



## ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Castle Hill NSW 2154

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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

20-21 SEPTEMBER 2025 *TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C*

### Newly Ordained, Newly Sent: Understanding the First Blessing of a New Catholic Priest

Over 19 years in formation for the priesthood, I acquired an invisible list of men I met before they entered the seminary, and became a priest before me. It has been quite the humbling experience which I often brought to the Lord in complaint and surrender. I can remember kneeling before them and asking their blessings as newly ordained priests.

Fast forward and my journey has brought me to graciously receive the gift of the sacrament of Holy Orders. It has been quite the ride and an adventure for the ages. As I reflect on the journey, my heart is filled with joy and gratitude that the Lord has chosen me to be his priest. In hindsight, I value each year of my formation as the Lord took time to chip away at the hardness of my heart.

I am deeply blessed to stand before this community each week, humbled to act in the person of Christ, as preside over our liturgy. While the priesthood is a gift given to me, it is a gift for the church, the people of God. The priesthood is a sign of God's prophecy to Jeremiah 'I will give you shepherds after my own heart' Jer 3:15.

10 months have passed since my ordination as a priest and I would like to remind the community about the graces that come with receiving the first blessings of a newly ordained priest in his first year. (After November 21, I'll start charging a fee haha!)

The First Blessing of a newly ordained Catholic priest is a significant and deeply spiritual tradition in the Church. It usually takes place immediately following the ordination Mass, often beginning with the new priest offering a blessing to the bishop who ordained him, followed by blessings to family, friends, and members of the faithful. It was such a special moment sharing that with the people who have loved me to perseverance. By the time I finished that evening with all the blessings, all the food was gone and all the visitors had left!

This moment is powerful because the priest, having just received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, is now acting 'in persona Christi' — in the person of Christ — in a unique and sacramental way. Through ordination, a man is configured to Christ the High Priest, and he receives the authority to bless, to consecrate the Eucharist, to forgive sins, and to shepherd the people of God. His first blessing is a visible sign of the spiritual transformation that has taken place in him through the sacrament.

This first blessing also represents a bond between the priest and the community that has nurtured his vocation. Many choose to give this blessing first to their parents or godparents, recognising their role in guiding the priest toward his calling. Tradition also holds that anyone who receives a new priest's first blessing may receive a 'plenary indulgence', under the usual conditions (Confession, Communion, detachment from sin, and prayer for the Pope's intentions).

The first blessing is not merely a personal gesture — it is the beginning of a life of service. It marks the start of the priest's public ministry, rooted in prayer, sacrifice, and love for the people of God.

Feel free after any mass to approach me and ask for my first priestly blessing. I would be honoured to share that with you. In return I humbly ask that you keep me in your prayers as I continue answering yes everyday to being a shepherd after the heart of the Lord. Let us also remember to pray for more vocations to the priesthood.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

Are on break for the Holidays.  
Keep an eye out for Term 4 dates coming soon.

#### SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 26th Sept 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 21ST SEPTEMBER

Come and join our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) Sunday 21st September 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Hall. Our Guest Speaker, Judith-Grace Vella, will be sharing with us on Overcoming Discernment Paralysis. Dinner included. More info [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au).



#### HSC PRAYER AND ADORATION NIGHT

On Saturday 27th September the youth are holding a HSC Prayer night. We will be attending the 5pm Vigil Mass, followed by pizza dinner in the hall, and then Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7pm in the church. All welcome, especially those sitting the HSC exams.



## ROSTERS 27-28 September 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Lectors</b>	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
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	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	Mandy Leong Don de Leon Puspa Winendiah
<b>Bookshop</b>	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>1st Collection</b>	<b>2nd Collection</b>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>Church Linen</b>
Maria Gobbo	Mon 29th Sept Maxime & Jocelyne Juste	John Giorgiutti Joe Boudib Mila Mina	N/A	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Anna Schweda Karen D'Souza Neil Fonseca	Tess De Santo

*We send our prayers and sympathy  
to Fr Fernando and his family  
on the loss of his sister,  
Sandra Ofelia Montano Rodriguez.  
May she Rest In Peace.*

A Mass will be offered on Thursday 25th September at 7:00pm,  
followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 8pm at  
St Bernadette's for the late Sandra Ofelia Montano Rodriguez.

CLERGY SUPPORT  
FOUNDATION

LET US CARE FOR OUR  
SPIRITUAL FATHERS, JUST  
AS THEY CARE FOR US

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

DONATE NOW



### BISHOP'S FATHERS' DAY APPEAL

Envelopes can be found on the pews. Online donations via the QR Code. When making online donations, please remember to select St Bernadette's CASTLE HILL to ensure donations are attributed to our parish quota. Thank you for your generous donations, we have raised **\$3743** so far thanks to your generosity.



### 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](mailto:nancy@stbernadette.org.au)

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS

First Holy Communion photos from 2025 are now available for collection at the Parish Office (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or at weekend masses. We also have a number of photos from previous First Communions and Confirmations that have not been collected.



### COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER ROSARY MAKING WORKSHOP

Please stop by the Marian Center for coffee & chat this Thursday morning after the 9.15am mass. All welcome. This month we will be hosting a Rosary making workshop, making Rosary beads to be donated to the Camillian Hospital Chaplains for the sick and dying in hospitals within our Diocese.

### PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ 28TH SEPTEMBER

St Bernadette's Vinnies are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses next Sunday 28th September. Bacon & Egg Rolls for sale \$5 each. Cash & EFTPOS available.



### KELLYVILLE PARISH MARIAN PROCESSION: 11 OCTOBER



To celebrate their patronal feast day, the youth of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, are organising a Marian procession on Saturday 11 October. Mass begins at 6pm, followed by a procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents. All are welcome to join the parish as they gather to pray through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother.

## Melbourne Cup Lunch



12pm-3:30pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person

**Tickets now on sale**

after masses this weekend  
at the Parish Office  
or online via the QR Code



### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Fr Menard will be holding a the blessing of pets on Saturday October 4 at 3pm on the School Basketball Courts.



## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

### September

### This Week

Tues 23rd	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 24th	Wednesday morning Bible Study 10am
	RCIA Information Night
	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 25th	Coffee and chat: Rosary
	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 26th	Senior Youth: Lectio Divina
Sat 27th	HSC Adoration Night
Sun 28th	Fundraiser BBQ: Vinnies

### October

### Next Month

Fri 3rd Oct	First Friday Adoration and healing mass
Sat 4th Oct	Blessing of the Animals
Thurs 23rd Oct	Coffee and Chat: Virtual Pilgrimage
Sat 25th Oct	Confirmation Mass
Sun 26th Oct	Fundraiser BBQ:



## Today's Readings

### Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

### First Reading Amos 8:4-7

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

### Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans. In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes." Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty." The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light. 'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? 'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

### Communion Antiphon:

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

## Readings Next Weekend

27-28 September 2025

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

### First Reading

Amos 6:1,4-7

### Second reading

1 Tim 6:11-16

### Gospel

Lk 16:19-31

## Feast Days This Week

23 Sept

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

26 Sept

Saints Cosmas and Damian

27 Sept

Saint Vincent de Paul

*Whoever can be trusted in little things  
can be trusted in great.* Luke 16:10



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Sandra Ofelia Montano Rodriguez, Malcom McDonald (funeral 2nd Oct 11am)

Anniversaries: Ante Vidovic

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Minda Robles, Raymond Coffey, Nicola Sloggett, Peter Burke, Charlie Restall