



# 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

## 7-8 FEBRUARY 2026 THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Hello everyone!

On February 10th the Church invites us to celebrate the feast of St. Scholastica, the beloved twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia, founder of Western monasticism. Born around 480 in Nursia, Italy, Scholastica dedicated her life to God from infancy, embodying the quiet strength of consecrated virginity. The story of her life is preserved in St. Gregory the Great's Dialogues, and it reveals profound lessons in prayer, fraternal love, and trust in divine providence. These ideals are always relevant for our parish family today.

Tradition holds that Scholastica and Benedict were twins, both drawn to monastic life amid Rome's distractions. While Benedict established Monte Cassino, Scholastica founded and governed a women's community at Plombariola, about five miles south, under his spiritual direction. St. Gregory notes Benedict oversaw both monks and nuns, highlighting her role as abbess in the growing Benedictine tradition.

The brother and sister met annually at a house outside his monastery, as monastic enclosure forbade her entry. These gatherings focused on praising God and spiritual discourse, fostering souls attuned to heaven. Scholastica's life modeled *ora et labora*—prayer and work—pioneering Benedictine nuns' contemplative path still present today.

The Abbey of St. Scholastica at Subiaco, built by Benedict around 520 and later rebuilt, endures as a testament to their shared legacy, once a hub of German monastic revival. Scholastica's most famous encounter occurred three days before her death in 543. After supper on a clear evening, she begged Benedict to stay overnight to continue their heavenly conversations, however, bound by his Rule, he refused. She laid her head upon her hands... and besought God... there arose such a violent storm..., the story says that... "[they] could [not] set foot outside". Benedict exclaimed, "God forgive you, sister; what have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you, and you refused it. I asked it of God, and He has granted it." Her prayer, rooted in pure love, triumphed over nature, prioritizing eternal bonds over earthly rules.

Scholastica teaches us to pray boldly for what aids salvation, trusting God's "yes" surpasses human limits. Three days later, Benedict beheld Scholastica's soul departing as a dove, ascending to heaven—a biblical symbol of the Holy Spirit and purity (Mt 3:16). Rejoicing, he had her body buried in his prepared tomb. The Roman Martyrology proclaims: "At Mount Cassino, St. Scholastica, a virgin, whose soul her brother... saw... in the form of a dove, and ascending to heaven." Her relics journeyed to Le Mans, France, proclaimed patroness there in 1876.

St. Scholastica is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns, education, and convulsive children, invoked for protection against storms and rain, and is also associated with students, books, and reading and, guiding souls in spiritual formation.

Amid modern distractions, and something we can learn from St Scholastica is to prioritize God over schedules, like her storm-summoning plea to stay with her brother talking about spiritual themes instead of being ruled by timetables; to cherish family in faith, bridging monastic enclosure with love, specially in times where we might not have the chance or the will to discuss spiritual issues at home with family members and finally, she teaches us to embrace simplicity, as "poor in spirit" owning heaven's kingdom. The Church gives us the example of this saint to imitate her through daily prayer, family Rosaries, and trusting God amid "storms"—trials, busyness, doubts. Her dove-soul reminds us that heaven awaits the prayerful heart.

*Prayer to St. Scholastica:*

*O God, to show us where innocence leads, you made the soul of your virgin Saint Scholastica soar to heaven like a dove in flight. Grant through her merits and her prayers that we may so live in innocence as to attain joys everlasting. This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen*

*St Scholastica, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 20th Feb 7-8:30pm  
 In the St Joseph's Room  
 This term we will be going through the parts of the Mass, starting with "Liturgy of the Word"

#### SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 13th February  
 7:00-8:30pm  
 In the St Joseph's Room  
 This Friday we will be discussing the Third Crusade.

#### 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](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au).

## ROSTERS 14-15 FEBRUARY 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Ministry</b>					
<b>Lectors</b>	Douglas Carvalho Tony Calabria Felicity Carvalho	Dan Mathias Paul D'Cruz Joyan Fife	Mila Mina John Fernando Hubert Jenneke	Michael Abrahams Edwin Zambrano Raymond Pak	John Zdrilic Brandon Leyba Michelle Kim
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Lucille Wilson Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Dess Gutierrez Olivia Eberhaut Catherine Wibisono
<b>Bookshop</b>	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>1st Collection</b>	<b>2nd Collection</b>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>Church Linen</b>
Lucy Achermann	Mon 16th Feb Jocelyn and Maxime Juste	John Giorgiutti Mila Mina Claire and Joe Lagunzad	Stefanie Chehade Laura Burton	Bernadette Logue Marjorie Anderson Robyn Morgan Sa Bunsoem	Jane Ng



### 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.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY-9am MASS

Our Children's Liturgy program returns for 2026, this Sunday 8th February at the 9am Mass. Children are split into younger (kindy-yr2) and older (yr3-6) groups, where we read through the Gospel, and discuss the message in a child-accessible way. We spend time completing worksheets with puzzles, pictures and stories about the Gospel. All welcome. For more info please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)



### 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 & discuss the structure & purpose of the Spiritual Reading Book Club. All Welcome. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or [sdvassallo@bigpond.com](mailto:sdvassallo@bigpond.com)



### COMPASSIO LENTEN PROGRAM

Fr Menard will be running the Wollongong Diocese COMPASSIO Lenten program on Thursday nights during lent at 7pm in the Marian Centre, starting Thursday 19th February. Books are available for purchase for \$10 each through the parish office or on the night. Cash only.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be celebrated on Friday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm in the Church. Reconciliation will be available during this time.



### PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Please take home a Project Compassion box to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **unite against poverty**. Donations can be made online at <https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au>



### ROSTERS FOR 2026

New 2026 rosters for lectors, extraordinary ministers of communion, flowers, 1st collection counters (Monday), and cooking for the needy ministries, have been emailed to each member recently. If you have not received your new roster, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au).



### DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: 11 FEBRUARY

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals.



### ST BERNADETTE'S FOOTBALL CLUB

Registrations are now open for the 2026 season with St Bernadette's Football Club. Players from Kindy (under 6) to Year 6 (under 12) are most welcome and all talent levels are catered for. Games are played on Saturday morning for Boys and Mixed, with Girls on Sunday. Season commences just prior to Easter. For more information contact [Registrar@sbfc.org.au](mailto:Registrar@sbfc.org.au) More information, and key links are available on [www.sbfc.org.au](http://www.sbfc.org.au)

### ST BERNADETTE'S NETBALL CLUB

Registrations for St Bernadette's Netball Club 2026 netball season are open. The club is welcoming boys and girls aged 7-12, girls and women aged 13+ and all abilities players. All new and returning players welcome! Register via [www.playhq.com](http://www.playhq.com). Any queries please contact Michael Lincoln at [sbncsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sbncsecretary@gmail.com)



We are also looking for local businesses or individuals to partner with us as sponsors for the upcoming 2026 Netball season. If you would like to be involved please contact Michael Lincoln at [sbncsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sbncsecretary@gmail.com) for more information and sponsorship options.

### FAITHLIFE SCRIPTURE SHORT COURSE

FaithLIFE Scripture offers a 3-session Catholic Bible study and faith formation short course on how to engage with the Bible through the Catholic tradition during turbulent times. The program will run on Tuesday 10, 17 and 24 February from 7pm to 9pm at OLQP Parish, Greystanes. To register, visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/faithlife-scripture-session-1/>

## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

February	This Week
Tues 10th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Wed 11th	Wednesday morning bible study Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 12th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 13th	Senior Youth: Third Crusade
Sat 14th	Spiritual Reading Book Club 9am
Sun 15th	Young Adults: Anne Younis
February	This Month
Wed 18th Feb	Ash Wednesday
Thurs 19th Feb	Lenten Program with Fr Menard 7pm
Fri 20th Feb	Junior Youth: Liturgy of the Word Stations of the Cross
Thurs 26th Feb	Coffee and Chat

## Today's Readings

### Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

### First Reading Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

### Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.

### Communion Antiphon:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

### Readings Next Weekend

14-15 February 2026

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

#### First Reading

Sir 15:15-20

#### Second reading

1 Cor 2:6-10

#### Gospel

Mt 5:17-37

### Feast Days This Week

10 Feb

Saint Scholastica

11 Feb

Our Lady of Lourdes

14 Feb

Saints Cyril and Methodius



### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently deceased: Didier Chan Sui Ko, Leelamma Thomas, Ernie Aaron, Tony Olivia, Nestor Briones, Felipe Criso Ferriera  
Anniversaries: Antonio De Leon, Felipe Parungao, Faith Papa

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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