



# 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 Eberhaut  
[pa@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:pa@stbernadette.org.au)

#### Admin and Office Support

Ms Laura Burton  
[admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

#### Youth Ministry

[ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto: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,

6:45am, 9:15am

Friday 26th Jan

8am only

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

20-21 JAN 2024 *THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B*

*Continued from last week*

## II. The Meaning of the Various Blessings

7. The Holy Father's above-mentioned response invites us to broaden and enrich the meaning of blessings.

8. Blessings are among the most widespread and evolving sacramentals. Indeed, they lead us to grasp God's presence in all the events of life and remind us that, even in the use of created things, human beings are invited to seek God, to love him, and to serve him faithfully.[7] For this reason, blessings have as their recipients: people; objects of worship and devotion; sacred images; places of life, of work, and suffering; the fruits of the earth and human toil; and all created realities that refer back to the Creator, praising and blessing him by their beauty.

The Liturgical Meaning of the Rites of Blessing

9. From a strictly liturgical point of view, a blessing requires that what is blessed be conformed to God's will, as expressed in the teachings of the Church.

10. Indeed, blessings are celebrated by virtue of faith and are ordered to the praise of God and the spiritual benefit of his people. As the Book of Blessings explains, "so that this intent might become more apparent, by an ancient tradition, the formulas of blessing are primarily aimed at giving glory to God for his gifts, asking for his favors, and restraining the power of evil in the world." [8] Therefore, those who invoke God's blessing through the Church are invited to "strengthen their dispositions through faith, for which all things are possible" and to trust in "the love that urges the observance of God's commandments." [9] This is why, while "there is always and everywhere an opportunity to praise God through Christ, in the Holy Spirit," there is also a care to do so with "things, places, or circumstances that do not contradict the law or the spirit of the Gospel." [10] This is a liturgical understanding of blessings insofar as they are rites officially proposed by the Church.

11. Basing itself on these considerations, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's Explanatory Note to its 2021 Responsum recalls that when a blessing is invoked on certain human relationships by a special liturgical rite, it is necessary that what is blessed corresponds with God's designs written in creation and fully revealed by Christ the Lord. For this reason, since the Church has always considered only those sexual relations that are lived out within marriage to be morally licit, the Church does not have the power to confer its liturgical blessing when that would somehow offer a form of moral legitimacy to a union that presumes to be a marriage or to an extra-marital sexual practice. The Holy Father reiterated the substance of this Declaration in his Respuestas to the Dubia of two Cardinals.

12. One must also avoid the risk of reducing the meaning of blessings to this point of view alone, for it would lead us to expect the same moral conditions for a simple blessing that are called for in the reception of the sacraments. Such a risk requires that we broaden this perspective further. Indeed, there is the danger that a pastoral gesture that is so beloved and widespread will be subjected to too many moral prerequisites, which, under the claim of control, could overshadow the unconditional power of God's love that forms the basis for the gesture of blessing.

13. Precisely in this regard, Pope Francis urged us not to "lose pastoral charity, which should permeate all our decisions and attitudes" and to avoid being "judges who only deny, reject, and exclude." [11] Let us then respond to the Holy Father's proposal by developing a broader understanding of blessings.

*Continued next week*

Australia Day Public Holiday

Friday 26th January

8am mass only. Church closed after mass. Parish Office closed.



### 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

### WELCOME BACK BBQ

Join us as we kick off youth for 2024 with a welcome back BBQ on Friday 2nd Feb from 7:00-8:30pm.

To see the full term plans for both the Junior and Senior youth programs, scan the QR codes



### YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

Our Young adults weekly bible study will be returning on Wednesday 21st February from 7:30pm in the St Joseph's room.

## ROSTERS 27-28 JAN 2024

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Lectors</b>	Caroline Dumapit Malisa Barsic Sean Eberhaut	Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza	Adelina Tabila Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando	Jan Crawford Leo Stanton	Timothy Leong Anne Younis Jackson Ryan
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Campion Fernando +1	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Sylvia Rego Sherryl Rozario Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	
<b>Bookshop</b>	Marjorie Anderson	Catherine Seddon	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>1st Collection</b>	<b>2nd Collection</b>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>Church Linen</b>
Olivia Cheng	Mon 30th Jan Marie Woodward Elaine Small	Karl Procter Anne Cheung Joe Morgan	N/A	Andrea Tomic Krystyna Graczyk Myra Tan Pauline Home	Remy de Leon

*We send our prayers and sympathy to Fr Fernando and his family on the loss of his father, Sergio Montano. May he Rest In Peace.*

A Mass will be offered on Tuesday 23rd January at 7:30pm at St Bernadette's for the late Sergio Montano. All welcome.



### FOOD FIESTA 2024

The Pentecost Food Fiesta will be again held this year on Sunday 19th May. We will be holding our first planning meeting on Thursday 8th February 2024, 7:30pm in the Marian Centre for anyone who is interested in being involved. All Welcome. For more information contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

### REKINDLE THE SPARK WORKSHOP SATURDAY 3RD FEB

Join with other married couples looking to rekindle the spark by improving communication and understanding. The day will commence 10am at St Bernadette's Castle Hill with morning tea and afternoon tea provided. Please BYO lunch. The day will conclude at 4pm with confession available in the church, followed by 5pm mass. The cost for the day is \$30 per couple. Please RSVP for catering and resource purposes to Carolyn on 0425 329 609 by Sunday 28th January.



### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2024

**Enrollments close Mon 5th February** for the sacrament of Penance in 2024. This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 3 and 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 at [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au)

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY-9am MASS

Our Children's Liturgy program will be returning shortly for 2024. We are looking for more volunteers to join the roster to run the lessons for the children. All worksheets and readings are provided. Children are split into younger (kindy-yr2) and older (yr3-6) groups, with one teacher on each age group. Lessons run approx. 15-20 minutes. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or [sdvasallo@bigpond.com](mailto:sdvasallo@bigpond.com)



### PROJECTIONISTS WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to run the slides at mass (year 6 and up) in particular for the 5pm Vigil mass. Slides are already put together for you, and training will be provided on how to use the computer system. If you are interested in becoming a projectionist please contact the parish office on 9634 2622 or via email at [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au).

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion or Communion to the Sick and Dying. If you are interested please contact Nancy in the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [pa@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:pa@stbernadette.org.au)



### CATECHISTS WANTED

We are incredibly fortunate to still have the opportunity to go into the local public schools and spread the Word of God with primary school students at a number of public schools in our area. As the number of families in the Hills continues to grow, so does the number of students attending Public Schools.



St Bernadette's currently provide Catechist teachers to 5 local public schools, and we are looking for more teachers to assist in this growing need. All our teachers are provided with the training and support required, as well as the lesson plans and resources used in the classroom.

Our volunteer teachers currently consist of a fantastic team of parents, grandparents and young adults from various backgrounds, careers and experiences. We are looking for volunteers who are available to take a half-hour lesson on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday at one of our local public school. For more information contact Christine Jenneke on 0433 183 322

### ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW - KINDERGARTEN 2025



We warmly welcome new families to join our school community. Enquiries and enrolment applications for **Kindy 2025** and Yrs 1 to 6 2024 & 2025. For **Kindergarten 2025** enrolments you are invited to register your interest to attend one of our upcoming **Open Day/School Tours** via our school website which commence Tuesday 27th February to Tuesday 12th March: <https://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/tours-and-events>.

Enrolment forms and accompanying paperwork can be forwarded to the school office at [bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au).

We look forward to welcoming you to our St Bernadette's Castle Hill school community.

If you require any further information, please call 02 9407 6600.

### 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.



## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

Jan	This Week
Tues 23rd	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group Reparation Prayer Group
Thurs 25th	Holy Hour 8:00pm-9:00pm
Fri 26th	Australia Day (Public Holiday) <b>8am mass only. Office closed.</b>

## Today's Readings

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

### **First Reading Jonah 3:1-5. 10**

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4**

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

### **Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News!

**Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Mark 1:14-20**

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

### **Communion Antiphon:**

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

*the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.*  
*Mark 1:15*

### **Readings Next Weekend**

27-28 January 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Deut 18:15-20	1 Cor 7:32-35	Mark 1:21-28

### **Feast Days This Week**

22 Jan	Saint Vincent
24 Jan	Saint Francis de Sales
25 Jan	The Conversion of Saint Paul
27 Jan	Saints Timothy and Titus
	Saint Angela Merici

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

Recently Deceased Sergio Montano, Betty Byrne

For the Anniversaries of James Ingold, Brian Iles

### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

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