



THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY CASTLE HILL

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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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 MARCH 2026 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Hello everyone!

Just to continue with some reflections around this holy season of Lent, I would like to share with you something about the beautiful hymn that we chant during our recitation of the Stations of the Cross. A hymn that helps us reflect on the sorrow and compassion of Our Lady during the Passion of Jesus. It is usually known by its Latin name *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* or simply as the *Stabat Mater*.

The *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*, is a profound medieval sequence hymn, vividly portrays the Virgin Mary's anguish at the foot of the Cross, drawing from John 19:25-27. Experts tell us that the hymn was composed in the 13th century and it entered the Roman liturgy in the 18th century and has inspired countless musical settings, embodying Catholic devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows and inviting us to unite their sufferings with Christ's Passion.

The hymn opens with the evocative lines: *Stabat Mater dolorosa / Juxta crucem lacrimosa / Dum penebat Filius*, (At the Cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother weeping, Close to Jesus to the last) depicting Mary standing tearfully beside her crucified Son. Note that the first line of the Hymn is where the hymn takes its name. The authorship of the hymn remains debated, with probable attributions to Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) or the Franciscan Jacopone da Todi (d. 1306). Benedict XIV and others favored Innocent, while modern scholars lean toward Jacopone, noting its Franciscan origins. By the late 14th century, it was widely known across Europe, sung by Flagellants in Genoa (1388) and the "Bianchi" processions in Provence (1399).

Though popular in 15th-century European Missals, the *Stabat Mater* was not in the Roman Breviary until 1727, when Pope Benedict XIII extended the Feast of the Seven Dolors (Friday after Passion Sunday) universally, adding it as the sequence. Divided into three parts—*Stabat Mater dolorosa* at Vespers, *Sancta Mater, istud agas* at Matins, and *Virgo virginum praeclara* at Lauds—it complements the September feast's hymns the modern day of the Feast of Our Lady of Dolors. The 1570 Missal retained only four sequences, but *Stabat Mater* joined them later as the fifth Marian sequence, sung fully or abbreviated from stanza 11. In more recent times, Popes like John Paul II mentioned the hymn in addresses, linking Mary's pierced soul (Lk 2:35) to contemporary crosses.

The hymn meditates on Mary's co-suffering, fulfilling Simeon's prophecy: a sword pierces her soul as she witnesses her Son's torment for humanity's sins. St. Alphonsus Liguori reflects: "A mother condemned to watch her innocent son die in torture," emphasizing unparalleled maternal martyrdom. The hymn calls the faithful to compassion: *Quis est homo qui non fleret / Matrem Christi si videret / In tanto supplicio?* (Who is the man who would not weep seeing Christ's Mother in such agony?). Christ entrusts her as Mother to all: Behold, your Mother, echoing John 19:27. This fosters devotion to the Sorrowful Mother, who embraces every human cross, and therefore it is the traditional hymn that accompanies the recitation of the Stations of the Cross.

What most people do not know, is that this Hymn *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* has another parallel hymn known as the *Stabat Mater Speciosa* a hymn that sings the joys of Mary at the Nativity of Christ. This hymn meditates on the Blessed Virgin standing radiant beside the manger, celebrating Bethlehem's tenderness in contrast to the Cross's anguish. But that might be another story for another parish article in another time.

In sum, the *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* endures as a cornerstone of Marian piety, blending history, liturgy, and art to draw souls into the mystery of redemption. Through Mary's tears, it reveals hope amid sorrow, urging us: *Eia, Mater, fons amoris / Me sentire vim doloris / Fac, ut tecum lugeam* (Grant me to share your sorrow). Its importance lies in transforming personal trials into participation in salvation.

Hopefully you can join us at the recitation of the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent to meditate with Mary, the sorrows of the Passion of her Son.



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.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

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 March 7-8:30pm
In the St Joseph's Room
The Triduum Masses will be 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 14-15 MARCH 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Sean Eberhaut Bob Myers Colleen Leong	Scott Koslow Lisa Biasucci Sue Pinkerton	Steve Vassallo Catherine Whitelock Ann O'Brien	Sylvia Rego Vince del Gallego John Eberhaut	John Zdrilic Brandon Leyba Michelle Kim
Communion Ministers	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Monica Rodrigues Campion Fernando	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Dess Guttierres Olivia Eberhaut Catherine Wibisono
Bookshop	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
N/A	Mon 16th Mar Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon	David Tye Cosimo Miccoli Chris Clancy	Laura Burton Jenny Blacklock	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Doug Desouza Anna Schweda Karen D'Souza Neil Fonseca	Mandy Leong



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

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.



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. Every Wednesday during the school term. For more information please contact Jill on 0437 307 832



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



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST 21ST MARCH

The Sisters of St Joseph, Baulkham Hills warmly invite all women to a special community breakfast celebrating the Feast of St Joseph and honouring the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph, on Saturday 21 March 8am at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, 33 Barina Downs Rd. Cost: \$20 each (breakfast included). Register at <http://tinyurl.com/4pcjv9ef>

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.

ST GABRIEL'S

St Gabriel's School catering for children with mild to moderate disabilities,

St Gabriel's school's next Open Day is 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>



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

March	This Week
Tues 10th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	First Communion Parent Info Night
	Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 11th	Wednesday morning bible study
	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 12th	Lenten Program with Fr Menard 7pm
	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 13th	Senior Youth: Superstitions
	Stations of the Cross
Sat 14th	Spiritual Reading Book Club 9am
Sun 15th	Young Adults: Who is Christ?

March	This Month
Fri 20th March	Junior Youth: Triduum Masses
Sun 22nd March	Fundraiser BBQ: Football Club
Thurs 26th March	Coffee and Chat

Readings Next Weekend

14-15 March 2026

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13	Eph 5:8-14	Jn 9:1-41

Feast Days This Week

9 March

Saint Frances of Rome

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you

get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Christine Everingham, Erlinda Santos

Anniversaries: Lorenza Dalli, Angela Mercieca, Salvacion Gregorio, Jey Thirukumar, Lorenzo Alarcon, Tomas Ribeiro, Mateus Ribeiro, Bernadete Ribeiro, Eneria Cruz

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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