



THE MASSABIELLE

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

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PARISH PRIEST

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Fr Menard Gaspi

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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,

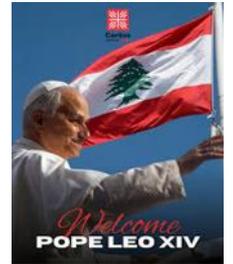
4:00pm-4:30pm

Or by appointment

6-7 DECEMBER 2025 *THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A*

Hello everyone!

Last week I shared with you the news of the First apostolic trip to Turkey and Lebanon. Although the theme of unity among the different Christian traditions was strong not only for his important meeting with the patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I back on the second part of his journey in Beirut, Pope Leo met with the four Catholic patriarchs resident in Lebanon — Maronite Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syriac Catholic and Melkite Catholic — and the other Catholic patriarchs in the East — Chaldean Catholic (resident in Baghdad), Coptic Catholic (based in Cairo) and the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa. They were later joined by three key non-Catholic patriarchs — Aram I of the Armenian Orthodox, Aphrem II of the Syriac Orthodox, and the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, John X, who is based in Damascus. The Istanbul/Beirut meetings would have been the largest papal meeting with the Eastern Churches since Pope Francis' meeting in Bari, Italy, in July 2018.



The Papal visits to any country not only bring joy and hope to the country but also to the people from those countries and backgrounds. I could see the joy of my Lebanese friends and parishioners knowing that the pope went to their country. His visits to any country also leaves a perennial message for all of us who follow the news of the Holy Father.

I want to leave you with the final words of the Pope Leo XIV that reflect the particular touch he is bringing to his ministry, a constant invitation to work for peace which are quite fit to reflect upon during this time of advent. After the final Mass, before heading to the airport, he told the people, "During these days of my first apostolic journey, undertaken during this Jubilee Year, I wanted to come as a pilgrim of hope to the Middle East, imploring God for the gift of peace for this beloved land, marked by instability, wars and suffering."

Even when it seems peace is far off, Pope Leo said, "I invite you to lift your gaze to the Lord who is coming! Let us look to him with hope and courage, inviting everyone to set out on the path of coexistence, fraternity and peace. Be artisans of peace, heralds of peace, witnesses of peace!"



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

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)

The Junior and Senior youth group are now on break for the Christmas Holidays. We will be returning in February 2026.

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. This Wednesday 10th Dec will be our final Bible Study for 2025. We will return Wednesday 7th January 2026.



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 13-14 DECEMBER 2025

Ministry \ Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Mitch Dielwart Gary Tierney Sean Eberhaut	Ross Pinkerton Graeme Kearns Jacinta Kearns	Geoffrey Kemmis Jennifer Piyush Amber McLean	Irene Ngu Jeethu Bobby May O'Connell	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton Radheen Wettasinghe
Communion Ministers	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Lucille Wilson Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee	Mary Tondini Ranmalee De Silva Lynda Sillick Yvette Braganza +1	Mila Mina Coney Lau Helen Carr-Boyd Elizabeth Joseph Jiji Joseph	Anabel Formosa Brennie Hassan Jane Lapidario
Bookshop	Elaine Small	Eugenia Fidel	Margaret Stedman	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N/A	Mon 15th Dec Pauline and Bernard Home	John Loftus Vanessa Xiberras Joseph Collorafi	N/A	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Lim Nguyen Cheryl D'Sylva	Claire Lagunzad

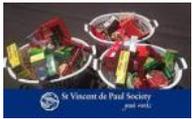
 **DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA**

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





CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2025

Please return all hampers to the Church this weekend. 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.**

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.



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 Mrs Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpong.com

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



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**

 **St Bernadette's**
Parish Castle Hill

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 this weekend after masses via Trybooking (scan QR Code) or at the Parish Office (Cash only)

CATECHIST CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Catechists are selling raffle tickets at the weekend masses to raise funds for Catechist resources. Win a hand-made Christmas quilt! Check out the beautifully made quilt on the noticeboard in the church foyer. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Carols on Friday 19th December.

Upcoming Events
Please see notices for further details.

December	This Week
Tues 9th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 10th	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 11th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
December	This Month
Fri 19th Dec	Christmas Carols Night

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 25th December. The Office will reopen Monday 5th January.

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

*Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

Readings Next Weekend

13-14 December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 35:1-6, 10	James 5:7-10	Mt 11:2-11

Feast Days This Week

8 Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9 Dec	Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
10 Dec	Our Lady of Loreto
11 Dec	Saint Damasus I
12 Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Dec	Saint Lucy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Harry Carruthers

Anniversaries: John McAuliffe, Henry Costa, Hermine Eberhaut, Fe Wong, Brian Graham, Allan Gordon, Asquith Figueira

In Remembrance: Bernard, Catherine & Adrian Blogg, James Rajoo,

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, Perry Papisavvas