



THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY CASTLE HILL

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

367 Old Northern Road
Castle Hill NSW 2154

Ph: (02) 9634 2622

e: admin@stbernadette.org.au

w: www.stbernadette.org.au

Facebook: /Castlehillparish

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Fernando Montano

Assistant Priest

Fr Neil Bulathsinalage

Assistant Priest

Fr Ravi Muvvala

Pastoral Associate

Mrs Nancy Eberhaut

pa@stbernadette.org.au

Admin and Office Support

Ms Laura Burton

admin@stbernadette.org.au

Youth Coordinator

Mrs Puspa Winendiah

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

See Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, Friday, 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

21-22 DEC 2024 *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C*

Hello Everybody!

With the help of God we reach the 4th Sunday of Advent, in a couple of days, we will join the universal church in celebrating the birth of Jesus, the focus and the highest point of the Christmas celebration. For Catholics, the Nativity scene is the main and most important decoration we should have during Christmas. Christmas Trees, Candy Canes, Wreaths and the combination of red and green they all have a place in the celebration, but they should reinforce the idea of the Nativity of Jesus and not replace it. Nativity comes from the word 'nativus', meaning 'born'. So, the Nativity Scene we see at Christmas quite literally means the Birth of Jesus. The first Nativity Scene was created by Francis of Assisi in 1223, where he used a figure made of wax to portray baby Jesus.

A typical Nativity Scene includes Baby Jesus, Mother Mary, Joseph, and ox and donkey, shepherds, sheep, the Three Wise Men, the Angel, and of course, a manger and the stable. The focus of the nativity, Jesus, is generally in the centre of the scene, in the manger, with Mary close next to it. Mary is often portrayed wearing blue, symbolising faith, loyalty and purity. Joseph is seen standing behind, looking over them, painting himself as the 'protector' of the family. Although the ox and donkey were not mentioned in the New Testament, they have been a feature in the Nativity scene for a very long time. Early Christian theologians saw an allegorical meaning within the ox and donkey. They said the Ox represented Israel and the Donkey represented the Gentiles. "The ox knows its master, the donkey knows its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." – Isaiah 1:3."

The shepherds are portrayed in the Nativity Scene as they were the first to find out about the birth of Jesus, as said in Luke 2:8-14. They even saw Baby Jesus before the Three Wise Men, and therefore were the first evangelists. The Three Wise Men are depicted in the Nativity Scene as they were searching for the Messiah, to worship him. They're often holding gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Angel is present as it brought The Wise Men to Jesus.

As we come to the end of the Advent season and being just a couple of days away from Christmas, I would like to encourage you to keep the deep meaning of Christmas by placing a Nativity Scene at home to remind us all of the gift that the Father has done for us in giving us his only begotten Son.



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday 21st Dec

8:30am - 9:00am

4:00pm - 4:30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Tuesday	5:00pm	Children's Mass
24 th December	7:30pm	Family Mass
Christmas Eve	9:30pm	Youth Mass
Wednesday 25 th December Christmas Day	12:00am	Midnight Mass Carols from 11:30pm
	7:30am	
	9:00am	
	10:30am	
No evening Mass on Christmas Day		
Thurs 26 th Dec, Fri 27 th Dec	8am mass only	Church will be closed after 8am Mass. Parish Office closed.
Sat 28 th Dec	8am, 5pm (Vigil)	As per normal
Sun 29 th Dec	7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am 6:00pm	As per normal
Mon 30 th Dec to Wed 1 st Jan	8am mass only	Church will be closed after 8am Mass. Parish Office closed.
Thurs 2 nd Jan onwards	6:45am, 9:15am	Office and Church open as per normal

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 Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs for school children please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at sacraments@stbernadette.org.

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

JUNIOR YOUTH SENIOR YOUTH

Are now on break for the year. We wish you a merry Christmas, and look forward to youth in 2025.

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY (16-35yrs)

Our Young Adults Bible Study are on break for the year. We look forward to seeing you when we return in February 2025.

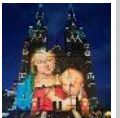


YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adults are on break for the year. We look forward to seeing you when we return in February 2025.

NORTHERN DEANERY YOUNG ADULTS OUTING

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Northern Deanery Christmas Lights outing on Wednesday. We met new and old friends from several parishes in the Northern Deanery and beyond.



ROSTERS 28-29 DEC 2024

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	Timothy Leong Anabel Formosa
Communion Ministers	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Sherryl Rozario Campion Fernando	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin Rudy Suwanday	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	
Bookshop	Marjorie Anderson		Margaret Stedman	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Andrea Tomic Krystyna Graczyk Myra Tan Pauline Home	Mandy Leong



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, please come dressed as a shepherd or angel by 4:30pm. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpong.com

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 gold 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.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2025

Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, enrolments are now open. This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 2 and above (yr 3 2025), who have received the sacrament of Baptism. For enrolment information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or via email at sacraments@stbernadette.org.au

CONFIRMATION 2024 PHOTOS

Photos from the Confirmations for 2024 can now be collected from the Parish Office. We still have a number of photos from Confirmations and First Holy Communions 2020-2024 that have not been collected.



ST BERNADETTE STATUE

The statue of Our Lady with St Bernadette is available for Parishioners to borrow for a week during 2025. 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 2025 is on the noticeboard in the foyer. For enquiries and bookings contact Janina Mousley on 9899 6060 or 0444 599 502.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, or Communion to the Sick. To enrol, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or email at nancy@stbernadette.org.au. Registrations close 28th January 2025 but spaces are limited.



The Parish Office will close 5pm Tuesday 24th December, and will reopen Thursday 2nd January at 9am.

Daily masses will be at 8am, and the church will be closed after Mass.



FOR SALE

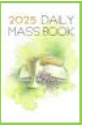


LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Break Open the Word for 2025 books are available for sale at the Parish Office. Cost \$30 each. Cash only.

DAILY MASS BOOKS

2025 Daily mass books available from the bookshop and the Parish Office. Cost \$25 each. Cash only.



THE LIGHT: ADVENT BOOKS

The Wollongong Diocese Advent Reflection books are available from the bookshop and Parish Office \$7 each. Cash only.

JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2025

With inspirations from St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. Available from the bookshop. \$13 each. Cash Only.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS \$7

Pack of 10 Christmas cards available from the bookshop after Sunday masses. \$7 each. Cash only.

Thank you



for giving homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home.

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." - 1 Corinthians 13:13



To learn how your compassion has been life-changing, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal-thankyou

Thank you for your generous donations to Bishop Vincent's Christmas Appeal. We have raised \$5000 so far. To make a donation online scan the QR code. Please ensure you select St Bernadette's CASLTE HILL when making online donations, to ensure it is attributed to our parish quota.

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

December

This Week

Tues 24th

Christmas Eve

Wed 25th

Christmas Day

Thurs 26th

Holy Hour 8pm-9pm

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 Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me he one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

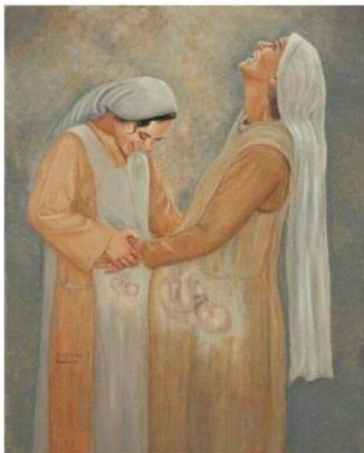
Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communion Antiphon:

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

NOW AS SOON AS
ELIZABETH HEARD
MARY'S GREETING, THE
CHILD LEAPT IN HER
WOMB AND ELIZABETH
WAS FILLED WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

LUKE 1:41



Readings Next Weekend

28-29 Dec 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28	1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24	Lk 2:41-52

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: Norman Gatt, Ramon Avedillo

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Minda Robles, Marion Heron, Geoff Roney, Joseph Victor Poon