



THE MASSABIELLE

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

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

16-17 AUGUST 2025 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

Ordained on 21 November 2024 Fr Menard became the Diocese's newest priest – joyfully received by his fellow clergy, his family, and the faithful of St Bernadette's Parish Castle Hill, where he now serves. Less than a year into his ministry, Fr Menard speaks with quiet assurance, humility and hope about the winding path that led him to priesthood, as well as the path ahead.

Three words came to mind when Fr Menard described this new chapter of his vocation: "Exciting, Challenging, Affirming." And perhaps it is in the quiet space of the confessional that these words come to life. "Sitting with people in the space of confession has been a very humbling experience for me," he said. "To accompany people and be Christ to them in their deepest and darkest moments," he added. "The consolation on people's faces or the joy I hear in their voices after receiving the mercy of the Lord has been some of the most joyful encounters in ministry so far."

It had not always been a straightforward path. It was after more than a decade as a missionary in the Philippines, that he'd faced the difficult decision to return to Sydney in 2018, wrestling with the sacrifices and struggles of seminary life. Yet despite these challenges, Fr Menard remained steadfast, recognising that his life called for a transformation – like new wine needing fresh wineskins (Luke 5:37-38) – to embrace a renewed path forward. Looking back, he now sees those experiences through a new lens. "I believe the transition into the priesthood has been smoother than I expected due to the preparation the Lord put me through to get here," he explained. "The difficulties and challenges, as well as the joys and successes, have primed me to be open to the graces that come with the priesthood. "But believe you me, there is still so much for me to learn and improve."

"I believe I lean to extroversion, though I really treasure the times of quiet and silence that I get in prayer," he reflected. "I don't believe you need to be an extrovert to be a priest – you just need to be called," he said. "God will make use of our availability and our willingness to listen to His voice."

As a proud uncle to ten nieces and nephews, Fr Menard draws deeply on his family experience to relate to the vocations and lives of parish families. "It has been a blessing for me to see my siblings grow in their married vocations and the joys and sorrows that come with parenthood," he said. He added that having family close by has helped him grow in his own understanding of family life. "I believe it helps me to be more empathetic with the families I am called to serve."

For Fr Menard, Tuesday – his "holiday of obligation" (a playful twist on words) – has become a sacred day of rest and renewal. "It starts with a morning to myself and then leads into an afternoon with family," he said, adding they help keep him "grounded in ministry". Among the greatest supports has been the brotherhood formed at the seminary, including his final formation at Holy Spirit Seminary Harris Park – bonds that have continued well beyond ordination. "I am grateful to call some former seminary brothers, now brothers in the presbyterate," he said. "I have often reached out to brother priests asking advice on different things. They have been a big help to me."

"The scriptures teach us that 'God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies those whom He calls,' he said. "No one is worthy by their own merits, but it is God's free gift of grace and love that allows us to participate in His goodness."

"Priests are ordinary dudes trying to serve with an extraordinary love," he said. As a priest, he has also discovered something perhaps even more profound about himself. "I am comforted to know that I am a priest and I am not perfect," he said. "My own brokenness allows me to be Christ to the people I serve."



In the hearts of Jesus and Mary

Fr. Menard Gaspi

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



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 22nd August 7-8:30pm
 in the parish hall
 The Assumption

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 29th Aug 7-8:30pm
 The youth are using Lectio Divina to reflect on the Sunday readings

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 17TH AUGUST



Come and join our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) Sunday 17th August 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Hall. Our Guest Speaker, Christian Salem, will be "Exploring Eastern Catholicism" with us. Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting ym@stbernadette.org.au.

ACYF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The St Bernadette's young adults are putting together a pilgrimage group to travel to ACYF in Melbourne in November. If you are interested in joining us, please complete the google form by scanning the QR code



ROSTERS 23-24 August 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Douglas Carvalho Tony Calabria Felicity Carvalho	Dan Mathias Paul D'Cruz Joyan Fife	Mila Mina John Fernando Hubert Jenneke	Michael Abrahams Edwin Zambrano Raymond Pak	Timothy Leong Anabel Formosa
Communion Ministers	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Julian Bong Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Mary Tondini Ranmalee De Silva Lynda Sillick Yvette Braganza +1	Mila Mina Coney Lau Helen Carr-Boyd Elizabeth Joseph Jiji Joseph	Mandy Leong Don de Leon Puspa Winendiah
Bookshop	Kathleen Abernethy	Eugenia Fidel	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Coney Lau	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Lucy Achermann	Mon 25th August Marie Woodward Elaine Small	David Tye Cosimo Miccoli Chris Clancy	Liza Echevaria Natalie Coghlan	Andrea Tomic Krystyna Graczyk Myra Tan Gabriella Tan Pauline Home	Melia Shammass



BETHLEHEM OLIVEWOOD STALL

This weekend there will be handcrafted olive wood religious items for sale. These items are hand crafted in the Holy Land by the Catholic families there. Purchases will help support the Catholic community in the Holy Land and improve their livelihood and support maintaining the Holy sites.

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



PARISH OUTING THURSDAY 11/9/2025 OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC CHURCH ROSEMEADOW

We are organising a Parish outing on Thursday 11th September to Our Lady Help of Christians, which has been designated as a Special Place of Pilgrimage for Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. Departing Brisbane Rd 8.30am. Cost \$55 (cash only) including bus hire and donation to Our Lady Help of Christians. The day will consist of morning tea, Q & A, mass / confession, and time to shop (at your expense), we will then stop for lunch at Mt Annan Botanical Gardens (at your expense) returning to St Bernadettes by 4pm. Sign up sheet in the foyer, places are limited. **Please place \$55 cash in an envelope with your name and drop into the Parish Office by Monday 18th August.**

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DOCUMENTARY THIS SUNDAY 17 AUGUST 2025

We will be hosting a viewing of the documentary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Parish Hall this Sunday 17th August 2pm – 4pm. Cost will be \$10 per person, payable at the door and is **cash only**.



SHIRE GLUTEN FREE STALL

This Friday 22nd August, Shire Gluten Free will be holding a stall in the parish carpark from 11am-1pm. A range of gluten free and vegan products will be available for sale. To place pre-orders for collection, or for more information visit shireglutenfree.com.au

PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

The St Bernadette's Parish Care Group are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses next Sunday 24th August. Bacon and Egg Rolls for sale \$5 each. Cash and EFTPOS available. Fund go towards supporting the First Friday care group lunch.



RCIA INFORMATION NIGHT WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

An information evening will be held on Wednesday 24th September at 7:00pm in the Marian Centre for those adults interested in becoming Catholic. Further details of the program will be explained at the meeting. Any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or nancy@stbernadette.org.au



Melbourne Cup Lunch



12:00pm-3:30pm

Tuesday 4th November 2025

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person

Tickets now on sale

at the Parish Office

or online via the QR Code



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

August

This Week

Tues 19th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 20th	Wednesday morning Bible Study 10am
	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 21st	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 22nd	Junior Youth: The Assumption
Sun 24th	Fundraiser BBQ: Care Group

August/ September

Next Month

Thurs 28th Aug	Coffee and chat: NSW Fire and Rescue
Fri 5th Sept	First Friday anointing Mass & Adoration
Sun 7th Sept	Fathers' Day
Thurs 25th Sept	Coffee and Chat
Sun 28th Sept	Fundraiser BBQ: Vinnies

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

Lord, come to my aid!

Second Reading Hebrews 12:1-4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over! 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Communion Antiphon:

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!'



Readings Next Weekend

23-24 August 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Second reading

Gospel

Is 66: 18-21

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Lk 13: 22-30

Feast Days This Week

19 Aug

Saint John Eudes

20 Aug

Saint Bernard

21 Aug

Saint Pius X

22 Aug

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

23 Aug

Saint Rose of Lima

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: John Osbourne, Frederick E. Santos, Aurora Garcia

Anniversaries: Catherine Home, Dennis Davis, Archer Kemmis, Francesco Di Quattro, Kunjamma Jacob, Joseph D'Silva, Maria P Barbosa, Fatima Barrito,

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Minda Robles, Sylvia Fagan, Raymond Coffey