



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

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Fr Menard Gaspi

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pa@stbernadette.org.au

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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

10-11 JANUARY 2026 *THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR A*

Hello Everyone!

With the help of God, we are now full into 2026. The celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord that we had last week, closes the celebrations of the Christmas season and the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord marks for us the beginning of the Ordinary Time.

Since this is the first, bulletin that I am writing this year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a year full of the blessings that only God can give. May the year ahead be full with grace, peace and love from God to each one of you and those who are close to you.

To continue with the lives of the Saints that I started last year and which has been a good way to learn about the testimony they have left for us and also a chance to explore the history of our faith, I would like to give you some information about one of the saints that we celebrate this week. St Anthony, whose feast falls on the 17th of January. He is know also as St Antony of the Desert or St Anthony of Egypt.

St. Anthony of the Desert was born in Egypt on Jan. 12, 251, into a family of wealthy farmers in the Heracleopolis Magna, which was a part of Egypt that was assimilated into the Roman Empire. When he was about 18 or 19 years old, Anthony was at Mass when he heard the Gospel of St. Matthew being read and was captivated by the words of Jesus: "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give to the poor" (Mt 19:21).

When Anthony was 20 years old his parents died, and he decided to put into practice the command of Jesus that had marked his soul. He distributed his inheritance among the poor and went into the desert where he lived as a hermit, in complete solitude, dedicated to penance and a life of prayer.

For years he lived in a hermitage that he himself built, which was described as being in a pit located next to a cemetery. This "closeness to death" — as he liked to think of it — awakened in his heart many reflections on the life of Jesus. He often contemplated the truth about Jesus, the conqueror of death. Some of these reflections were put down in writing and provisionally have survived the passage of time.

As mentioned before, Saint Anthony, who goes by many titles — Anthony of Egypt, Anthony the Abbot, Anthony the Anchorite, Anthony the Hermit, Anthony of Thebes, and Anthony the Great. He founded communities of men with similar callings to his own, for this reason, St. Anthony of the Desert is considered one of the precursors of monasticism, if not the initiator per se. The form of monastic life that he put into practice spread widely during the first millennium of Christianity, leaving an indelible mark on the history of the Church.

According to St. Jerome of Stridon (342–420), Anthony also knew St. Paul the Hermit, an Egyptian anchorite who lived in the desert of Thebes.

Today, after centuries, desert monasticism still exists in various parts of the world.

St. Anthony, together with St. Athanasius, was also known for his defense of the Christian faith and the doctrine against Arianism, the heresy that denies the divinity of Jesus Christ and compromises the nature of the Holy Trinity.

St. Athanasius of Alexandria (328–373) said of Anthony: "He prayed very often, since he had learned that it is necessary to withdraw in order to be constant in praying: Indeed, he paid so much attention to reading that he retained everything he had read, to such an extent that a time came when his memory supplanted the books."

Then he added: "All the inhabitants of the place, and all the honored men, whose company he frequented, seeing his conduct, called him 'friend of God'; and all loved him as a son or as a brother." When talking about St Anthony, our main source of information comes from St Athanasius, who is the one who wrote about his life.

St Athanasius also tells us that "He [Anthony] worked with his own hands, for he knew the Scripture saying: 'He who does not work, let him not eat' [2 Thes 3:10]; what he earned from his work he gave partly to his own sustenance, partly to the poor."

St. Anthony died in 356, on Mount Colzim, near the Red Sea, at the age of 105. He is venerated as the patron saint of basket weavers, brush makers, and butchers as well as of cemeteries. He is also known as the "co-patron" of animals, sharing the title with St. Francis of Assisi. For a long time at the Vatican, a blessing of animals has been celebrated on Anthony's feast day of Jan. 17.

St Anthony, 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)

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.

SING A NEW SONG MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/OURuFAeThA>

ROSTERS 17-18 JANUARY 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
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	John Zdrlic Brandon Leyba
Communion Ministers	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Julian Bong Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Dess Gutierres Dominique Boudib Catherine Wibisono
Bookshop	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Sandra Fernando	Mon 19th Jan Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Karl Procter Anne Cheung Joe Morgan	N/A	Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Mandy Leong

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 3 and above who have received the sacrament of Baptism. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at sacraments@stbernadette.org.au.
Registrations close Monday 2nd February 2026.



CONFIRMATION 2025 PHOTOS

Photos from the Confirmations for 2025 can now be collected from the Parish Office. We still have a number of photos from Confirmations and First Holy Communions 2020-2025 that have not been collected.

ST BERNADETTE STATUE

The statue of Our Lady with St Bernadette is available for Parishioners to borrow for a week during 2026. Consider booking it for a special occasion: feast day, birthday, anniversary, thanksgiving, a special intention or simply to encourage family prayer. The bookings roster for 2026 is on the noticeboard in the foyer. For enquiries and bookings contact Janina Mousley on 9899 6060 or 0444 599 502.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held in 2026 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, or Communion to the Sick. To enrol, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at nancy@stbernadette.org.au. If you are interested in getting involved and joining any of our Parish ministries, please contact Nancy or Laura in the Parish Office to talk about what ministries we have, and what it takes to get involved. We have a number of ministries with varying levels of commitment, so there is something for everyone!

KEEPING OUR PARISH SAFE

Do you volunteer with children or vulnerable adults in our parish community? Are you interested in learning more about how to help keep our parish safe? Are you up to date on your Safeguarding training? Is your Working With Children Check up for renewal? Help keep our parish safe and compliant by making sure you are up to date. Safeguarding training through the Parramatta Diocese is valid for 2 years. For more information, or to explore the available resources and online training modules visit <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/>



AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 26th January, there will be **8am Mass** only, and the church will be closed after Mass. The Parish Office will be closed. The church and Office will reopen as per normal Tuesday 27th Jan.



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Parish staff and clergy, we would like to thank you all for your well wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

CATECHISTS WANTED



We are incredibly fortunate to still have the opportunity to go into the local public schools and spread the Word of God with primary school students at a number of public schools in our area. As the number of families in the Hills continues to grow, so does the number of students attending Public Schools.

St Bernadette's currently provide Catechist teachers to 5 local public schools, and we are looking for more teachers to assist in this growing need. All our teachers are provided with the training and support required, as well as the lesson plans and resources used in the classroom.

Our volunteer teachers currently consist of a fantastic team of parents, grandparents and young adults from various backgrounds, careers and experiences. We are looking for volunteers who are available to take a half-hour lesson on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday at one of our local public school. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or admin@stbernadette.org.au

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

SING A NEW SONG MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/OURuFAeThA>

SCAM ALERTS

We've seen a recent rise in scam messages across parishes, including texts pretending to be from Parish Priests and emails asking for urgent help, gift cards, or confidential information. These messages can catch anyone off-guard, so this is a gentle reminder to take a moment before responding. By protecting ourselves and each other online, we help keep our communities safe.

Tips to stay safe:

- *If a message feels unusual, pause and give the person a quick call to check.
- *Avoid clicking unexpected links or sharing personal details.
- *No priest or parish staff will ever ask you to send bank/credit card details, buy gift cards or send codes by text or email.
- *If you think you've been targeted, change your password, turn on two-step verification and delete the message.

2026 ANNUALS FOR SALE -cash only



Daily Mass Books 2026 \$35 each-available from the bookshop and the parish office

Break Open The Word \$35 each available from the **Parish Office**



Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Feast Days This Week

13 Jan Saint Hilary
17 Jan Saint Anthony

Readings Next Weekend

17-18 January 2026

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Is 49:3, 5-6	1 Cor 1:1-3	Jn 1:29-34



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Josue Evero

Anniversaries: Margaret and Jerard Williams, Yick Fuy Chau, Lin Lee, Rod Tobin

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Tony Kearney, Joseph Boudib, Minda Robles, Colleen Woodhead, Eric Cardenas