



THE MASSABIELLE

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

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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(02)9407 6600

Principal: Bianca Cooke



29-30 NOVEMBER 2025 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Hello everyone.

As we start the holy season of Advent, I just want to write a short message as we will be advertising the times for our Masses during Christmas.

This week I just want to invite you to please keep Pope Leo XIV in your prayers, as you have heard in the news, Pope Leo is doing his first Apostolic Journey. As it was for Pope Benedict XVI with World Youth Day in Cologne in 2005, and as it was for Pope Francis with WYD in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, the first journey of Pope Leo XIV takes him to a destination already set by his predecessor. He will visit Iznik, in Türkiye, to commemorate the 1,700 years since the first Council of Nicaea, and war-torn Lebanon, in order to keep a promise made by Pope Francis, though war and illness prevented him from fulfilling it.

A Pope's first Apostolic Journey is destined to mark his pontificate. Pope Paul VI, who in January 1964 made a historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, embraced the Patriarch of Constantinople, Athenagoras. Pope John Paul II made his first journey to Puebla, Mexico, where my family lives now. I still remember the excitement about his visit for being the first Pope to ever visit Mexico. And Pope Francis embraced millions of young people in Brazil.

By a singular coincidence, the journey that started on Thursday that will take Pope Leo first to Ankara, Istanbul, and Iznik, then to Beirut, represents almost a geographical synthesis of two main themes that have emerged in these first months of his pontificate: unity and peace. In his first Apostolic Journey, Pope Leo XIV goes to console the Christians who live in that country and in the neighboring ones and who are tempted to abandon their land, he goes to remind them how precious their presence is, and how precious is their witness of fraternity and peaceful coexistence with those who belong to other religions.

We pray for a safe and successful journey, and we ask the intercession of Our Lady of the Way to accompany in his first Apostolic Journey.



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday

6:45am

Wednesday, Thursday,

6:45am, 9:15am

Friday 5th December

6:45am, 9:15am, 12noon

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

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday 29th Nov	8:30am - 9:00am	4:00pm - 4:30pm
Thurs 4th Dec	8:00pm - 9:00pm during Holy Hour	
Saturday 6th Dec	8:30am - 9:00am	4:00pm - 4:30pm
Thursday 11th Dec	8:00pm - 9:00pm during Holy Hour	
Saturday 13th Dec	8:30am - 9:00am	4:00pm - 4:30pm
Thursday 18th Dec	8:00pm - 9:00pm during Holy Hour	
Saturday 20th Dec	8:30am - 9:00am	4:00pm - 4:30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday	5:00pm	Children's mass
24 th December	7:30pm	Family Mass
Christmas Eve	9:30pm	Youth Mass
	12:00am	midnight mass Carols from 11:30pm
Thursday	7:30am	
25 th December	9:00am	
Christmas Day	10:30am	
	No evening mass on Christmas Day	

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. Come join us for a night of fun-filled water-based games and activities.

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 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS OUTING

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

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 6-7 DECEMBER 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Douglas Carvalho Tony Calabria Felicity Carevalho	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	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	Rason Chia Patricia Chia Rem de Leon
Bookshop	Maureen Fearnside	Catherine Seddon	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Josie and Seng Yeoh	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N?A	Mon 8th Dec Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon	Joe Harney Bernadette Pathiwille Ranjaka Gunawardene	N/A	Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Lois and John Donnelly



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2025

Please return all hampers to the Church next Weekend, **6th and 7th December**. The hampers will be sorted on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th, and delivered on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th. Please be mindful of the weight of the hampers as they need to be lifted on and off the truck for delivery. **If you are available to help with sorting or distributing hampers please contact Carole on 0438 014 070.**

FIRST FRIDAY MASS: ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ADORATION



will take place this Friday, 5th December at 12noon followed by lunch in the Marian Centre. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from after 6:45am mass until 12noon. All welcome. If you require transport please contact Maureen Fearnside on 9634 3329.

THE GIVING TREE

This advent, The Giving Tree is decorated with envelopes for **The House of Welcome (white envelopes)**, and **St Bernadette's Refugee Group (red envelopes)** Cash donations can be placed in the envelopes, and dropped into the gold donation box at the base of the tree, or the 1st and 2nd collection boxes at the front of the church. Further information on both groups can be found next to the tree.



CHILDREN'S 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

The 5pm mass on Christmas Eve will be a Children's mass. As part of the mass the children act out the Gospel reading. Come dressed as an angel or shepherd. If your child is interested in being a part of the Christmas Eve play, there will be a rehearsal on Saturday 20th Dec at 9:30am in the church. For more information please see Mrs Younis or contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpong.com

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VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to all who generously donated to the recent Vinnies Christmas Appeal. They raised just over \$5000 to help support those in need this Christmas.

FUNDRAISER BBQ

Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth and Young Adults fundraiser BBQ last weekend. They raised \$723

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**

Tickets will be on sale after masses next weekend or via QR code

Upcoming Events	
Please see notices for further details.	
December	This Week
Tues 2nd	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 3rd	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 4th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 5th	First Friday Anointing Mass Combined Youth social: water fight
Sat 6th	Vinnies Christmas Hampers
Sun 7th	
December	This Month
Fri 19th Dec	Christmas Carols Night

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Readings Next Weekend

6-7 December 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 11:1-10	Rom 15:4-9	Mt 3:1-12

Feast Days This Week

3 Dec	Saint Francis Xavier
4 Dec	Saint John Damascene
6 Dec	Saint Nicholas

"And what I say to you
I say to all: Stay awake!"



Mark 13:37

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Nelly Aguilan, Fahim Laoulach

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