



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

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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

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

6-7 JAN 2024 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B

Hello Everybody!

In the name of God, we start this new year 2024, at the beginning of the year, we ask the blessing of God to come upon us to guide us, strengthen us and comfort us in the year ahead. I hope this year will bring us all closer to God and to each other as we continue to grow as the family of God in this parish.

A few days before Christmas, on the 18th of December to be precise. Pope Francis made waves through the news due to the publication of a Declaration on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings. The document was issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and it is signed by Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez who is the Prefect of the Dicastery and by Mons Armando Matteo who is the Secretary for the Doctrinal Section of the same Dicastery. To use my short space every week, I thought it would be good to publish in full the Declaration, in this way we can have a clear idea what the Church is teaching and to avoid being misled by sensationalism and misinformation. It is important to see that the document was produced to give information and to clarify the pastoral meaning of blessings, I think this is a constant background on which the declaration should be read.

I hope you enjoy the reading of this document, and it is published with the hope that we continue to grow in the knowledge of the faith in Christ that binds us together.

Peace in Jesus



Fr. Fernando Montano

Declaration

Fiducia Supplicans

On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings Presentation

This Declaration considers several questions that have come to this Dicastery in recent years. In preparing the document, the Dicastery, as is its practice, consulted experts, undertook a careful drafting process, and discussed the text in the *Congresso* of the Doctrinal Section of the Dicastery. During that time, the document was discussed with the Holy Father. Finally, the text of the Declaration was submitted to the Holy Father for his review, and he approved it with his signature. While the subject matter of this document was being studied, the Holy Father's response to the *Dubia* of some Cardinals was made known. That response provided important clarifications for this reflection and represents a decisive element for the work of the Dicastery. Since "the Roman Curia is primarily an instrument at the service of the successor of Peter" (Ap. Const. *Praedicate Evangelium*, II, 1), our work must foster, along with an understanding of the Church's perennial doctrine, the reception of the Holy Father's teaching.

As with the Holy Father's above-mentioned response to the *Dubia* of two Cardinals, this Declaration remains firm on the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to a liturgical rite that can create confusion. The value of this document, however, is that it offers a specific and innovative contribution to the *pastoral meaning of blessings*, permitting a broadening and enrichment of the classical understanding of blessings, which is closely linked to a liturgical perspective. Such theological reflection, based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis, implies a real development from what has been said about blessings in the Magisterium and the official texts of the Church. This explains why this text has taken on the typology of a "Declaration."

It is precisely in this context that one can understand the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage.

This Declaration is also intended as a tribute to the faithful People of God, who worship the Lord with so many gestures of deep trust in his mercy and who, with this confidence, constantly come to seek a blessing from Mother Church.

Victor Manuel Card. Fernández

Prefect

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

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 13-14 JAN 2024

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	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	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Josie & Seng Yeoh	Remy DeLeon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Margaret Jones	Pauline & Bernard Home	Campion Fernando Gary Moeller Emelie De Leon	N/A	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Lim Nguyen Cheryl D'Sylva	Risa Sidik

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 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 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

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2024

There are still a number of Planned Giving envelopes for the next 12 months available in the foyer. Should you wish to move to credit card or direct debit please contact the parish office.



LOST PROPERTY

Please check the Lost Property Box in the Church Foyer for any missing items. The box will be emptied on 1st February.



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



YOUTH AGM

On Monday 15th January, our Youth Council will be holding their AGM to discuss the Youth for 2024. All welcome. The meeting will be held in the St Joseph's room at 7pm.

CONFIRMATION 2023 PHOTOS

Photos from the Confirmations for 2023 can now be collected from the Parish Office. We still have a number of photos from Confirmations and First Holy Communions 2020-2023 that have not been collected.

HOUSE OF WELCOME AND REFUGEE GROUP

Thank you to all those who donated to the House of Welcome and St Bernadette's Refugee Groups through the Christmas Giving Tree. We raised almost \$2000 for House of Welcome and almost \$2500 for the St Bernadette's Refugee Group.

FOR SALE

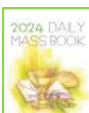


LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2024

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.



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Parish staff and clergy, we would like to thank you all for your well wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

We have started back for 2024! We meet every Tuesday morning at 10am in the Marian Centre to reflect on the coming week's Gospel and pray the rosary and divine Mercy chaplet together. For more information please contact Pauline on 0407 417 039



THURSDAY HOLY HOUR:



Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00pm-9:00pm every Thursday evening. Including Rosary, Silent Meditation and Scripture Reading. Parishioners and visitors welcome.

FOOD FIESTA 2024

We will be holding our Pentecost Food Fiesta 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

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

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

Jan	This Week
Tues 19th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	Reparation Prayer Group
Thurs 21st	Holy Hour 8:00pm-9:00pm

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Communion Antiphon:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Readings Next Weekend

13-14 January 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
1 Sam 3:3-10, 19	1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20	Jn 1: 35-42

Feast Days This Week

8 Jan

The Baptism of the Lord

13 Jan

Saint Hilary

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased Richard Curtis (funeral Thurs 11/1/2024, 11am St Bernadettes) Concepcion Zamora, Margaret Brown, Carmencita Manuel

For the Anniversaries of Rufo Adrillano, Jovita de Leon, V K George

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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