



# THE MASSABIELLE

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

## ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Castle Hill NSW 2154

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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

11-12 APRIL 2026 *DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY YEAR A*

Hello Everybody!

Happy Easter to all of you, may the Peace of the Risen Christ come to you in this especial time of happiness!

A few years ago I used a very famous icon to explain the mystery of the trinity. In my spiritual life I find icons to be a very inspiring source for my meditation and prayer. On this occasion I would like to invite you to meditate on the Icon of the Resurrection of Christ. There are different versions of it, but they all have the same basic characteristics that can improve our meditation and pray in this time of Easter.

The *Icon for the Resurrection* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is technically the *Icon of Christ's Descent into Hades* but is commonly called the *Anastasis* or *Resurrection Icon*. The *Icon* is not a photograph taken at the time of the resurrection of the Lord but rather a spiritual representation of the significance, reality and importance of what Christ accomplished. Many of the elements that we see come from the apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus and although the details vary from icon to icon, the essential elements remain the same: We read from *The Acts of Pilate*, from the text of Nicodemus "*The bronze gates were broken in pieces and the bars of iron were snapped; and all the dead who were bound were loosed from their chains, and we with them. And the King of Glory entered like a man, and all the dark places of Hades were illumined...*" Christ is shown standing on the gates of Hades which are suspended over a black hole in the form of a cross. Hades is depicted as a person, conquered, and bound.

- In this icon sometimes Satan is depicted with two heads to show his multiplicity and lack of integration or personhood. The hardware that held the gates in place is shattered and scattered, showing that the gates will never be closed again.
- Christ is dressed in a garment of white, orange or sometimes even dark hews of blue, or brown, but with gold highlights emanating light from His transfigured body, showing that He is the Light of the world. Sometimes His cape flies to show that He is not ascending, going up, but descending into Hades, and having resurrected He is shown in His glory. This is signified by the blue Mandorla behind Him, which we also see in the Transfiguration and in the icon of the *Koimoseis* or *Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary*.
- Jesus is raising Adam from his tomb with Eve on the other side. Adam offers his hand to Christ rather than clasping Christ's hand to show that it is Christ who raises us from the dead. With His other hand, Christ raises Eve from her tomb, or He may be depicted holding a scroll in His hand, to proclaim the Good News to the captives. Sometimes He is shown holding a cross in His hand, the tool by which He broke apart the gates of Hell.
- Christ's hands and feet show the marks of the nails. Sometimes angels are shown above the mandorla, holding the tools of salvation: the cross, the lance and the sponge.
- There are many figures surrounding Christ. On the left side in this icon, we have the kings David and Solomon who are Christ's relatives, according to the flesh; St. John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament Prophets is also present, proclaiming in Hades as he did in this world "*Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.*" Some say that John died before Christ so that he could be the "Forerunner" even in Hades; Moses is also shown, wearing a Phrygian cap, he represents the first covenant and one who witnessed the first Passover; and Abel, the first to suffer injustice as the consequences of sin; In the background are various kings, prophets, and righteous men who immediately recognize the Risen One. Some Icons only show a few kings from the Old Testament and a few saints.
- On the right side we have the contemporaries of Christ showing us that this is an eternal act that transcends time and space.

You can have a look of this Icon on the front page of the Parish bulletin last week. You can search the icon online, you just need to google "Icon of the Resurrection" and different versions of the same icon will appear.

Once again I wish you all a very happy Easter!



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](mailto: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](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) SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Both groups are now on break for the Easter Holidays. Keep an eye out for Term 2 details coming soon!

### 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 19TH APRIL

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 19th April 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall. Guest speaker Denis Setiyo will be sharing on "living against the grain" Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au)



### RELAY FOR LIFE

The St Bernadette's Young Adults are participating in the 2026 Relay For Life to raise funds for Cancer Council Australia. To join our group please speak to Therese or email [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au)

## ROSTERS 18-19 April 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Ministry</b>					
<b>Lectors</b>	Judith Donoghue John Geoghegan Lourdes Nathan	Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza	Jerard Heffernan Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando	Sylvia Rego Vince del Gallego John Eberhaut	John Zdrilic Michelle Kim
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee +1	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin +1	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Dess Gutierrez Olivia Eberhaut Catherine Wibisono
<b>Bookshop</b>	Maureen Fearnside	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Josie and Seng Yeoh	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>
Regina Jaegel	Mon 20th April Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	John Giorgiutti Claire Lagunzad Joe Lagunzad Mila Mina	N/A	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Cheryl D'Sylva Karen Grace Francesca Cirillo	Jane Ng



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026

Enrolments are now open for First Holy Communion 2026. 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](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au)  
**Registrations close Monday 13th April.**

### CARPARK MAINTENANCE

Thursday 16th April, the main carpark will be closed for maintenance. The school gates will be open, with parking available on the basketball courts.



### ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY 70TH BIRTHDAY

On Friday 24th April, St Bernadette's Primary school will be celebrating their 70th Birthday. Bishop Vincent will be celebrating a special Mass for the school at 9am in the Church. There will not be a regular 9:15am Parish Mass on this day.

### ST BERNADETTE'S SPIRITUAL READING BOOK CLUB

Our next book club meeting is this Saturday the 11th April at 9am in the St Joseph's Room. We are currently reading "Interior Freedom" by Jacques Philippe. All Welcome. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or [sdvassallo@bigpond.com](mailto:sdvassallo@bigpond.com)



### BAPTISM FOR SCHOOL – AGED CHILDREN

For children in the PARISH who have not yet received the sacrament of Baptism. Children must be of primary or early high school age (5-15 years old) and at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic. The sessions will be 13th and 20th June at 11am. Parents and child/children must attend both sessions. Please contact the Parish office at [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au) or on 9634 2622 for more details. Enrolments close Friday 5th June.

### RELAY FOR LIFE

The St Bernadette's Young Adults are participating in the 2026 Hills Relay For Life to raise funds for Cancer Council Australia. To donate, please scan the QR code. To join our group please speak to Therese or email [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au)



### MARIAN STATUE

The statue of Our Lady has been removed from the church for the next few weeks as she receives some well-needed repair and restoration work. You are welcome to visit Our Lady at the Grotto (located near the hall) during this time.

### HOLY WATER BOTTLES AVAILABLE

Holy Water bottles are available next to the Baptismal Font for you to take home for use in personal prayer.



### AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

We will be hosting our annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of Cancer Council Australia on Thursday 28th May at 10am in the Marian Centre. All Welcome.

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

### BISHOP VINCENT PRESENTS 21 APRIL ARCHBISHOP RYAN JIMENEZ

Archbishop Ryan Jimenez, Archbishop of Agaña in Guam and President of the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific is the first guest speaker for this year's Bishop Vincent Presents series. Join us at 6pm on Tuesday 21 April in Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, for an evening with Archbishop Jimenez as he reflects on the theme "An Immigrant Bishop for an Immigrant Church." To register, please visit [parracatholic.org/jimenez](http://parracatholic.org/jimenez)

### MUSIC WORKSHOP 5 MAY

Musicians throughout the Parramatta Diocese and beyond are invited to attend this workshop led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella. On Tuesday 5 May at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, the workshop will outline suggested hymns and explore music new and old for the many Solemnities and Feasts that occur in the period of Eastertide. Please RSVP by 1 May. For RSVP's or enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

### ROSARY WORKSHOPS IN MAY

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The evening will be held on the following days: Tuesday 5 May at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm. Wednesday 20th May at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm. Cost: \$5 each – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please contact Lucy at [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

April	This Week
Mon 13th	Communion registrations close
Tues 14th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 15th	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 16th	Carpark Closed: Courts available
	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Sun 19th April	Young Adults: Denis Setiyo
April	This Month
Thurs 23rd	Coffee and Chat
Fri 24th	School 70th Birthday <b>9am Mass</b>
Sat 25th	ANZAC Day
Sun 26th	Fundraiser BBQ: Netball club
Mon 27th	ANZAC Public Holiday 8am Mass only

## Today's Readings

### Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

### First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

### Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

### Communion Antiphon:

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

### Readings Next Weekend

18-19 April 2026

Third Sunday of Easter Year A

#### First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-33

#### Second reading

1 Pet 1:17-21

#### Gospel

Lk 24:12-35

### Feast Days This Week

13 April Saint Martin I

You believe because  
you can see me.  
Happy are those  
who have not seen  
and yet believe.



John 10:29

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Kevin Elich, Chin Seong Chan

Anniversaries: Wilma Collignon, Perla Cuevas

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles, Tien Phung