



ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Fernando Montano

Assistant Priest

Fr Menard Gaspi

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

THE MASSABIELLE

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

19-20 JULY 2025 *SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C*

Hello Everyone!

Dear Parishioners, this coming week, we will have the opportunity to celebrate great saints of the church almost every day. It was hard to choose one saint for my small space in the parish bulletin.

After some thought, I decided to honor the memory of St Charbel Makhlof, sometimes spelled Sharbel. The Feast of St. Charbel is celebrated on July 24th by the Latin Church. The Maronite Church celebrates it on the third Sunday of July. This year, 2025, the third Sunday of July is today, the 20th of July.

Saint Charbel Makhlof was born on May 8, 1828 in Bekaa Kafra, a small mountain village, the highest in Lebanon and the Middle East, in the region of Bsharri (North Lebanon). Sharbel had two uncles living as monks in the monastery of Saint Anthony of Kozhayah. They were a source of inspiration and models for him.

St Charbel was baptized on August 16, 1828 with the name of Youssef Antoun Makhlof. He was the fifth child in a poor, yet respectable and devout family, having two older brothers and two older sisters. Youssef was very pious, so much so that his fellow villagers used to call him "the Saint." Daily he used to take his small herd to the fields where he would let them graze while he went to a nearby grotto to fall into deep prayer in front of an icon of the Virgin Mary. This grotto became his altar and his first hermitage.

In 1851, at the age of 23, he left his family and village to start his first year of novitiate in the monastery of Mayfouk. He chose the name "Charbel" in honor of a second century martyr in the Antiochene Church. In 1852, he moved to the monastery of Annaya for his second year of novitiate. There, on November 1, 1853, he professed his monastic vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. He received his formation in theology at the monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina in Kifan between 1853 and 1859. Father Nemtallah Kassab El-Hardini (canonized on May 17, 2004) was the teacher of Saint Charbel and his fellow seminarians.

On July 23, 1859 Saint Charbel was ordained priest in the Maronite Church. He spent 16 years (1859-1875) in the monastery of Annaya, praying and working in the fields with his brother monks. He was unhesitatingly obedient to his superiors, faithfully observed all the rules, and lived a life of sacrifice under austere conditions.

His request to move to the hermitage of Saints Peter and Paul, on a nearby hill, was approved after his superior witnessed the "miracle of the lamp." One night, Saint Charbel asked a worker at the monastery to refill the oil lamp that he was using. Although the worker filled it with water instead of oil, the lamp still gave light as usual and kept burning throughout the night.

February 15, 1875 marked the first day of his life in the hermitage. There, he continued to live for 23 years. He spent his time in prayer, contemplation, and worship, as well as in diligent manual labour in the fields and vineyards. He was a model of self-sacrifice and total detachment from the world. Saint Charbel reflected the grace and strength that God had granted him through living the monastic virtues of chastity, poverty, and obedience. He never left the hermitage except by request of his superiors who would ask him to go out to heal the sick.

While celebrating the Divine Liturgy on December 16, 1898, he suffered a stroke and endured eight days of terrible pain calmly, silently, and prayerfully. Saint Charbel kept repeating the prayer he could not finish in the Divine Liturgy: "Father of truth, behold Your Son, the sacrifice in whom You are well pleased. Accept Him who died for me..." He would also repeat the names of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, as well as Saints Peter and Paul, the patron saints of the hermitage. He died on Christmas Eve, 1898, and was buried at the monastery on a very cold and snowy day. Only a few monks were able to attend his burial ceremony.

Saint Charbel's superior, Father Antonios Mishimshany wrote about him in the monastery's records of the dead: "On the 24th day of the month of December 1898, Father Sharbel, the hermit of Bekaa Kafra, died after suffering a stroke and receiving the Sacraments of the dying. He was buried in the monastery's cemetery. He was sixty-eight years old. Father Antonios Mishimshany was the superior of the monastery. What God will perform after his death will be sufficient proof of his exemplary behavior in the observance of his vows, to a degree such that we can say that his obedience was angelic, not human."

Saint Charbel, Pray for us!



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 (years 5-8)

Friday 25th July 7-8:30pm
in the hall
Junior Social Night

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 1st Aug 7-8:30pm
in the St Joseph's Room
Lectio Divina

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY (16-35yrs)

Our Young Adults Bible Study is held every Wednesday evening 7:30-9:30pm in the St Joseph's Room. We will be reading through the coming Sunday's readings through Lectio Divina.



YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT 20TH JULY

Come and join our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs)
Sunday 20th July 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Hall.

We will be having a social night "Nostalgia" with old youth group games and activities. Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting ym@stbernadette.org.au.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

We pray for Fr Jack Elkazzi and the Diocese Youth pilgrims as they head off on their Jubilee Pilgrimage to Greece and Rome. We hope they have a fruitful experience. We especially keep the two pilgrims from St Bernadette's, Ashleigh and Daniel, in our prayers.

ROSTERS 26-27 July 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Mitch Dielwart Gary Tierney Sean Eberhaut	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	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Sherryl Rozario Campion Fernando	Mary Tondini Ranmalee De Silva Lynda Sillick Yvette Braganza Shane Robinson	Mila Mina Coney Lau Helen Car-Boyd Elizabeth Joseph Jiji Joseph	Mandy Leong Don de Leon Puspa Winendiah
Bookshop	Kathleen Abernethy	Eugenia Fidel	Margaret Stedman	Coney Lau	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Regina Jaegal	Mon 28th July Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	John Giorgiutti Joe Boudib Mila Mina	Joanne Boland Joanna Camarda	Margaret Sinha Reg Sinha Margaret Sinha Snr. Francesca Menezes Pancras Robinson	Belinda Yapp



CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2025

Confirmation Program 2025 Enrolments close **this Thursday 24th July**. This program is suitable for children who are in Year 6 and above, who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or via email at sacraments@stbernadette.org.au

BAPTISM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

For children in the PARISH who have not yet received the sacrament of Baptism. Children must be of primary school age and at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic. Please contact the Parish office on 9634 2622 or admin@stbernadette.org.au for enrolments and further details. Enrolments close **Mon 28th July**.



ADULT CONFIRMATION 2025: 23 & 26 AUGUST

The Office for Worship will host a Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 23rd August from 9.30am – 2pm at Blacktown. For more information and to enrol, please contact the Office for Worship at ofw@parracatholic.org

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE – STARTS SEPTEMBER

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held during September in Blacktown for those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as **Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, or Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying**. To enrol please contact Nancy at the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or pa@stbernadette.org.au.



PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

The Refugee Group are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses next Sunday 27th July. Bacon and Egg Rolls for sale \$5 each. Cash and EFTPOS available

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large amount of lost property in the church. We will have all items displayed on tables in the foyer this weekend. Unclaimed items will be donated or thrown away Monday 28th July.



COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 24TH JULY

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

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic. Tickets are \$2 each.



SPIRIT TASTING

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spirit Tasting on Friday night. We had a fabulous night, with lots of fun, information and conversations. With your generous support we raised over \$2200.



VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Thank you for your generous donations to the Vinnies Winter appeal. We raised over \$5000 to support those in need.



St Bernadette's Primary School's annual Fun Fair will be held on Friday 24th October 2025. The P&F are currently seeking Sponsorship contributions to help bring the fair to life and prizes and donations for their major raffle. If you, your business, or someone you know may be able to contribute in any way, please reach out to the P&F Committee– they would be most grateful for any level of support. For sponsorship enquiries please contact: Sara Ang on 0403 624 212

Save the Date



Melbourne Cup Lunch

Tuesday 4th November 2025

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

July	This Week
Tues 22nd	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 23rd	Wednesday morning Bible Study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 24th	Coffee and Chat Hebrews Study with Fr Fernando 7pm Holy Hour 8pm-9pm Confirmation registrations close
Sun 20th July	Young Adults: Nostalgia

August	Next Month
Fri 1st Aug	First Friday Mass and Adoration
Fri 15th Aug	The Feast of the Assumption
Sat 16th Aug	Bethlehem Olivewood Stall
Sun 17th Aug	Our Lady of Guadalupe Documentary
Sun 24th Aug	Fundraiser BBQ: Care Group

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading Genesis 18:1-10

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.' Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree. 'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.



Second Reading Colossians 1:24-28

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Readings Next Weekend

26-27 July 2025

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Gen 18:20-32	Col 2:12-24	Lk 11:1-13

Feast Days This Week

22 July	Saint Mary Magdalene
25 July	Saint James
26 July	Saints Joachim and Anne

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Giuseppe Faro, Elizabeth Miranda, Patricia Peters

Anniversaries: Tim Anderson, Vernon Cooray, Hyacinth Samaranayake, Bennett Reginald, Buenaventurada Yu

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Minda Robles, Sylvia Fagan, Michael Wilson, Eduardo Gutierrez, Ederlina Badiola, Noemi Rico, Mary Grace Zamora, Lynette Collins, Jacky Baconnais, Michelle Clarke