



THE MASSABIELLE

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

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

367 Old Northern Road
Castle Hill NSW 2154

Ph: (02) 9634 2622

e: admin@stbernadette.org.au

w: www.stbernadette.org.au

Facebook: /Castlehillparish

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 24th April

6:45am

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

18-19 APRIL 2026 *THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A*

Hello Everyone!

As we continue with the beautiful and holy season of Easter, I would like to share with you something about one of the Church's most eloquent symbols: The Easter Candle (also called the Paschal Candle). As you know, the Paschal Candle, is lit first from a "new fire" at the Easter Vigil and carried into a still-dark church, it becomes a visible sign of the theology of the Paschal Mystery: Christ's death and resurrection, communicated to the faithful through baptism and culminating in the Church's mission to bear the light of Christ to the world.

The Easter Candle is deeply rooted in the early Church's celebration of Easter night. The Catholic Encyclopedia notes that the practice must be traced to the Easter Eve in the early centuries, when believers gathered for a vigil that culminated in baptisms and the blessing of the font. This illumination was not merely aesthetic: the early Church spoke of baptism as photismos, "illumination," linking baptism to the resurrection of Christ. You might remember that on the 3rd Sunday of Lent this year, I spoke of the woman at the well that some cultures venerate as St Photina, (the luminous one).



Over time, the candle became standardized in the Church's liturgy. By at least the 7th century, sources describe the blessing of the candle during Holy Saturday, involving incense, the newly blessed fire, and a distinctive place in the sanctuary from Easter Saturday through the Easter season. Medieval and later developments also enlarged the candle's ceremonial visibility, sometimes dramatically, showing how strongly the sign was cherished in worship.

The modern Roman rites make these elements explicit: after the new fire is blessed, the paschal candle is brought in procession, and the priest (or deacon) marks the candle with the cross, Greek letters Alpha and Omega, and the numerals of the current year while proclaiming Christ's relationship to all time and history.

The candle's symbolism is deliberately multi-layered:

There is obviously the main symbol of the candle as Christ as the true light. The Catholic Encyclopedia teaches that the paschal candle "typified Jesus Christ, 'the true light'," surrounded by newly baptized disciples holding smaller lights.

Then, it is the idea of a "light that lives from sacrifice." Pope Benedict XVI emphasizes that the candle shines precisely because it is burning up—it gives light by giving itself—so the candle visually embodies Christ, who gives himself and thus bestows the great light.

One more is the symbol of the candle and the meaning of fire. The same reflection stresses that the flame is not only brightness but fire's transforming power, recalling Christ "burning up evil" and reshaping the world and the person.

Also present is the idea of the Cross, wounds, and divinity/humanity (traditional symbolism). A classic explanation found in the Catholic Encyclopedia interprets the candle's five grains of incense, set cross-wise, as a reminder of the sacred wounds retained in Christ's glorified body; and it relates the wick and flame to Christ's humanity and divinity.

Continued next week

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 1st May 7:00-8:30pm
 In the hall. Easter Social Night

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 24th April 7:00-8:30pm
 in the hall. Social Night

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



RELAY FOR LIFE 16-17 MAY

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

ROSTERS 25-26 April 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Kris Murgatroyd Les Blanch Rod Burridge	Scott Koslow Lisa Biasucci Sue Pinkerton	Steve Vassallo Catherine Whitelock Ann O'Brien	Michael Abrahams Edwin Zambrano Raymond Pak	Timothy Leong Anabel Formosa Jane Lapidario
Communion Ministers	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Monica Rodrigues Campion Fernando	Angela Stenglin Christine Jenneke Hubert Jenneke Rosalie Sampath Celeste McLean	Lydia Flores Paul Irwin Florina Vanderwaals Mary Winslow Jeyaraj Winslow	Mandy Leong Don de Leon Puspa Winendiah
Bookshop	Elaine Small	Eugenia Fidel	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Sandra Fernando	Tues 28th April Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon	Joe Harney Michelle Monteiro *****	Jody Masina Joanna Carmada	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Doug Desouza Anna Schweda Karen D'Souza Neil Fonseca	Risa Sidik

Congratulations



Congratulations to Peter and Judith Hough who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this week. May God continue to bless them and their family.



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY 70TH BIRTHDAY

On Friday 24th April, There **WILL NOT** be a regular 9:15am Parish Mass. St Bernadette's Primary School will be celebrating their 70th Birthday. Bishop Vincent will be celebrating a special Mass for the school at 9:30am in the Church.

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 or on 9634 2622 for more details. Enrolments close Friday 5th June.



COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

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

RELAY FOR LIFE 16-17 MAY

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



PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

St Bernadette's Netball Club are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses next Sunday. Bacon & Egg Rolls \$5 each. Cash and EFTPOS available.

MARCH FOR CHANGE FRIDAY 1ST MAY

The March for Change is a chance for everyone in the community to speak out against and learn more about domestic and family violence in the Hills and beyond. Beginning at 7am at Castle Towers purple carpark, and marching to Castle Hill RSL and Bowling club. For more information scan the QR code.



MOTHERS' DAY FLOWERS FUNDRAISER

Our youth will be holding their annual Mothers' Day flower stall on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May. A range of bouquets, single stems and boxed arrangements will be for sale, along with a variety of chocolate bouquets. Prices range from \$5-\$50. Cash and EFTPOS available.

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

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 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 at 7pm on Tuesday 5 May and Wednesday 20th May at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, Cost: \$5pp (includes materials). To register and for more information, please contact Lucy at ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

April	This Week
Tues 21st	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 22nd	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 23rd	Coffee and Chat
	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 24th	School 70th Birthday 9:30am Mass
	Senior Youth: Social Night
Sat 25th	ANZAC Day
Sun 26th	Fundraiser BBQ: Netball club
May	Next Month
Mon 27th April	ANZAC Public Holiday 8am Mass only
Fri 1st May	First Friday anointing Mass & Adoration
	Junior Youth: Social Night
Sat 9th May	Mothers' Day flower stall
Sun 10th May	
Sun 17th May	Young Adults
Sun 24th May	Fundraiser BBQ:
	Pentecost Sunday
Thurs 28th May	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
Fri 29th May	Liturgy of Life
Sat 30th May	Trivia Night: Refugee group fundraiser

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Communion Antiphon:

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Readings Next Weekend

25-26 April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Acts 2:14, 36-41	1 Pet 2:20-25	Jn 10:1-10

Feast Days This Week

21 April	Saint Anselm
23 April	Saint George Saint Adalbert
24 April	Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Senen Yango

Anniversaries: C.C Varghese, Kunjamma Francis

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles, Jay O'Sullivan