



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, 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

21-22 FEBRUARY 2026 *THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A*

Hello Everyone!

With the grace of God we have started the holy season of Lent, to help us into our reflections for these few weeks, I want to reprint the Lenten message that the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV has given for this year. The theme for this year is *Listening and Fasting: Lent as time of Conversion*. I hope you will enjoy the reading and also I hope you will be spiritually enriched to engage with enthusiasm in our Lenten journey.



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through listening. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

Continued next week



From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

LEO PP. XIV

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)

Friday 6th March 7-8:30pm
 In the St Joseph's Room
 This term we will be going through the parts of the Mass, with "Liturgy of the Eucharist" as our focus next Friday

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 27th February
 7:00-8:30pm
 In the St Joseph's Room
 This Friday we will be discussing Christology.

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 MARCH

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



Noah Vassallo will be asking the question "Who Is Christ?"

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

ROSTERS 28 FEB-1 MARCH 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Judith Donoghue John Geoghegan Lourdes Nathan	Wayne Vergano Margaret Ash Jackie Willard	Dawn Wickramasinghe Ranmalee De Silva Sherryl Rozario	Joanne Dobry Malena del Gallego	Olivia Eberhaut Radheen Wettasinghe Lisa Giacomelli
Communion Ministers	Felicity Carvalho Douglas Carvalho Mary McMahan 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 Remy 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 2nd March Christine and Hubert Jenneke	John Loftus Vanessa Xiberras Joseph Collorafi	Liza Echevaria Natalie Coghlan	Cathy Teh Clarissa de Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Belinda Yapp



FR JOHN BOYLE BOOK SIGNING

Mons. John Boyle will be at all masses this weekend with his book "Tested by Fire, The story of the burning of St Patrick's Cathedral" Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase, \$60 each.

NATIONAL ADORATION: SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

In preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in 2028, all Australian Parishes have been asked to participate in a Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday 1st March. St Bernadette's will be holding Adoration from after the 10:30am Mass until the 6pm Mass, in the Marian Centre.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026

Parish families are invited to attend our information evening on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm in the Church. This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 4 and above, who have received the sacrament of Baptism and Reconciliation. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or sacraments@stbernadette.org.au

HOUSEKEEPING NEEDED

Looking for a way to help the Parish? We are looking for volunteers to join the Church Housekeeping team. Light cleaning duties to help maintain the church, rostered on every 6 weeks. For more information please contact Andrea on 0415 800 160

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We warmly welcome new families to join our school community. Register for our upcoming Open Day and School Tours via our website.

<https://info.parra.catholic.edu.au/open-day/stbernadetteschill>

If you require any further information, please call 9407 6600.

GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Open Day 4 March 2026 4:00pm - 7:00pm

For more information about our Open Day or current vacancies please contact us on (02) 8853 8200. or visit

<https://info.parra.catholic.edu.au/open-day/gilroy>



OAKHILL COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Sunday 22nd February 10am - 2pm

please register online for the open day at

<https://www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/book-a-tour>

MOUNT ST BENEDICT COLLEGE

OPEN DAY Sunday 1 March 10am - 2pm

Please note: Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2028. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4.



ST GABRIEL'S

St Gabriel's School catering for children with mild to moderate disabilities, as well as those who are deaf or hard of hearing; blind or low vision; have Autism and other disabilities. St Gabriel's school are holding two Open Days: Kindy 2027 enrolments Thursday, 5 March at 9.30am-11am Year 7 2027 enrolments Thursday, 12 March at 9.30am-11am Please register for the open days at

<https://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/open-days-tours>



COMPASSIO LENTEN PROGRAM

Fr Menard is running the Wollongong Diocese COMPASSIO Lenten program on Thursday nights during lent at 7pm in the Marian Centre.

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

Would you like to do something extra during Lent? Come to the Tuesday morning Group at 10 am in Marian Centre. We go through the Sunday Mass Readings and see what we can learn from them. For more information please contact Pauline Camilleri on 0407417039.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning bible study Group at 10am in Marian Centre. We are looking at "Luke, The Story of Salvation Fulfilled. For more information contact Jill on 0437 307 832



COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Please stop by the Marian Centre for coffee & chat this Thursday morning after the 9.15am mass.

THURSDAY HOLY HOUR:

Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00pm-9:00pm every Thursday evening. Reconciliation will be available during Lent.



FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will be reflecting on the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm in the Church. Reconciliation will be available during this time.

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

February	This Week
Tues 24th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 25th	Wednesday morning bible study Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 26th	Coffee and Chat Lenten Program with Fr Menard 7pm Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 27th	Senior Youth: Christology Stations of the Cross
Sun 1st	Eucharistic Adoration: 11:30-6pm
March	Next Month
Fri 6th March	First Friday anointing Mass & Adoration Junior Youth: Liturgy of the Eucharist
Tues 10th March	First Communion Parent Info Night

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Readings Next Weekend

28 Feb-1 March 2026

The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A

First Reading

Gen 12: 1-4

Second reading

2 Tim 1:8-10

Gospel

Mt 17:1-9

He fasted for forty days and forty nights

Matthew 4:2



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Rita Peres-da-silva, Aurora Aaron

Anniversaries: Kunjamma Kurian, Mariama Eapen, Bahija Sitto

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Tony Kearney, Minda Robles, Marge Kleinsmith, Steven Ziraj