



THE MASSABIELLE

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

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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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 Parish Office and church will be closed from 12noon on Friday 31st October.

25-26 OCTOBER 2025 THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

Hello Everybody!

I am finally back after the last couple of months when, as you know, we kept an eye on my sister's health and by the grace of God, she was finally called to the house of our heavenly Father on the 14th of September, just a week after my return to Australia. As you would understand I flew back in a rush on Monday the 16th to make it on time for my sister's funeral and to be with my family, especially my mother for a few weeks, keeping ourselves together in grief but also in prayer as we continue to renew our faith in the power of the Risen Lord who gives life eternal to those who place their faith in Him. I want to thank you all for your words of support and comfort for me, my mother and for the whole family. Thank you to the Parish and Fr Menard for organizing a requiem Mass for her and for all the help here at the Parish during my absence. At the same time, I keep asking you to please keep us in your prayers.

On the last few weeks of my stay in Mexico, once again I was able to enjoy the preparations for what is one of the most important religious festivals in Mexico "The Day of the Dead" (*Dia de los Muertos*), celebrated between October 31st and November 2nd, is a celebration in which Mexicans remember and honour their deceased loved ones. This ancient festival happens during the Catholic Celebration of All Souls Day. The festival is quite famous around the world and many documentaries on TV present the way Mexican celebrate these important days. Even the civil calendar recognizes the importance of this festival marking it as a public holiday. Though it may sound gloomy or morbid, it's not. It's a festive and colourful holiday. Mexicans visit cemeteries, decorate the graves and spend time there in the presence of their deceased friends and family members. They also make elaborately decorated altars (called *ofrendas*) in their homes to "welcome" the spirits of the departed. This tradition was made even more widely known by the movie *Coco* that, through a quite interesting story line, shows the importance and the meaning this festival has for us. As a family, it was a way to start getting ready for the remembrance of our loved ones. Last year we added the photo of my father to the "Ofrenda" (Offering) and this year, we have prepared the photo of my sister that will go on the altar for the departed.

Anthropologists have always argued that the celebration has such a big impact in the Mexican culture because in pre-Hispanic times the dead were buried close to family homes (sometimes in a tomb underneath the house) and there was great emphasis on maintaining ties with deceased ancestors, who were believed to continue to exist on a different plane. With the arrival of the Spaniards and Catholicism, All Souls' and All Saints' Day practices were incorporated into pre-Hispanic beliefs and customs, and Day of the Dead came to be celebrated.

During the days when the "Ofrendas" are set up, the memories of our loved ones are greeted with offerings of food and things that the person enjoyed in life. These are laid out on an altar in the family home, churches, offices, schools, and pretty much everywhere in Mexico. For many years already I have set up my little tribute to my loved ones in the presbytery, not as magnificent as those you can find in Mexico but always with lots of love, memories and respect.

These Altars (called *Ofrendas* in Mexico) are really very colourful pieces of art and culture, they include sugar skulls, often with the person's name inscribed on the top, (this can be presented as a gift to friends as well) *pan de muertos*, a special bread that is made especially for the season, and *cempasuchil* (marigold flowers) which bloom at this time of year and lend a special fragrance to the altar and all sorts of different drinks and food who were the favourite of the deceased person.

It is a celebration that reminds us that our bonds as family and friends remain strong even after death. A time to stop and reflect on the meaning of life and the memories we leave behind to those who are close to us. A festival of colour that invites us to keep the flame of faith alive even when circumstances are challenging.

It is by the providence of God, that this year, the celebration of All Souls Day will fall on a Sunday, to give us all the chance to remember, pray and honour the life and the memories we have of our loved ones who have gone before us to the house of our Heavenly Father.



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



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 7th November
 7:00-8:30pm in the hall.
 We will be learning about
 St John Henry Newman

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 31st October 7-8:30pm in
 the St Joseph's Room.
 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 16TH NOVEMBER

Come and join our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs)
 Sunday 16th November 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Hall.
 With Guest Speaker Neil Kulkarni
 Dinner included. All welcome
 More info ym@stbernadette.org.au.

ROSTERS 1-2 NOVEMBER 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	Jackson Ryan Nathan Colaco Lisa Giacomelli
Communion Ministers	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Lucille Wilson Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin Rudy Suwandy	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Rason Chia Patricia Chia Remy de Leon
Bookshop	Kathleen Abernethy	Eugenia Fidel	Margaret Stedman	Coney Lau	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Sandra Fernando	Mon 3rd Nov Pauline and Bernard Home	Karl Procter Martin Collins Joe Morgan	Stefanie Chehade Jenny Blacklock	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Lim Nguyen Cheryl D'Sylva	Belinda Yapp

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the 60 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday and have been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to learn and grow in faith.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal
St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

1-2 November 2025

CASTLE HILL CEMETERY MASS:

All Souls Day mass will be celebrated at Castle Hill Cemetery on Saturday 8th November at 10am.

We are looking for a volunteer with a ute/van/truck who can transport 100 chairs from St Bernadette's hall to the cemetery and back on the Saturday morning.



NOVEMBER MASSES

Envelopes are available in the foyer for November Mass offerings. Parishioners are invited to write the names of deceased relatives and friends **on the back of the envelope** or on a typed list inside, with a donation. *Please note any donation cheques will not be processed until December.* The front of the envelope is for your details. The completed envelope can be placed in the collection boxes or given in to the Parish Office. From there the names will be put into the "Book of Remembrance" which will be placed on a temporary altar on the Sanctuary throughout November. Masses will be offered during the month of November for our friends and family who have gone before us.

RECONCILIATION 2026 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to attend our information evening being held on **Tuesday 11th November at 7.00pm in the Church.** This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 2 and above (year 3 in 2026), who have received the sacrament of Baptism. The meeting will run for one hour. Children do not need to attend. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or sacraments@stbernadette.org.au



MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND DYING FORMATION: 8 NOVEMBER

Are you currently taking Communion to the sick and dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic. Saturday 8 November from 9:30am – 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 3 Nov, please contact the Office for Worship Team OFW@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211.

Melbourne Cup Lunch



12pm-3:30pm Tuesday 4th November

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person +drinks

Tickets now on sale

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



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

October/ November This Week

Tues 28th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 29th	Wednesday morning Bible Study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 30th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 31st	Church and office closed from 12noon Senior Youth: Lectio Divina
Sat 1st	All Saints Day
Sun 2nd	All Souls Day

November

Next Month

Tues 4th Nov	Melbourne Cup Lunch
Sat 8th Nov	Castle Hill Cemetery Mass
Tues 11th Nov	Reconciliation 2026 Parent Info Night
Thurs 27th Nov	Coffee and Chat

PARISH OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED 12NOON ON FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

The Parish Office and church will be closed from 12noon on Friday 31st October. The Parish Office will re-open as per normal Monday 3rd Nov.

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:2-3. 17-19. 23. R. v.7

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Communion Antiphon:

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

Readings Next Weekend

*1-2 November 2025
All Souls Day Year C*

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
2 Mac 12:42-45	Phil 3:20-21	Lk 7:11-17

Feast Days This Week

28 Oct Saints Simon and Jude
1 Nov All Saints



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Diana Stephen, Rebecca Marasigan

Anniversaries: Anita Gray, Charles Sollis, Anthony Xavier Dalpadado, Yvone Philip, Rina Zadro, John McAuliffe, John Brown, Rosario Roco

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Michael Wilson, Minda Robles, Raymond Coffey, Ruth Porciuncula, Sakina Au-Yeung, Colleen Woodhead, Janelle Kenchington, Fahim Laoulach