



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

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Assistant Priest

Fr Menard Gaspi

Pastoral Associate

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pa@stbernadette.org.au

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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

16-17 MAY 2026 *THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A*

Hello everyone!

This week, I would like to continue with some simple explanations about the small liturgical gestures we see during Mass. Hopefully I can continue with these simple articles as a way to help our candidates who are getting ready to receive the Sacrament of their First Holy Communion in a few weeks and to support their parents as they continue to reflect together on the importance of this most beautiful gift of the Eucharist.

Before I do that, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your welcome and your kindness towards my mother and my sister during their stay with us. They truly enjoyed the time in Australia and came to experience how my life is here in the Parish and in the Diocese. We were truly blessed with the beautiful Australian weather during the last few weeks and now we have more memories to help us to keep going.

This week, I would like to draw your attention to the simple but significant gesture of the priest's handwashing before the Consecration, called Lavabo, and the hand purification connected with Communion. They both carry a long history and a rich theology. They express the Church's reverence for the Eucharist, the moral purity required for approaching holy things, and the practical need for cleanliness when sacred vessels and precious elements are handled.

From the beginning of Christian liturgy, ministers handled offerings that could be physically messy—bread, wine, and vessels brought forward by the faithful. In that context, washing hands first made straightforward practical sense. The Catholic Encyclopedia notes that the custom of washing the hands before Mass “appears to go back to the early days of Christianity,” and that it is “expressly mentioned” in the sacramentaries of the ninth and tenth centuries.

In the Roman tradition, the Lavabo became structured around Psalm 25, especially verse 18. The same source describes that the “present rule” for the Roman rite places the washing after the Offertory (after incensing, with the priest remaining at the Epistle side while acolytes wash and dry his fingers), and that this washing is tied to the psalm verses recited in the rite.

Over time, liturgy also developed in other Christian rites. The Catholic Encyclopedia explains that the principle of washing hands before offering the liturgy occurs in “all rites”: initially it was “an obvious practical precaution of cleanness,” but it was “then interpreted also symbolically.”

The theological interpretation is especially clear in the ancient catechetical tradition. Cyril of Jerusalem says the deacon gives the priest water not because bodily defilement is assumed, but because the washing signifies that the worshipper must be “pure from all sinful and unlawful deeds.” Since “hands are a symbol of action,” washing them represents “the purity and blamelessness of our conduct.”

Continued next week



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

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

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]

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It ensures that children, young people, and vulnerable adults are safe, respected, and protected in our parish community. All volunteers and ministry members are required to complete safeguarding training. For more information, please visit the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding website: <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/>
Thank you for helping keep our parish a safe and welcoming place.

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 29th May
7:00-8:30pm in the hall.
Beatitudes

SENIOR YOUTH (years 8-12)

Friday 22nd May 7:00-8:30pm
in the St Joseph's Room. Guest
Speaker Christian Salem will be
speaking on Eastern Catholicism

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 17TH MAY

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 17th May 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall. Jefferson Kim will be speaking on Angelology Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting ym@stbernadette.org.au



ROSTERS 23-24 May 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Mitch Dielwart Garry Tierney Stacey Leong	Wayne Vergano Jackie Willard Margaret Ash	Neil Fonseca Danielle Vassallo	Sylvia Rego Vince del Gallego Venetia Lee	Timothy Leong Anabel Formosa Jane Lapidario
Communion Ministers	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Julian Bong Sherryl Rozario David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	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	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Lucy Achermann	Mon 25th May Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Karl Procter Martin Collins Joe Morgan	Lolita Suyko Julie James	Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Claire Lagunzad

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE

The National Count of Attendance for 2026 will take place over four weekends of May. This important initiative provides valuable data to support pastoral planning and resource allocation across our Diocese and the wider Church.

MOTHERS' DAY FLOWERS FUNDRAISER

Thank you for everyone involved in the Mother's Day flower stall. The Youth and Young Adults raised just under \$3000 which will be used to fund the youth and young adults activities and food budget for the year. Thank you for your generosity, and we hope you enjoyed a lovely Mother's Day.

PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

Vinnies are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses next Sunday 24th May. Bacon & Egg Rolls \$5 each. Cash and EFTPOS available.



BAPTISM FOR SCHOOL – AGED CHILDREN

For children age (5-15 years old) in the PARISH who have not yet received the sacrament of Baptism. 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 on 9634 2622 or admin@sternadette.org.au for more details. Enrolments close Friday 5th June.

RELAY FOR LIFE 16-17 MAY

Fr Menard and 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



REFUGEE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us for a Charity Trivia Night on Saturday 30th May at 6:30pm in the hall, supporting a refugee family arriving in June. Tickets are \$25 per person, with tables of 8-10 people. Pre-order charcuterie boxes are available, with desserts sold on the night and tea and coffee provided. Scan the QR code to register your table and find out more.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE LITURGY

Please join us in the Church Friday 29th May 7.30pm to celebrate and remember those we love who have died. Please feel free to bring a photo of your loved ones to display during the liturgy. A light supper will follow in the Marian Centre. All welcome to attend.



MINISTRY OF CARE COURSES: 3-24 JUNE

Those involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday in June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795. Enrolments close Monday 18th August, 2026

Supporting Faith in Action
across Western Sydney
and the Blue Mountains

Scan to help them
answer God's call
parracatholic.org/appeal

DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Australia's
Biggest
morning tea

Scan to donate

Thurs 28th May
after 9:15am mass
in the Marian Centre

Donations at the door.
Please bring a plate of finger food to share.
\$5 donations to join in games
Prizes to be won!

Upcoming Events	
Please see notices for further details.	
May	This Week
Tues 19th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 20th	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 21st	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm-silent reflection
Fri 22nd	Senior Youth: Eastern Catholicism
Sun 24th May	Fundraiser BBQ: Vinnies
May	This Month
Thurs 28th May	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
Fri 29th May	Junior youth: Beatitudes Liturgy of Life
Sat 30th May	Trivia Night: Refugee group fundraiser

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Communion Antiphon:

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

All authority in heaven and on earth has
been given to me. Go, therefore, make
disciples of all the nations.

Matthew 28:18-20



Readings Next Weekend

23-24 May 2026

Pentecost Sunday

First Reading

Second reading

Gospel

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Jn 20:19-23

Feast Days This Week

18 May Saint John I

20 May Saint Bernadine of Siena

21 May Saints Christopher Magallenes and companions

22 May Saint Rita of Cascia

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Leoyano E.P Amirthanayagam, Lorraine De Souza

Anniversaries: Greg Daniells, Kaylene Hollis, Trevor Wilfred Simcock, C.C Jose, Rohan Abhayaratna, June Macky, Philomena Bowen, Kathleen Bowen, Cathleen Bowen, Norma Heffernan, Severo Yu, Joseph Lai, Maria Emma Buenaño

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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