



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

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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, 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

11-12 JAN 2025 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR C

Hello Everyone!

With the help of God, we have finished the holy season of Advent and the joyful time of Christmas. Now the church is moving towards the celebration of what we know as Ordinary Time. As I have explained to you before, we call this time Ordinary because we name the Sundays of this time by the "ordinal numbers", which indicate the position of something in a list or sequence, first, second, third and so on. It is a mistake to think that "Ordinary Time" refers to a time when nothing happens it is just "ordinary".

To begin this Ordinary Time, the church gives us the opportunity to celebrate and contemplate the Baptism of the Lord. I thought it would be a good idea to learn together something about the Icon of the Baptism of the Lord as it has been handed down to us through the tradition of the East.

This icon is prominent in the feast of the Theophany of the Lord, sometimes called Epiphany. What we celebrated last week in the West as the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord when the Three Wise Men come to offer gifts, in the East is called the Feast of the Theophany of the Lord, sometimes called Epiphany as well, but celebrates the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.

The word Theophany means "Revelation of God;" Theophany therefore marks the revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God when Jesus was baptized. Those who witnessed heard the Father's voice from Heaven, saw the Spirit descending upon Jesus, and could see Jesus in the flesh, whom God confirmed to be His Son with His voice.

The symbolism of the Icon is quite deep and rich in details, although you can find different versions of the same icon, they all keep the same details due to the importance for the whole contemplation of the mystery of the Baptism of the Lord.



At the central part of the Icon is the image of Jesus, in many icons depicted with little or no clothing. This is important because all throughout the creation narrative in Genesis we see God creating and then saying it is "good." Man and woman were created together in God's image. They were both beautiful, and while they lacked physical garments, they were clothed in the glory of the "image" and "likeness" of God. However, when they fell into sin, they hid in shame until God brought them garments of skin to wear (which symbolizes the sinful tendency that now obscures our true nature). Their natural beauty was transformed into an object of shame. Adam and Eve fell, and with them fell creation.

Now, at the moment of his Baptism Jesus represents the second Adam (1 Cor 15). In shame and nakedness, Adam hid. Yet Christ comes in his majesty, both as God and man, both in glory and nakedness completely unashamed, representing the beauty of the undefiled human made possible through Him and in the subsequent centuries, Christians were often baptized without any clothing, shedding the garments of the "old man" to die in Christ and be resurrected in Him.

Continued next week



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

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 look forward to seeing you when we return in February 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.

YOUTH LEADERS MEETING

Youth Leadership team 2025 will have the first meeting with the new Youth Chaplain, Fr. Neil Bulathsinalage on Friday 31 Jan 2025 in St. Joseph's room at 6pm. We also welcome other young people who wish to involve in Youth Ministry. Please RSVP to Puspaa at ym@stbernadette.org.au by 24 Jan 2025.

ROSTERS 18-19 JAN 2025

Mass Ministry	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Douglas Carvalho Tony Calabria Felicity Carvalho	Sue Pinkerton Daniel Vergano Lisa Kemmis	Catherine Whitelock Ann O'Brien	Sylvia Rego John Eberhaut	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton
Communion Ministers	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Sherryl Rozario Campion Fernando	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Anabel Formosa Maria Mochnik Brendan Hassan
Bookshop	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Josie and Seng Yeoh	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Margaret Jones	Mon 20th Jan Jocelyne and Maxime Juste	John Giorgiutti Joseph Boudib Mila Mina	N/A	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Anna Schweda Karen D'Souza Neil Fonseca	Lois & John Donnelly

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 3 (2025) and above, 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



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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Looking for a way to get involved? We have a number of ministries looking for volunteers! Share your time, talents and skills with the parish, and meet new people along the way. We have ministries on weekdays and weekends, for varying ages, skills, and time commitments. For a full list of ministries available and their commitment requirements, please see the noticeboard. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or admin@stbernadette.org.au

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 and for more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or email Nancy at nancy@stbernadette.org.au. Registrations close 28th January 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.



ROSTERS FOR 2025

New 2025 rosters for lectors, extraordinary ministers of communion, flowers, house keeping, 1st collection counters (Monday), linen, and cooking for the needy ministries have been emailed to each member. If you have not received your new roster, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at admin@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.



JUBILEE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Parramatta invites young people to join them on its official pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome in July 2025. The Diocesan pilgrimage will take place over 18 days from 19 July to 5 August 2025 and will include a visit to Greece to follow in the footsteps of Saint Paul, before traveling onto the Jubilee of Youth in Rome. For more information visit <https://parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025/>

FOR SALE

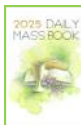


LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD

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.



JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2025

With inspirations from St Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

Available from the bookshop. \$13 each. Cash Only.

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 please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or admin@stbernadette.org.au

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

January

This Week

Tues 14th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Thurs 16th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm

January

This Month

Sun 26th Jan	Australia Day
Mon 27th Jan	Australia Day Public Holiday 8am mass

February

Next Month

Fri 7th Feb	First Friday Mass and Adoration
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Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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 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 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1

(R) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Readings Next Weekend

18-19 January 2025

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 62:1-5	1 Cor 12:4-11	Jn 2:1-11

Feast Days This Week

13 Jan
17 Jan

Saint Hilary
Saint Anthony

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Michael Ng, John Nix, Hans Moonen, Edgar Calderon, Sam Frasca

For the Anniversaries of: Renold Sequeira, Margaret and Gerard Williams

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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