. The first coming of Jesus has already happened. Our preparation to celebrate his birth is the occasion for our deeper reflection. On the first level, it is so important that we really let ourselves experience the power of the Incarnation: God is with us. That God became one of us means that "human" is one of the ways God can be. The deeper we contemplate this mystery the more we enter into the grace of "God with us" (*Emmanuel* as the ancient prophecy of Isaiah recalls). The more we let ourselves be touched by this mystery, the more we see the connection between Christmas and Easter: all of this is "for us" - *and our salvation* - to free me from the power of sin and death.

### My Life Now: Jesus comes to me

When we open our hearts and our mouths and plead, "Come, O Lord," (*Maranatha!*) We are most directly experiencing our desire for the Lord to come to us and touch us with the grace of salvation - that we might live it with greater freedom and peace. Jesus is present whenever we need him to be present: actually, whenever we turn to him - even with empty hands. Jesus is alive and active in us when we read

God's Word and let it into our hearts. Jesus promised to be present with us whenever two or three are gathered together in his name. And we know Jesus comes to us whenever our sacrifices and our sufferings unite us with his own mission. Advent is a special time to experience our longing for the presence of Jesus with us now - in all the places we need him most.

### Our Future: Jesus comes again, in glory.

The more grateful we become for how God saved us in Jesus, the more deeply we enter into the mystery of how Jesus is with us now. The closer we come to experiencing joy at how our Lord, Jesus Christ came into our world, faithful to God and faithful to our life journey in the flesh, the closer we come to experiencing the mystery of salvation in our everyday lives. And, as our longing is filled with the utter fullness of God's gift to us, we begin to long with the ultimate freedom: we long to be with him in God. We live more at home in this world because our God made a home in this world. But the whole story draws us to a complete picture of who we are and where we belong. Then our prayer begins to change, in our hearts and on our lips. We still are singing, "Come, Lord, Jesus!" but our song is transformed into the free and complete song of the lover: "Come, and take us with you."

*Now we watch for the day,  
hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours  
when Christ will come again  
in his glory.- From Preface 1 of Advent  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.  
Hebrews 13:8*

*Wishing you all a Happy  
and Joyful Christmas!*



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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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.

Welcome

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](mailto: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 30-31 DEC 2023

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Lectors</b>	Douglas Carvalho Tony Calabria Felicity Carvalho	Sue Pinkerton Daniel Vergano Lisa Kemmis	Hyacinth Jones Catherine Whitelock Ann O'Brien	Sylvia Rego Gemma Saccasan Peter Saccasan	Denis Bellerose Laura Burton Hyacinth Jones
<b>Communion ministers</b>	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton		Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Gabrielle Jamison +1	Sylvia Rego Shirley Tye Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	
<b>Bookshop</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>1st Collection</b>	<b>2nd Collection</b>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>Church Linen</b>
Darshi Wettasinghe	N/A	N/A	N/A	Margaret Sinha Francesca Menezes Pancras Robinson	Nicky Karatsiolis



**NEW PARISH WEBSITE**

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new Parish website. The Parramatta Diocese have worked very hard over the past few months to assist us in creating a new website for our parish. We invite you to take a look at the website and welcome your feedback.

The new website is clearer, has more up-to-date information and photographs, and is easier to navigate. The last 4 weeks of Bulletins are easily displayed, with access to older archived bulletins available as well. Sacramental Program information can be found in the Sacraments tab. The website links directly to the Diocese Safeguarding website, for all the latest information on keeping our Parish safe.



**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. For more information contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or [sdvassallo@bigpond.com](mailto:sdvassallo@bigpond.com) or speak to Mrs Younis.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2024**

Enrollments are now open for the sacrament of Penance in 2024. This preparation process is suitable for children who are in Year 3 or above 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](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au)



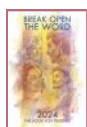
**ST BERNADETTE STATUE**

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	
		<b>No evening Mass on Christmas Day</b>
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**

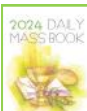


**LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2024**

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.





## Today's Readings

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### **First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."' "

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2**

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

### **Second Reading Romans 16:25-27**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

### **Communion Antiphon:**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

### **Readings Next Weekend**

*30-31 December*

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B*

**First Reading**

**Second reading**

**Gospel**

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:22-40

### **Feast Days This Week**

**25 Dec**

**The Nativity of the Lord**

**26 Dec**

Saint Stephen

**27 Dec**

Saint John

**28 Dec**

The Holy Innocents

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF**

For the Anniversaries of Julian Quintana, Frank Pankhurst, the Stedman Family, Manel Abhayaratna

In Remembrance of: Archilles and Margherita Forestieri, Salvatore and Maria-Rosa Papaluca

### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

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