



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

22-23 NOVEMBER 2025 *OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR C*

Hello everyone!

This week the church will invite us to celebrate the memory of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companion martyrs, usually referred to as the Vietnamese Martyrs.

Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan.

Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries.

In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries, and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were offered in homes of the faithful.

Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac's name was originally Dung An Trần, and he was born about 1795 in a poor and pagan family in Bac-Ninh in North Vietnam. When he was twelve the family had to move to Hà-Nôi (Hanoi) where his parents could find work. There he met a catechist and got food and shelter from him. He also got education in the Christian faith for three years and was baptized in Vinh-Tri with the Christian name Andrew (Andrew Dung). After learning Chinese and Latin he became a catechist, and thereafter taught catechism in the country. He was chosen to study theology, and on March 15, 1823, he was ordained a priest. As parish priest in Ke-Dâm he was tireless in his preaching. He often fasted and lived a simple and moral life, he was a good example for the people, and many were baptized. In 1835 he was imprisoned under emperor Minh-Mang's persecutions, but his freedom was purchased by donations from members of the congregation he served. To avoid persecutions, he changed his name to Lac (Andrew Lac) and moved to another prefecture to continue his work. But on November 10, 1839, he was again arrested, this time with Peter Thi, another Vietnamese priest whom he was visiting so that he might go to confession.

Once again Andrew was liberated, along with Peter Thi, in exchange for money. Their freedom was brief. They were soon re-arrested and taken to Hanoi, where both suffered dreadful torture. Finally, they both were beheaded December 21, 1839.

St. Andrew was one of 117 people who were martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. They were all canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 19, 1988. Of the group, 96 were Vietnamese, 11 were Spaniards, and 10 were French. There were 8 bishops, 50 priests and 59 lay Catholics in the group. Of the priests, 11 were Dominicans, 10 belonged to the Paris Mission Society, and the rest were diocesan priests plus one seminarian. Certain individual martyrs were mentioned by name in the process of canonization: Andrew Dung-Lac, a diocesan priest; Thomas Tran-Van-Thien, a seminarian; Emmanuel Le-Van-Pung, father of a family; the Dominican bishops Jerome Hermosilla and Valentine Berrio-Ochoa; and John Theophane Venard.

Saint Andrew Dung Lac and Companion Martyrs of Vietnam! 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



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) and SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 5th December 7-8:30pm on the basketball courts. The youth are holding a combined end of year water fight.

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 23RD NOVEMBER

Come and join our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) Sunday 23rd November 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Hall for our end of year social. Bring a plate of Christmas food to share. More info ym@stbernadette.org.au.

YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS OUTING

The Young Adults are planning an outing into the city to explore the Christmas lights displays Sydney city has to offer!

Who: all young adults 18-35 yrs are invited

When: Wednesday December 17th 5:30pm till late

5:30pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, 6:30pm Dinner at Verandah Bar, 8:30pm light show at St Mary's Cathedral.



ROSTERS 29-30 NOVEMBER 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Caroline Dumapit Malisa Barsic John Abernethy	Sue Pinkerton Campion Fernando Lisa Kemmis	Steve Vassallo Catherine Whitelock Ann O'Brien	Sylvia Rego Vince del Gallego John Eberhaut	
Communion Ministers	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Sherryl Rozario Campion Fernando	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin +1	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Rheza Tan Patricia Chua
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
N?A	Mon 1st Dec Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	John Giorgiutti Mila Mina	Sandra Emmet Natalie Coghlan	Margaret Sinha Reg Sinha Margaret Sinha Snr Francesca Menezes Pancras Robinson	Tess De Santo

 DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

OPEN THE DOORS OF HOPE TO GRIEVING HEARTS THIS CHRISTMAS

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."
- Matthew 5:4




Bishop's Christmas Appeal
parracatholic.org/appeal

Congratulations

Brian and Catrina Fitzalan celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this coming week. May God continue to bless them and their family.




CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2025

We are again asking for the generous support of our parishioners, to help bring the spirit of Christmas into the homes of families in need. Please take a hamper label from the Church foyer, and return the hampers to the Church on the weekend of **6th & 7th December**. Please be mindful of the weight of hampers. For more info contact Carole on 0438 014 070.

COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Please stop by the Marian Center for coffee & chat this Thursday morning, 27th November, after the 9.15am mass. All welcome. Please bring a plat of Christmas finger-food to share




PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ 23RD NOVEMBER

The Youth and Young Adults are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses this Sunday. Bacon & Egg Rolls for sale \$5 each. Cash & EFTPOS available.

FR MENARD 1ST ANNIVERSARY MORNING TEA

This Sunday, we are holding a morning tea in the hall after the 10:30am Mass, to celebrate Fr Menard's one year anniversary of the Priesthood. Please bring a plate of finger-food to share.



FOR SALE FROM THE BOOKSHOP-cash only

The Promise Advent Reflection by Wollongong Diocese. \$7 each



Columban Calendars \$12 each



Vinnies Christmas Cards 10pack. \$10 traditional, \$5 modern (kids)



Daily Mass Books 2026 \$35 each



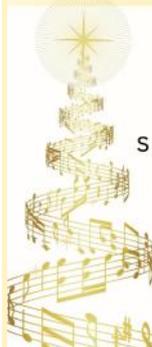
Break Open The Word \$35- for sale from **Parish Office**




Christmas Carols

Fri 19th December
7:00 - 9:00pm

A night of performances by choirs, music groups and soloists, performing a selection of Christmas Carols, with liturgical readings.




Tickets on sale \$10 per person
via Trybooking (scan QR Code)
or at the Parish Office (Cash only)

RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

Registrations are now open for the 2026 Reconciliation Sacramental program. 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. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or sacraments@stbernadette.org.au



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

November	This Week
Tues 25th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 26th	Wednesday morning Bible Study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 27th	Coffee and Chat Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
December	Next Month
Fri 5th Dec	First Friday Anointing Mass
Sat 6th Dec	
Sun 7th Dec	Vinnies Christmas Hampers
Fri 19th Dec	Christmas Carols Night

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Readings Next Weekend

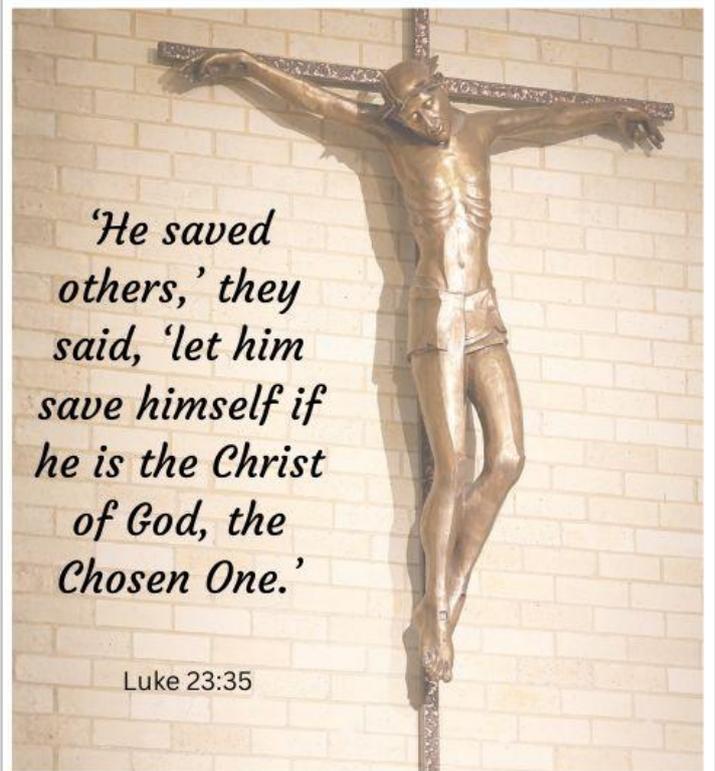
29-30 November 2025

1st Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 2:1-5	Rom 13:11-14	Mt 24:37-44

Feast Days This Week

- 24 Nov** Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions
- 25 Nov** Saint Catherine of Alexandria



'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.'

Luke 23:35

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Joseph Tanti (funeral Mon 24th 10am)

For all the names in the Book of Remembrance

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Michael Wilson, Tony Kearney, Joseph Boudib, Minda Robles, Colleen Woodhead, Cristina Illanes, Lourdes Z Banson