



# 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

Fr Fernando Montano

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Fr Menard Gaspi

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Youth Ministry

[ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> July

6:45am, 9:15am, 12noon

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

## 27-28 June 2026 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Hello everyone!

Today in all our Masses, we will be taking the special collection called Peter's Pence. Our annual contribution to the works of charity of Pope Leo. Peter's Pence is a centuries-old collection through which Catholics offer support to the Holy See. What begins as a humble offering in local parishes becomes—through the Pope's charitable ministry—real help for the Church and for people in need.

Long before modern fundraising campaigns, the Church had ways of expressing unity with Rome through regular contributions. In England, for example, Peter's Pence (also known in older sources as *Rom-feoh* or *Rom-pennig*) is mentioned as an institution in the later Anglo-Saxon period. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* notes that a Pope's letter (attributed to Pope Leo III, 795–816) records an agreement connected to King Offa of Mercia, who promised to send 365 *mancesses* yearly to Rome for the maintenance of the poor and lights—a clear link between support for Rome and charity toward the vulnerable.

Over time, what may have begun as special gifts "to St. Peter" gradually took a more settled form: "it seems to have taken the form of a regular tax collected from the people and annually transmitted to Rome." Even then, the meaning remained fundamentally one of close union between England and the Holy See, as we read in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. The same historical tradition also underscores that Peter's Pence was originally a free gift rather than something imposed as a spiritual claim. One article explains that, while it later could be treated politically as a "token of vassalage," in its origin it was "unmistakably a free gift."

Pope John Paul II consistently presented Peter's Pence not merely as money, but as participation in the Pope's mission. He described the collection as "a true and proper participation in the work of evangelization," especially when it shares "in the concerns of the universal Church." He also stressed that the needs are urgent and often unmet elsewhere: the Pope receives requests for aid coming from "peoples, individuals and families in precarious conditions," and he noted that many expect the Apostolic See to provide the support they cannot find "elsewhere."

In another address, Pope John Paul II called Peter's Pence "a concrete sign of solidarity" and highlighted how it forms a "meeting point" between local affection for the Pope and the Pope's effective solidarity toward the needy in Rome and beyond. Even earlier, Pope Leo XIII appealed for courage in hard times, saying that the Church had recourse to Peter's Pence "constantly" because "the injustices of the age compel even Us" to do so.

In the modern papal administration, Peter's Pence remains a distinct stream of income supporting the Holy See's charitable and pastoral work. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* explains that the revenue of the papal treasury is now "chiefly derived from Peter's-pence and other alms contributed by the faithful," and that "the revenue known as Peter's-pence is managed by a special commission." This is also reflected in the Church's administrative structure: the *Catholic Encyclopedia* lists a commission for the administration of Peter's-pence among the Pontifical commissions.

Pope John Paul II makes clear the pastoral purpose behind the collection: Peter's Pence helps respond to the "growing needs of the apostolate," the "requirements of the ecclesial communities," especially in "mission countries," and the requests for aid that come from people in precarious situations.

For a parish, like ours, Peter's Pence is a simple, tangible act of communion: a gift that joins the faithful to the universal ministry of Peter's Successor. The collection is often presented as an annual opportunity for Catholics to help the Pope carry the Church's charitable concern to those most in need.

To reflect the sense of a "free gift" that I mentioned before, a box will be placed at the foyer, and you are invited to contribute freely to the donation. Due to the nature of the appeal, the collection will not be taken electronically. I invite you all to contribute to this particular way of supporting our Holy Father.



Peace in Jesus

*Fr. Fernando Montano*

Collection 2026



**PETER'S PENCE**

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all"

1 Thess. 3:12

## 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](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]

### 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)

Are now on break for the school holidays. Keep an eye out for Term 3 dates coming soon!

#### SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 7:00-8:30pm in the St Joseph's Room. We will be having a Catholic Trivia night

#### YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY (18-35yrs)

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 JULY

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall. We will be holding a trivia night! Come along to join in the fun. Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au)



## ROSTERS 4-5 July 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Ministry</b>					
<b>Lectors</b>	Mitch Dielwart Garry Tierney Stacey Leong	Wayne Vergano Jackie Willard Margaret Ash	Neil Fonseca Danielle Vassallo	Michael Abrahams Edwin Zambrano Raymond Pak	Olivia Eberhaut Radheen Wettasinghe Lisa Giacomelli
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Julian Bong Sheryl Rozario David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam +1	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Remy de Leon Catherine Wibisono +1
<b>Bookshop</b>	Kathleen Abernethy	Eugenia Fidel	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Coney Lau	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>
Maria Gobbo	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> July Christine and Hubert Jenneke	John Loftus Vanessa Xiberras Joseph Colorafi	N/A	Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Belinda Yapp



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

**Congratulations to our 63 children who have or will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

Please join us in praying for the candidates as they prepare for their special day. Please be mindful and patient as their family and friends join us for Mass 27th and 28th June at the 5pm Vigil and 10:30am masses. Please be mindful with movement in and around the carpark.



### CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2026

Families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to attend our information evening being held this Tuesday 30th June at 7.00pm in the Church. This program is suitable for children who are in Year 6 and above, who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation & Eucharist. The evening will last approximately 45 mins and children do not need to attend. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au)



### BIBLE STUDY WITH FR FERNANDO

Fr Fernando will be running his annual study series in July. Looking at the program Jesus: The Way, The Truth and The Life over 5 weeks this year and continuing 5 weeks next year, beginning this Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:00pm in the hall. Books are available from the Parish Office or on the night for \$40 each, cash only



### FIRST FRIDAY MASS: ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND ADORATION

First Friday Mass will take place this Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 12noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from after 6:45am mass until 12noon. All welcome. If you require transport, please contact Maureen Fearnside on 0438461955



### PARISH OUTING SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

Nancy is organising a Parish Outing to Mary MacKillop Place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Leaving the parish at 9am, and returning at 4pm. Cost is \$70pp, includes bus, morning tea, museum tour and lunch. We will also have free time in the gift shop and mass with Fr Menard in the MacKillop Chapel. The bus is now full. Please contact Nancy to place your name on the wait-list.



### VINNIES WINTER APPEAL TOTAL

Thank you to everyone who donated to the vinnies winter appeal. Thanks to your incredible gift of generosity, we raised over \$6,000 to assist those vulnerable in our community who need assistance this winter.



### PETERS PENCE COLLECTIONS

Gold Donation boxes are available at the doors of the church. Thank you for your generous donations.



*Wine Tasting* -ciel- BAROSSA VALLEY WINES

Friday 24th July at 7pm in the hall.

\$30pp, \$50 per couple or \$180 per table of 8.

Charcuterie boxes are available for pre-order \$30 each.

Tickets available via the QR code or at the Parish Office (cash only)

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

### MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN: 14 JULY

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. Tuesday 14 July 2026, 9.30am-2pm Where: St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Register here: [parracatholic.org/events/school-holiday-music-workshop/](http://parracatholic.org/events/school-holiday-music-workshop/)



### 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. This will be on Saturday 29th August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18th August, 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org)

### BE THE WITNESS — THE MUSICAL

Over the past few months, the chorus of Be The Witness has visited parishes across the Diocese, sharing a glimpse of this powerful Catholic musical. Now the full production is coming to Riverside Theatres Parramatta from 10–13 September 2026. Be The Witness brings the story of Jesus to life through the eyes of St Peter, using music, drama and storytelling to create a moving encounter of faith, hope and witness.



*Be The Witness* — THE MUSICAL —  
The story of Jesus, through the eyes of Peter

10–13 September 2026  
**Riverside Theatres Parramatta**

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR GROUP TODAY!

[www.bethewitness.com.au](http://www.bethewitness.com.au)

## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

June/July	This Week
Tues 30th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm Confirmation 2026 Parent Information Night 7:00pm
Wed 1st	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 3rd	First Friday adoration and mass Senior Youth: Holiness
July	Next Month
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Spiritual reading book club 9am
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Young Adults: Trivia Night
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Coffee and Chat
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Fundraiser BBQ: P&F
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Confirmation enrolments close

# Today's Readings

## Entrance Antiphon

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

## First Reading 2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## Second Reading Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. **Alleluia!**

## Gospel Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

## Communion Antiphon:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

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## Readings Next Weekend

4-5 July 2026

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading	Second reading	Gospel
Zech 9:9-10	Rom 8:9, 11-13	Mt 11:25-30

## Feast Days This Week

29 June	Saints Peter and Paul
30 June	The first Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
3 July	Saint Thomas
4 July	Saint Elizabeth of Portugal



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Graeme McGlorne

Anniversaries: Jacob Chiramel, Mary Noffke, Les Noffke, Sarkis Hovsepian, Eugene Ali, Antonio Roco, Hyacinth Samaranayake, Albert San Pedro, Margherita Forestieri, Archilles Forestieri

In Remembrance: the Dias Family, the Wilkins Family

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lukas Ivanic, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles, Duncan Abernethy, Rowena Ferguson, Helen Jacob