



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

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pa@stbernadette.org.au

Admin and Office Support

Ms Laura Burton

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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

9-10 MAY 2026 *SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A*

Continued from last week

As we can see, many of us learn about liturgical meaning by watching. The priest's kiss is visible catechesis in body language.

First, it reinforces reverence over familiarity. When the priest reverences the altar with a profound bow and then kisses it "*as an expression of veneration*," he communicates that the sanctuary is not ordinary space. This can correct a purely casual attitude, especially in a time when people often interpret liturgy as something to manage rather than something to receive.

Second, it supports unity of worship. The Missal's rubrics specify that the action belongs not only to the priest but also to the Church's ministerial structure (e.g., deacon and concelebrants also venerate the altar with a kiss). For the congregation, this consistency signals that reverence is shared, not optional—an "assembly" worshipping God together.

Third, it can help the faithful to mentally enter the Mass. When worshipers see a distinct, unhurried gesture of veneration, they are subtly invited to do the same internally: to approach the Eucharist with attention, gratitude, and respect, rather than with distraction or routine.

As we can see, the priest's kiss of the altar is brief, but it is theologically and pastorally intentional. The Church presents it as a traditional sign, rooted in the logic of reverence, where altar and Gospel are honored with a kiss, though adapted elsewhere as needed. It is also an invitation to the faithful to enter into that act of worship and veneration that is necessary in any Liturgical celebration. Therefore, celebrating the Eucharist, the priest's gesture helps the whole community remember that the Mass is not performance; it is worship. It is the time when we come together to offer the perfect worship to God. As you can see, being present when the priest venerates the altar is an important part of what is going to happen next, hopefully you will be there on time to watch this very meaningful part of the Liturgy.



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY

This Wednesday 13th May, Laura and Nancy will be attending a professional development and formation training day with the Parramatta Diocese.

The Parish Office will be closed all day and the church will be closed after the 9:15am Mass.

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 22th May 7:00-8:30pm
in the St Joseph's Room.
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 16-17 May 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Douglas Carvalho Tony Calabria Felicity Carvalho	Ross Pinkerton Graeme Kearns Jacinta Kearns	Dawn Wickramasinghe Ranmalee De Silva Sherryl Rozario	Venetia Lee Hyacinth Jones Leo Stanton	Zohn Zdrilic Michelle Kim
Communion Ministers	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Monica Rodrigues Campion Fernando	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin +1	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Dess Guttierres Olivia Eberhaut Catherine Wibisono
Bookshop	Maureen Fearnside	Catherine Seddon	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Josie and Seng Yeoh	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Darshi Wettasinghe	Mon 18th May Marie Woodward Elaine Small	David Tye Cosimo Miccoli Chris Clancy	Liza Echevarria Natalie Coghlan	Margaret Sinha Francesca Menezes Pancras Robinson Emma Arumai Paula Boyd	Mandy Leong

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.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

For those new to ministries who need to complete safeguarding training Modules 1-3 (first round of training) face-to-face training will be offered at St Michael's Baulkham Hills on Saturday 16th May at 10am. To register for this training, or for details on other face-to-face training dates please visit <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

MOTHERS' DAY FLOWERS FUNDRAISER

Our youth are holding their annual Mothers' Day flower stall this weekend, while stocks last. A range of bouquets, single stems and boxed arrangements are 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.



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.



Happy Mothers' Day
We would like to wish all mothers, grandmothers, and those who play a motherly role in our lives, a Happy Mothers' Day.

Bishop's GOOD WORKS APPEAL
Supporting Faith in Action across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
Scan to help them answer God's call
parracatholic.org/appeal

Upcoming Events	
Please see notices for further details.	
May	This Week
Tues 12th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 13th	Parish Office Closed Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 14th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 15th	Junior Youth: 10 Commandments
Sun 17th May	Young Adults: Angelology
May	This Month
Fri 22nd May	Senior Youth: Eastern Catholicism
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

CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY
This Wednesday 13th May, Laura and Nancy will be attending a professional development and formation training day. The Parish Office will be closed all day and the church will be closed after the 9:15am Mass.

Australia's Biggest morning tea
Thurs 28th May
after 9:15am mass
in the Marian Centre

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Communion Antiphon:

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Readings Next Weekend

16-17 May 2026

The Ascension of the Lord Year A

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Second reading

Eph 1:17-23

Gospel

Mt 28:16-20

Feast Days This Week

12 May

Saint Nereus and Achilleus
Saint Pancras

13 May

Our Lady of Fatima

14 May

Saint Matthias

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Zara Zamora, Frank Dyer

Anniversaries: Joy Mary Tate, Sheriden Barone, Christopher Andrew Gilbert,
Thresiamma Michael, Anthony Theo, Nikson Auwyang

In Remembrance: Archilles and Margherita Forrestieri, Carmela Paretta

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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