



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, 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

2-3 MAY 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

Hello Everyone,

With the Season of Easter well advanced by now, I have been thinking about some themes for my weekly article. For the next few weeks, I would like to write about some liturgical aspects with the hope that we can review our faith all together and learn the sometimes, hidden symbols and lessons that any particular action would give us.

This week, I would like to stop and reflect together on the liturgical action of the kissing of the Altar that the priests do during the celebration of the Eucharist.

In the Mass, many gestures pass quickly in our vision. Yet the priest's kiss of the altar is one of those "small" actions that carries a weighty theological message. This simple action, reflects and shows that the altar is not a piece of furniture for ceremonial beauty, but the sacred place where the Church offers worship to God. The Church's liturgical books like the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) or the notes on the Roman Missal, explicitly describe the kiss as an act of veneration and they even note that this way of showing reverence belongs to traditional practice.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal places the kiss within the logic of liturgical reverence. When the ministers reach the sanctuary, the priest and deacon reverence the altar with a profound bow, or a genuflection if the Tabernacle is in the same area as the sanctuary, and then "as an expression of veneration" they kiss the altar itself. (GIRM 49)

The liturgical norm also speaks to continuity, that means, it notes that, "according to traditional practice," both the altar and the Book of the Gospels are venerated by means of a kiss. This is not presented as a novelty or a localized custom, but as a longstanding way the Church marks sacred realities with bodily honour.

At the same time, the Church gives space to adapt the liturgical sign to different cultures. If a kiss is not in harmony with the traditions or culture of a region, the Conference of Bishops, with the consent of the Apostolic See, can establish another sign of reverence. That adaptability confirms the deeper point: what matters is not the mouth-contact itself, but the act's meaning as reverence for what is holy.

As I mentioned before, the kiss is framed as veneration. The Missal does not describe it as a personal preference or private devotion; it is a commanded liturgical gesture with a defined purpose.

In other words, the priest's kiss expresses a theology of the altar as belonging to worship. The priest "goes up to the altar" and venerates it with a kiss, and then, depending on circumstances, may incense the cross and the altar. The altar is in this way linked with reverent actions that acknowledge God's holiness and the sacred character of the Eucharistic offering.

This also helps explain why the gesture appears at key moments in the liturgical celebration, at the beginning, when approaching to celebrate, and again at the end, before leaving. The Missal repeats that "as a rule" the priest venerates the altar with a kiss both at the conclusion of Mass and at the beginning. The altar is not treated as temporary "stage equipment"; it is honored as a place of divine action.

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 15th May
7:00-8:30pm in the hall.
10 Commandments in the world

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 8th May 7:00-8:30pm
in the St Joseph's Room.
The Model of Surrender (St Joseph)

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 9-10 May 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Caroline Dumapit Malisa Barsic John Abernethy	Dan Mathias Paul D'Cruz Joyan Fife	Geoffrey Kemmis Jennifer Piyush Amber McLean	Joanne Dobry Carolyn Curro Malena del Gallego	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton Nathan Colaco
Communion Ministers	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee +1	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Anabel Formosa Brennie Hassan Jane Lapidario
Bookshop	Kathleen Abernethy	Eugenia Fidel	Margaret Stedman	Coney Lau	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Anna-Maria Fitzpatrick	Mon 11th May Conni and Garry Tierney	Campion Fernando Gary Moeller Emelie De Leon	Sandra Emmet Nina Irwin	Marjorie Anderson Robyn Morgan Sa Bunsoem Laurie Burrige	Melia Shammass

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE

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



CATECHISTS WANTED

We are looking for volunteers who are available to take a half-hour lesson on a Wednesday at one of our local public schools. All our teachers are provided with the training and support required, as well as the lesson plans and resources used in the classroom. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or admin@stbernadette.org.au

MOTHERS' DAY FLOWERS FUNDRAISER



Our youth will be holding their annual Mothers' Day flower stall next weekend, while stocks last. 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.



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@stbernadette.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.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning bible study group meet every Wednesday during the school term at 10am in the Marian Centre. Next week they will be commencing a new program **TRUE REFORMERS - Saints of the Catholic Reformation** 6 sessions bible study. For further information please contact Jill Hohnen 0437307832.

MARIAN STATUE RESTORATIONS

As you would be aware, the Marian Statue in the church has had some desperately needed restoration works done over the past few weeks. The beautifully restored statue has now been returned to the church. **We do ask that you refrain from touching the statues in the church, they are quite delicate and are easily damaged.**



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

May	This Week
Tues 5th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 6th	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 7th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 8th	Senior Youth: The Model of Surrender
Sat 9th May	Mothers' Day flower stall
Sun 10th May	
May	This Month
Fri 15th May	Junior Youth: 10 Commandments
Sun 17th May	Young Adults: Angelology
Sun 24th May	Fundraiser BBQ: Vinnies 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

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Communion Antiphon:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Readings Next Weekend

9-10 May 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading

Second reading

Gospel

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Pet 3:15-18

Jn 14:15-21



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Alex C Mundackal, Julita Siazon Braganza, James Valentine

Anniversaries: P E Thomas, George Ngu, Anothipillai Saverimuttu

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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