



THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Assistant Priest

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Mrs Nancy Eberhaut

pa@stbernadette.org.au

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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

9-10 DEC 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Continued from Last week

3. At times, to reach a state of perfect integrity a person's intercession or mediation is needed. For example, Moses obtains pardon for the people with a prayer in which he recalls the saving work done by God in the past, and prays for God's fidelity to the oath made to his ancestors (cf. Ex 32: 30, 11-13). The figure of the Servant of the Lord, outlined in the Book of Isaiah, is also portrayed by his role of intercession and expiation for many; at the end of his suffering he "will see the light" and "will justify many", bearing their iniquities (cf. Is 52: 13-53, 12, especially vv. 53: 11).



Psalm 51 can be considered, according to the perspective of the Old Testament, as a synthesis of the process of reintegration: the sinner confesses and recognizes his guilt (v. 3), asking insistently to be purified or "cleansed" (vv. 2, 9, 10, 17) so as to proclaim the divine praise (v. 15).

Purgatory is not a place but a condition of existence

4. In the New Testament Christ is presented as the intercessor who assumes the functions of high priest on the day of expiation (cf. Heb 5: 7; 7: 25). But in him the priesthood is presented in a new and definitive form. He enters the heavenly shrine once and for all, to intercede with God on our behalf (cf. Heb 9: 23-26, especially, v. 24). He is both priest and "victim of expiation" for the sins of the whole world (cf. 1 Jn 2: 2).

Jesus, as the great intercessor who atones for us, will fully reveal himself at the end of our life when he will express himself with the offer of mercy, but also with the inevitable judgement for those who refuse the Father's love and forgiveness.

This offer of mercy does not exclude the duty to present ourselves to God, pure and whole, rich in that love which Paul calls a "[bond] of perfect harmony" (Col 3: 14).

5. In following the Gospel exhortation to be perfect like the heavenly Father (cf. Mt 5: 48) during our earthly life, we are called to grow in love, to be sound and flawless before God the Father "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints" (1 Thes 3: 12f.). Moreover, we are invited to "cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit" (2 Cor 7: 1; cf. 1 Jn 3: 3), because the encounter with God requires absolute purity.

Every trace of attachment to evil must be eliminated, every imperfection of the soul corrected. Purification must be complete, and indeed this is precisely what is meant by the Church's teaching on purgatory. The term does not indicate a place, but a condition of existence. Those who, after death, exist in a state of purification, are already in the love of Christ who removes from them the remnants of imperfection (cf. Ecumenical Council of Florence, Decretum pro Graecis: DS 1304; Ecumenical Council of Trent, Decretum de iustificatione: DS 1580; Decretum de purgatorio: DS 1820).

It is necessary to explain that the state of purification is not a prolongation of the earthly condition, almost as if after death one were given another possibility to change one's destiny. The Church's teaching in this regard is unequivocal and was reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council which teaches: "Since we know neither the day nor the hour, we should follow the advice of the Lord and watch constantly so that, when the single course of our earthly life is completed (cf. Heb 9: 27), we may merit to enter with him into the marriage feast and be numbered among the blessed, and not, like the wicked and slothful servants, be ordered to depart into the eternal fire, into the outer darkness where "men will weep and gnash their teeth" (Mt 22: 13 and 25: 30)" (Lumen gentium, n. 48).

6. One last important aspect which the Church's tradition has always pointed out should be repropounded today: the dimension of "communio". Those, in fact, who find themselves in the state of purification are united both with the blessed who already enjoy the fullness of eternal life, and with us on this earth on our way towards the Father's house (cf. CCC, n. 1032).

Just as in their earthly life believers are united in the one Mystical Body, so after death those who live in a state of purification experience the same ecclesial solidarity which works through prayer, prayers for suffrage and love for their other brothers and sisters in the faith. Purification is lived in the essential bond created between those who live in this world and those who enjoy eternal beatitude.

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. 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

St Bernadette's
 Parish Castle Hill
 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- FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Combined Christmas Social Friday 15th December 7:00-8:30pm

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 –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 16-17 DEC 2023

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Kris Murgatroyd Les Blanch Rod Burridge	Wayne Vergano Jackie Willard Margaret Ash	Dawn Wickramasinghe Ranmalee De Silva Rick Di Cristoforo	John Eberhaut Alex Joyce Edwin Zambrano	Brandon Leyba Hanna Pillai Nathan Colaco
Communion ministers	Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui +2	Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic +1	Angela Stenglin Christine Jenneke Hubert Jenneke Rosalie Sampath Celeste McLean	Mila Mina Coney Lau Helen Carr-Boyd Elizabeth Joseph Jiji Joseph	
Bookshop	Marjorie Anderson	Eugenia Fidel	Margaret Stedman	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N/A	Mon 18th Pauline and Bernard Home	David Solomons Joe Harney Jeslin Cyriac	N/A	Andrea Tomic Krystyna Graczyk Myra Tan Pauline Home	Tess De Santo



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 or speak to Mrs Younis.



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

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to those who have already donated to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. So far we have raised \$3360. Donations can be made via the envelopes found on the pews and in the foyer, or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

FOR SALE

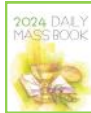


LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2024

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.

VINNIES HAMPERS

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this year's Vinnies Hampers. We were able to provide almost 300 families in need with hampers this Christmas thanks to your generosity.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

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		
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

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

Dec	This Week
Tues 12th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	Reparation Prayer Group
	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wed 13th	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Thurs 14th	Holy Hour 8:00pm-9:00pm (reconciliation available)
Fri 15th	Youth Group

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Feast Days This Week

11 Dec	Saint Damasus I
12 Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Dec	Saint Lucy
14 Dec	Saint John of the Cross

Readings Next Weekend

16-17 December

3rd Sunday in Advent Year B

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 61:1-2,10-11	1 Thess 5:16-24	Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased Lydia Freeman

For the Anniversaries of: Tankachan, Mary, Luis Cruz

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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