



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

Fr Fernando Montano

Assistant Priest
Fr Menard Gaspi

Pastoral Associate

Mrs Nancy Eberhaut
pa@stbernadette.org.au

Admin and Office Support

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 26th January

8:00am

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

24-25 JANUARY 2026 **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

Hello everyone.

We are fast approaching the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on the Second of February. Before the changes to the liturgical calendar approved and promoted by the Second Vatican Council, the second of February closes what it was known as the "Epiphany Time" and it also marks 40 days since we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. In some countries, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is the day when the Christmas decorations come down, however in Australia and in many countries the Christmas celebrations ended with the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on the 6th of January.

Devotion to the Child Jesus is popular not only in Mexico but also around the world. Just last week, many in the Filipino community celebrated the feast of the Santo Niño. This veneration to the Child Jesus is rooted in the belief that even as a child, Christ was ready to do the mission His Father sent Him to do. As an infant, He was both loved (by the Magi and the shepherds) and persecuted (by Herod the Great). He showed an example of obedience to religious authority by being presented in the temple.

Devotion to the Child Jesus is a way of honoring the virtues of Christ's childhood. The image of the Child Jesus is an invitation to strive for the virtues of simplicity, innocence, humility, obedience, and childlike trust and confidence in the Father. The veneration of the image is, therefore, more than an external expression of our natural love for Jesus but hopefully it also involves a commitment to strive after the Child Jesus' special virtues.

Each year, I have been dressing up our infant Jesus in different ways that show that even from his childhood, Jesus is the Lord that we worship as King, as the Good Shepherd, last year we venerated the Baby Doctor as I was praying for the health of my sister. He has also been dressed as the different devotions of the Child Jesus through history as the image of the Holy Infant of Atocha.

This year, I decided to dress Jesus as the Divine Mercy, as you know, the devotion to Divine Mercy, originated from the visions of St. Faustina Kowalska, canonized on April 30, 2000. This particular devotion emphasizes the mercy poured forth from Christ's Passion and Resurrection, the fount of the Holy Spirit who forgives sins and restores joy in redemption. Centered on the Second Sunday of Easter—now Divine Mercy Sunday—this devotion finds its "natural locus" in the Easter liturgy, where the paschal Christ embodies mercy as "his living sign, both historico-salvific and eschatological." The faithful are urged to integrate it with liturgical celebrations, singing "forever of the Lord's mercy" (Ps 89:2).



The Divine Mercy image with rays of blood and water and that is what the garment of Baby Jesus is wearing. St. John Paul II, who had a strong devotion to the Divine Mercy, consecrated the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Kraków-Lagiewniki on August 17, 2002, entrusting the world's destiny to merciful God as he said in the day of the consecration: "In the mercy of God the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness!"

We should always keep in mind that, what the devotion and tradition of dressing Baby Jesus under the different devotions to Jesus, it is a reminder that the Eternal Word of the Father became flesh in Jesus. That Jesus, even as a child is the Savior, the King, the Good Shepherd, the Healer from God and this year we want to reflect of the Divine Mercy of God as we contemplate Baby Jesus wearing the garments of this beautiful devotion. May you have a year full of blessings that come from the mercy of God.

Dear Jesus, for the sake of your sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world!



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

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 Tues 27th Jan

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.au.

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

St Bernadette's Parish Castle Hill 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)

Welcome Back BBQ Social Friday 6th February 2026.

We will be kicking off the year with a combined welcome back BBQ social on Friday 6th February at 7pm on the basketball courts. Families welcome. To assist us with catering, we kindly ask you to RSVP via the QR code or by emailing ym@stbernadette.org.au



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 15TH FEBRUARY

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 15th February 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall.



Guest Speaker Anne Younis will be presenting her talk: "I am not holy enough"

Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting ym@stbernadette.org.au.

ROSTERS 31 JAN-1 FEB 2026

Ministry	Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors		Kris Murgatroyd Les Blanch Rod Burridge	Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza	Danielle Vassallo Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando	Venetia Lee Hyacinth Jones Leo Stanton	Jackson Ryan Nathan Colaco Lisa Giacomelli
Communion Ministers		Felicity Carvalho Douglas Carvalho Mary McMahon Bernard Home Pauline Home	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Sherryl Rozario Campion Fernando	Angela Stenglin Christine Jenneke Hubert Jenneke Rosalie Sampath Celeste McLean	Lydia Flores Paul Irwin Florina Vanderwaals Mary Winslow Jeyaraj Winslow	Rason Chia Patricia Chia Remy de Leon
Bookshop		Maureen Fearnside	Catherine Seddon	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Josie and Seng Yeoh	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection		2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Maria Gobbo	Mon 2nd Feb Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon		Bill Lee Chris Crowe Eddy Pagnucco	N/A	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Anna Schweda Karen D'Souza Neil Fonseca	Tess De Santo



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.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for 2026 will be held 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. We are in particular need of readers at the 7:30am (x2 readers), 9am (x1 readers), and 10:30am (x3 readers) masses. Please see Laura or Nancy for further details.

ST BERNADETTE'S SPIRITUAL READING BOOK CLUB

We are starting a Spiritual Reading Book Club, to share and discuss religious themed books. The Book Club will be held on the second Saturday of each month at 9am in the Marian Centre. Our first meeting will be held on Saturday 14th February, where we will choose our first book and discuss the structure and purpose of the Spiritual Reading Book Club. All Welcome. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpond.com



PROJECTIONIST WANTED

We are looking for volunteers (high school and above) to assist with projections at the 7:30am Mass. All slides are prepared for you, and training provided. Basic computer skills required.



ASH WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday masses on Wednesday 18th February will be at 6:45am, 9:15am (school attending) 12 noon (school attending) and 7:30pm.



CONFIRMATION 2025 PHOTOS

Photos from the Confirmations for 2025 can now be collected from the Parish Office or at Mass. 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.



AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

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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

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**

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

January

Mon 26th Jan	Australia Day Public Holiday 8am mass only. Church closed after mass. Parish Office closed.
Tues 27th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 28th	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 29th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm

February

Mon 2nd Feb	Reconciliation Registrations close
Fri 6th Feb	Combined Youth Welcome back BBQ
Sat 14th Feb	Spiritual Reading Book Club 9am
Sun 15th Feb	Young Adults: Anne Younis
Wed 18th Feb	Ash Wednesday
Thurs 19th Feb	Lenten Program with Fr Menard 7pm
Sun 22nd Feb	Fundraiser BBQ: Parish Council
Thurs 26th Feb	Coffee and Chat: Virtual Pilgrimage

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and
honour in his holy place.

First Reading **Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3**

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1**

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 4:12-23**

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Communion Antiphon:

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.



Readings Next Weekend

31 Jan-1 Feb 2026

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Second reading

Gospel

Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13

1 Cor 1:26-31

Mt 5:1-12

Feast Days This Week

27 Jan

Saints Timothy and Titus

Saint Angela Merici

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Saint John Bosco

28 Jan

31 Jan

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Joseph Boudib

Anniversaries: Andreas Karatsiolis, Brian Iles, Malwina Ratajszczak

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Tony Kearney, Minda Robles, Eric Cardenas, Marge Kleinsmith, Jeanne Atlapattu