



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

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

17-18 FEB 2024 *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B*

Continued from last week

III. Blessings of Couples in Irregular Situations and of Couples of the Same Sex

31. Within the horizon outlined here appears the possibility of blessings for couples in irregular situations and for couples of the same sex, the form of which should not be fixed ritually by ecclesial authorities to avoid producing confusion with the blessing proper to the Sacrament of Marriage. In such cases, a blessing may be imparted that not only has an ascending value but also involves the invocation of a blessing that descends from God upon those who—recognizing themselves to be destitute and in need of his help—do not claim a legitimation of their own status, but who beg that all that is true, good, and humanly valid in their lives and their relationships be enriched, healed, and elevated by the presence of the Holy Spirit. These forms of blessing express a supplication that God may grant those aids that come from the impulses of his Spirit—what classical theology calls “actual grace”—so that human relationships may mature and grow in fidelity to the Gospel, that they may be freed from their imperfections and frailties, and that they may express themselves in the ever-increasing dimension of the divine love.

32. Indeed, the grace of God works in the lives of those who do not claim to be righteous but who acknowledge themselves humbly as sinners, like everyone else. This grace can orient everything according to the mysterious and unpredictable designs of God. Therefore, with its untiring wisdom and motherly care, the Church welcomes all who approach God with humble hearts, accompanying them with those spiritual aids that enable everyone to understand and realize God's will fully in their existence.

33. This is a blessing that, although not included in any liturgical rite, unites intercessory prayer with the invocation of God's help by those who humbly turn to him. God never turns away anyone who approaches him! Ultimately, a blessing offers people a means to increase their trust in God. The request for a blessing, thus, expresses and nurtures openness to the transcendence, mercy, and closeness to God in a thousand concrete circumstances of life, which is no small thing in the world in which we live. It is a seed of the Holy Spirit that must be nurtured, not hindered.

34. The Church's liturgy itself invites us to adopt this trusting attitude, even in the midst of our sins, lack of merits, weaknesses, and confusions, as witnessed by this beautiful Collect from the Roman Missal: “Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask” (Collect for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time). How often, through a pastor's simple blessing, which does not claim to sanction or legitimize anything, can people experience the nearness of the Father, beyond all “merits” and “desires”?

35. Therefore, the pastoral sensibility of ordained ministers should also be formed to perform blessings spontaneously that are not found in the Book of Blessings.

36. In this sense, it is essential to grasp the Holy Father's concern that these non-ritualized blessings never cease being simple gestures that provide an effective means of increasing trust in God on the part of the people who ask for them, careful that they should not become a liturgical or semi-liturgical act, similar to a sacrament. Indeed, such a ritualization would constitute a serious impoverishment because it would subject a gesture of great value in popular piety to excessive control, depriving ministers of freedom and spontaneity in their pastoral accompaniment of people's lives.

Continued next week

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



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

SENIOR YOUTH FRIDAY 23RD FEB

Friday 23rd Feb in the St Joseph's Room. Our Senior Youth (Yrs 9-12) will be looking at When Does Life Begin? For more details on the term plans for both Senior and Junior youth, scan the QR codes.



YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY (16-35yrs)

Our Young adults weekly bible study will be returning on Wednesday 21st February from 7:30pm in the St Joseph's room. This term we will be reading through the upcoming Sunday readings, and discuss their meaning with the assistance of the book "Break open the word"



YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) will be returning for 2024 on Sunday 25th February 7:00pm-9:00pm in the St Joseph's Room. Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements. Brandon will be sharing on The Theology of Humour.



ROSTERS 24-25 FEB 2024

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	Joanne Dobry Alex Joyce Edwin Zambrano	Timothy Leong Anne Younis Jackson Ryan
Communion Ministers	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatoryd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Sylvia Rego Sherryl Rozario Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	
Bookshop	Elaine Small	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N/A	Mon 26th Pauline and Bernard Home	John Giorgiutti Joseph Boudib Mila Mina	Liza Echevarria Sandra Emett	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Lim Nguyen Cheryl D'Sylva	Claire Lagunzad

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**.



On behalf of the Eberhaut Family, we would like to thank you all for your prayers, cards and heartfelt messages in the recent weeks. God Bless. Nancy and family.



PIETA LENTEN PROGRAM



Fr Raymond and Fr Matthew are running the Wollongong Diocese PIETA Lenten program on Thursday nights during lent at 7pm in the Marian Centre. Books are available for purchase for \$10 each through the parish office or on the night. Cash only.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be celebrated on Friday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm in the Church. Reconciliation will be available during this time.



CATECHISTS WANTED



We are looking for volunteers who are available to take a half-hour lesson on a Thursday or Friday at one of our local public school. For more information contact Christine Jenneke on 0433 183 322.

FUNDRAISER BBQ

The Parish Council and Finance Committee will be running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses on Sunday 25th February. Bacon and Egg Rolls for sale \$5 each. All proceeds will go towards replacing the air conditioner in the church.



COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 22ND FEB



Please stop by the Marian Center for coffee & chat this coming Thursday morning after the 9.15am mass. All welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

To celebrate his 25th Anniversary, Fr Fernando will be leading a Pilgrimage to Mexico in September. Places are limited. To register your interest, scan the QR code or contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at admin@stbernadette.org.au. For further details, see the flier on the noticeboard in the church foyer.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2024



Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion are invited to attend our information evening Wednesday 6th March at 7.00pm in the Church. This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 4 and above, who have received the sacrament of Baptism and Reconciliation. If you have any questions or would like information, please contact Mrs Christine Jenneke on 0433 183 322 or sacraments@stbernadette.org.au

ST BERNADETTE'S FOOTBALL CLUB

Want to have fun playing soccer this season? We have a few spots remaining in our junior mixed teams (under 6 - under 11) and our men's over 35's team you can join! For further information visit <http://sbfc.org.au> or email us at sbfcfooty@gmail.com



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 **Kindy 2025** enrolments you are invited to register for our upcoming **Open Day/School Tours** (Tues 27th Feb to Tues 12th March) via our school website. If you require any further information, please call 02 9407 6600.

GILROY COLLEGE OPEN DAY

We warmly invite prospective students and families to the Gilroy College Open Day on Tuesday 27th February from 4:00pm-7:00pm.



OAKHILL COLLEGE OPEN DAY

We warmly invite prospective students and families to the Oakhill College Open Day on Sunday 3rd March from 10.00am-2.00pm. Bookings are essential, so please register on our website: www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au



MOUNT SAINT BENEDICTS OPEN DAY

We warmly invite prospective students and families to the Mount Saint Benedict's Open Day on Sunday 3rd March from 10.00am-2.00pm. Bookings are essential, so please register on our website: <https://www.msb.nsw.edu>



OLMC OPEN DAY

We warmly invite prospective students and families to the Our Lady of Mercy College Open Day on Sunday 3rd March from 9.00am-3.00pm. Bookings are essential, so please register on our website: <https://www.olmc.nsw.edu>



ST GABRIEL'S OPEN DAY

St Gabriel's School are holding two Open Days in March. Kindy 2025 open day 8th March 9:30am-10:30am. Yr 7 2025 open day 14th March 9:30am-10:30am. For more info visit <https://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/open-days-tours>



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

Feb	This Week
Tues 20th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	Reparation Prayer Group
Wed 21st	Wednesday Bible Study
Thurs 22nd	Coffee and Chat
	PIETA Lenten Program 7:00pm
	Holy Hour 8:00pm-9:00pm
Fri 23rd	Senior Youth Group 7-8:30pm
	Stations of the Cross 7:30pm
Sun 25th	Fundraiser BBQ
	Young Adults Night

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. 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.'

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

*The kingdom of God is
close at hand.*

*Repent, and believe the
Good News*

Mark 1:15



Readings Next Weekend

24-25 February 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18	Rom 8:31-34	Mark 9:2-10

Feast Days This Week

21 Feb	Saint Peter Damian
22 Feb	Chair of St Peter
23 Feb	Saint Polycarp

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased Hermine Eberhaut, Sam Banno, Laurence James (Jim) Owen, Naziha Khodeir,
Joan Finucane, Gloria Golamco, Wilson Diaz Valverde

For the Anniversaries of Melwyn D'Souza, Mark Fernando

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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