



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,

6:45am, 9:15am

Friday 6th March

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

28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2026 *THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A*

Continues from last week

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity."^[2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly."^[3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic."

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.



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
 The "Liturgy of the Eucharist" is our focus next Friday

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 13th March 7:00-8:30pm
 In the St Joseph's Room
 This Friday we will be discussing Superstitions

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.

PASSION PLAY 2026

The youth and young adults of the parish present the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday (3rd April) at 9:30am and 12noon. All high school aged students and young adults are invited to be involved. For more information contact ym@stbernadette.org.au.



YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT 15TH MARCH

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 15th March 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 7-8 MARCH 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
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	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton Nathan Colaco
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 9th March Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	Campion Fernando Gary Moeller Emelie De Leon	Lolita Suyko Julie James	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Cheryl D'Sylva	Melia Shammas

NATIONAL ADORATION: SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

In preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in 2028, 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 FRIDAY MASS: ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ADORATION



will take place this Friday, 6th February at 12noon followed by a light 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026

Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of Eucharist 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 the Parish Office.

PASSION PLAY 2026



The youth and young adults of the parish present the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday (3rd April) at 9:30am and 12noon. All high school aged students and young adults are invited to be involved in this year's Passion Play. There are a number of roles, both speaking and non-speaking, and we are eager to have as many participants as possible. For more information contact the Parish Office at ym@stbernadette.org.au.

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.



ST BERNADETTE'S SPIRITUAL READING BOOK CLUB

Our next book club meeting is on Saturday the 14th March at 9am in the Marian Centre. We are currently reading "The Story of a Soul, the Autobiography of St Therese of Lisieux" All Welcome. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpond.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St. Matthew's Uniting Church of Baulkham Hills is hosting the World Day of Prayer on 6th March 2026, at 7.30pm. All welcome. The evening will conclude with a light supper.



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>



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,
St Gabriel's school are holding two Open Days:
Kindy 2027 enrolments Thursday, 5 March 9.30am-11am
Year 7 2027 enrolments Thursday, 12 March 9.30am-11am
Please register for the open days at <https://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/open-days-tours>



For those who missed out last weekend, Mons. John Boyle will be at the 6pm Mass this Sunday 1st March with more copies of his book "Tested By Fire"

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

March	This Week
Tues 3rd	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 4th	Wednesday morning bible study
	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 5th	Lenten Program with Fr Menard 7pm
	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 6th	First Friday anointing Mass & Adoration
	Junior Youth: Liturgy of the Eucharist
	Stations of the Cross
March	This Month
Tues 10th March	First Communion Parent Info Night
Fri 13th March	Senior Youth: Superstitions
Sun 22nd March	Fundraiser BBQ: Football Club

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Readings Next Weekend

7-8 March 2026

The 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

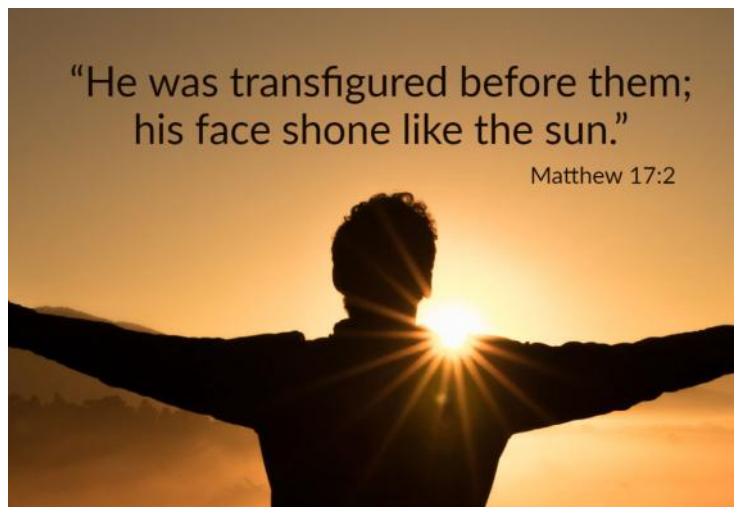
First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Ex 17:3-7	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8	Jn 4:5-42

Feast Days This Week

4 March	Saint Casimir
6 March	Ember Day
7 March	Saints Perpetua and Felicity

"He was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun."

Matthew 17:2



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Marge Kleinsmith, Mato Posavac, Jean Towner, Michael Mather

Anniversaries: Joseph Graczyk, Luciano Donagemma, Joe Back, Sofija Sustek, Adam Sustek, Faye Wong

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles, Steven Ziraj