



## 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

6-7 SEPTEMBER 2025 *TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C*

An earthly father and a Heavenly Father

I can remember my youth, walking in the house and seeing my parents sitting on the couch with each other, sun on face, coffee in hands, not saying anything, gazing into the abyss as if they had not a worry in the world. For some reason, us children, would be drawn to the couch with them. I would often lay my head on my dad's lap, smell his coffee breath and relax as he beat his feet to the Bee Gees in the background.

This was outside the time where my dad would work multiple jobs, drive us around to all our sports and extra-curricular activities, pick us up late from parties whenever we would call, let me see his belt when I needed some discipline and feed us with the only thing he knew how to cook, porridge. Of course, I only realised and appreciated this in my adulthood.

I believe my relationship with my dad has influenced how I relate with the Heavenly Father. My dad wasn't perfect, but his love and dedication has paved the way for me to encounter God's Fatherly love. I am humbled that the Father would call me his beloved son, despite my many sins, failures and weaknesses. I used to see the Heavenly Father as simply the judge who I needed to impress and not offend. Now I am grateful to have experienced his great fatherly love, mercy and generosity to me. I believe we get our faith wrong when we don't have a healthy relationship with the Heavenly Father.

Fathers play a vital and irreplaceable role in the structure and emotional health of a family. While traditional views have often cast fathers as mere breadwinners, the modern understanding of fatherhood recognises the depth of their influence on emotional, psychological, and social development. Their presence, involvement, and guidance contribute significantly to a well-rounded and stable family environment. When a father is actively involved in his child's life, the child often feels more secure and confident navigating the world.

Fathers also serve as key role models, especially for sons, but also for daughters. For boys, a father's behaviour becomes a blueprint for manhood—how to handle challenges, show respect, express emotion, and treat others. For girls, a father's love and attention often influence how they view themselves and what they expect in future relationships. A father who is affectionate, respectful, and supportive helps children form healthy expectations and build high self-esteem.

Emotional development is deeply influenced by a father's involvement. Numerous studies show that children with involved fathers are less likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, or behavioural problems. They tend to perform better in school, form stronger friendships, and exhibit greater emotional resilience. This stems from a father's unique way of communicating and interacting, which often complements a mother's approach. Fathers tend to encourage risk-taking, independence, and problem-solving—skills that are essential for facing life's challenges.

Fathers also play a crucial role in teaching discipline and boundaries. Their approach often leans toward setting expectations and encouraging accountability, which helps children develop a sense of responsibility and respect for rules. While discipline from either parent is important, a father's consistent involvement often strengthens the impact of such lessons. The absence of a father figure can lead to a noticeable gap in a child's development. This doesn't mean single mothers can't raise successful children—many do—but it highlights the unique value a father can bring when he is present and engaged.

As we celebrate Father's day this weekend, let us keep our fathers in our thoughts, prayers, affirmations and gifts. Fathers are more than simply providers; they are protectors, teachers, mentors, and emotional anchors. Their presence contributes to the strength and success of a family unit. Encouraging active fatherhood—where fathers participate in nurturing, teaching, and guiding their children—creates a legacy of strong, confident, and well-adjusted individuals. A father's love and involvement are not just beneficial; they are essential for a thriving family life. May St. Joseph, chosen by the Father, intercede for all fathers in the world.

Happy Father's day!



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)

Friday 19th Sept 7-8:30pm  
in the parish hall  
We are looking at Archangels

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

Friday 12th 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 13-14 September 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Lectors</b>	Kris Murgatroyd Les Blanch Rod Burridge	Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza	Danielle Vassallo Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando	Venetia Lee Hyacinth Jones Leo Stanton	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton Radheen Wettasinghe
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Felicity Carvalho Douglas Carvalho Mary McMahon Bernard Home Pauline Home	Julian Bong Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Angela Stenglin Christine Jenneke Hubert Jenneke Rosalie Sampath Celeste McLean	Lydia Flores Paul Irwin Florina Vanderwaals Mary Winslow Jeyaraj Winslow	Anabel Formosa Brennie Hassan +1
<b>Bookshop</b>	Maureen Fearnside	Catherine Seddon	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Josie and Seng Yeoh	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>
Sandra Fernando	Mon 15th Sept Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon	Bill Lee Chris Crowe Eddy Pagnucco	Jody Masina Jenny Blacklock	Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Claire Lagunzad



May God continue to bless all the Fathers, Grandfathers, and Father-figures who support us in our lives

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.



### RCIA INFORMATION NIGHT WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

**RCIA** 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)

### ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Fr Menard will be running altar server training for those wishing to join the ministry to serve at our weekend masses. Training will be held on Saturday 13th and 20th of September at 2pm in the church. A sign up sheet is located in the church foyer. For more information, please contact Fr Menard at [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au) or 9634 2622



## Melbourne Cup Lunch



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

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person

Tickets now on sale at the Parish Office or online via the QR Code



Grab your FREE COPY of the **Catholic Outlook** Spring edition

### PARISH OUTING REMINDER

Those who signed up for the bus trip, please be at Brisbane Road bus bay at 8:15am. We will be stopping at Mount Annan Botanical Gardens for lunch (at own expense)

## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

### September

### This Week

Tues 9th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 10th	Wednesday morning Bible Study 10am
	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 11th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 12th	Senior Youth: Lectio Divina
Sat 13th	Altar Server Training

### September

### This Month

Sat 20th Sept	Altar Server Training
Wed 24th Sept	RCIA Information Night
Thurs 25th Sept	Coffee and chat: Rosary
Sun 28th Sept	Fundraiser BBQ: Vinnies

## Fathers' Day Raffle



The Young Adults are running a Fathers' Day raffle.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Available after masses this weekend.

Winners drawn after 6pm Mass on Sunday 7th September





## Today's Readings

### Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### First Reading Wisdom 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

### Second Reading Philemon 9-10, 12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

### Communion Antiphon:

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### **Readings Next Weekend**

**13-14 September 2025**

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Num 21:4-9	Phil 2:6-11	Jn 3:13-17

### **Feast Days This Week**

<b>8 Sept</b>	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>9 Sept</b>	Saint Peter Claver
<b>12 Sept</b>	The Most Holy Name of Mary
<b>13 Sept</b>	Saint John Chrysostom

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF**

Recently Deceased: Greg Whitby, Shannon Murray

Anniversaries: Engracia Corpuz, Francis and Teresa Ng, Thresiamma George, Rosamma Varghese

### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

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