



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 7th August

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

1-2 August 2026 *Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A*

Continued from last week

6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

I will never forget you (Is 49:15)

It is a joy, at any age, but especially when we are no longer young, to discover, as John Paul I said, that we are the recipients "of undying love on the part of God. We know: he has always his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother" (Angelus, 10 September 1978). Even if it does not come naturally to think this way, the truth is that even in old age we do not cease to be sons and daughters; therefore, the invitation to return to the arms of God — whose love is both paternal and maternal — remains worthwhile at any age.

For many, the discovery of God's tenderness takes place over the course of their lives, sometimes even in its final stages. Indeed, unlike in the past, it is increasingly common to reach old age without having had a genuine experience of faith. In such cases, old age — beginning with the questions that arise with greater urgency during this season of life — can become the right time to begin or resume a spiritual life. On this new journey, one can recognize that God, as Saint Augustine says, "is a mother because he cherishes, because he nourishes, because he nurses, because he protects" (Commentary on Psalm 27, II, 18). It is an awareness that helps us not to feel ashamed of the fragility that emerges and also to understand that we are always in need of one another and in need of attention and care. To God, who draws near to us and whom we learn to recognize in his tenderness, we can now turn with filial trust in prayer. It is never too late to begin turning to him. It can be a great gift for everyone.

Dear elderly men and women, Pope Francis spoke of you as a "new people" (Catechesis, 23 February 2022), since the number of older adults has never been so large in human history. It is, therefore, more important than ever to reflect with you, this "new people," on what our vocation might be when fragility — the human person's companion from birth — seems to take over. I would like to say to you: do not be afraid of fragility! It is precisely this weakness that holds within itself a new potential that also illuminates the other stages of life. Indeed, when "we acknowledge our fragility, our hearts become open to supporting one another and to invoking the One who can grant what no human power can ensure: the profound reconciliation of hearts and, with it, true peace" (Meeting with the Algerian community, Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, Algiers, 13 April 2026).

This is how we can live out our old age as Christians: "fragile" yet at the same time "called." A man and a woman can, in fact, be born anew in old age (cf. Jn 3:4-6) and exclaim, with the prophet: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength" (Is 30:15). This strength can become an invitation not to resort to the ways of arrogance and power to ensure human coexistence, but to the ways of reconciliation and true peace. In this time, so harshly marked by the violence of war and social unrest, many wonder what the world in which their grandchildren will grow up will be like. I urge you, dear friends, to join me in praying earnestly that peace may soon come to the whole world.

Dear elderly brothers and sisters, I thank you for supporting me every day with your prayers, especially when you recite the Holy Rosary. I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart and leave you with this prayer: may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!



LEO PP. XIV



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION: SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses will be held at **8:00am and 10:00am**



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

BSB067 950

Account No00004265

Account NameDiocesan Clergy

Reference6006 Your name

EFT to the Second Collection – for support of the Parish

BSB067 950

Account No00000032

Account NameCastle Hill Catholic Church

ReferenceSecond Collection (Your Name)

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 14th August 7:00-8:30pm in the hall
Junior Youth will be talking about
Choosing Jesus.

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 7th August 7:00-8:30pm in the St Joseph’s Room. We will be talking about Modern Crusades

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 16th AUGUST

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 16th August 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall. Noel Thomas will be speaking to us about Authenticity of Scripture and the Bible.

Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting ym@stbernadette.org.au

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]

ROSTERS 8-9 August 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	Michael Abrahams Edwin Zambrano Raymond Pak	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton Nathan Colaco
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	Anabel Formosa Brennie Hassan Jane Lapidario
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
Olivia Cheng	Mon 10 th August Marie Woodward Elaine Small	Bill Lee Chris Crowe Eddy Pagnucco	Jody Masina Jenny Blacklock	Margaret Sinha Francesca Menezes Pancras Robinson Emma Arumai Paula Boyd	Remy de Leon



Congratulations

Rick Jenkins will be awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honour for outstanding contributions and service to the Parish community. The annual Diocesan Awards & Vespers of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop will be held on Friday, 7th August at 7pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral.



FIRST FRIDAY MASS: ANointing OF THE SICK AND ADORATION

First Friday Mass will take place this Friday, 7th August 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



ST BERNADETTE'S SPIRITUAL READING BOOK CLUB

Our next book club meeting is Saturday the 8th August at 9am in the St Joseph's Room. We are currently reading chapters 10-18 of "Introduction to the Spiritual Life" by Brant Pitre. All Welcome. For more information please contact Danielle Vassallo on 0421 649 641 or sdvassallo@bigpond.com



BETHLEHEM OLIVEWOOD STALL

15th/16th August there will be handcrafted olivewood religious items for sale. These items are hand crafted in the Holy Land by the Catholic families there. Purchases will help support the Catholic community in the Holy Land and improve their livelihood and support maintaining the Holy sites.



WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 LAUNCH: 12 AUGUST

Come and discover the pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea (26 July – 11 August 2027), themed "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Join us for an inspiring evening to learn about the pilgrimage, hear testimonies from past pilgrims, explore the faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy fellowship with other young people. Date: 12 August 2026. Doors open at 6:30pm. Venue: Nagle College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown Register today at parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/ All welcome

VINNIES DONATION BINS REMOVED

The Vinnies donation bins at the bottom of the driveway have been removed by Vinnies head office due to cost. They will no longer be collecting clothing donations from St Bernadette's. **please do not leave your clothing donations here.** Donations can still be taken to the Vinnies stores. Our closest stores are Unit 5 19 Victoria Ave, CASTLE HILL, 9A/9B Old Northern Rd, BAULKHAM HILLS, or 364 Pennant Hills Rd, PENNANT HILLS.

FUNDRAISER BBQ

Thank you to everyone who supported the P&F fundraiser BBQ last weekend. They raised \$1179 to go towards school activities.



Save the Date
Melbourne Cup Lunch
12pm-3:30pm Tuesday 3rd November
The Heritage House, Kenthurst
\$120 per person +drinks



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Did you know that this year's NAPLAN results for St Bernadette's Primary School are outstanding!!! The teachers and students have been working so hard and the NAPLAN evidence affirms that.

St Bernadette's Castle Hill came **1st** in the Diocese for Year 5 Reading, **1st** in the Diocese for Year 5 Writing, **1st** in the Diocese for Year 5 Mathematics, **2nd** in the Diocese for Year 3 Reading, and **2nd** in the Diocese for Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation. **Congratulations teachers and students!**

OPEN DAYS

We warmly welcome new families to join our school community. We have places available for Kindy 2027 & 2028 and Yrs 1 to 6 in 2027. Register for our upcoming Open Day and School Tours via our website.

<https://info.parra.catholic.edu.au/open-day/stbernadetteschill>

If you require any further information, please contact the school office on 9407 6600.



WINE TASTING SOCIAL NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended the wine tasting social night last Friday 24th July. It was a very successful and enjoyable night. We raised \$1730. A massive thank you to Chef Josh Mason and Ciel Wines for running the event, and for the generous donations they have given us for future prizes.

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

August	This Week
Tues 4 th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 5 th	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 6 th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 7 th	First Friday: healing Mass and Adoration Senior Youth: Modern Crusades 7pm
Sat 8 th	Spiritual reading Book club: 9am

August	This Month
Fri 14 th Aug	Junior Youth: Choosing Jesus
Sat 15 th Aug	Feast of the Assumption
Sat 15 th /Sun 16 th	Bethlehem Olivewood Stall
Sun 16 th Aug	Young Adults: Noel Thomas
Sun 23 rd Aug	Fundraiser BBQ: Care Group
Thurs 27 th Aug	Coffee and Chat

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs

Second Reading Romans 8:35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Communion Antiphon:

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

Readings Next Weekend

8-9 August 2026

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13

Second reading

Rom 9:1-5

Gospel

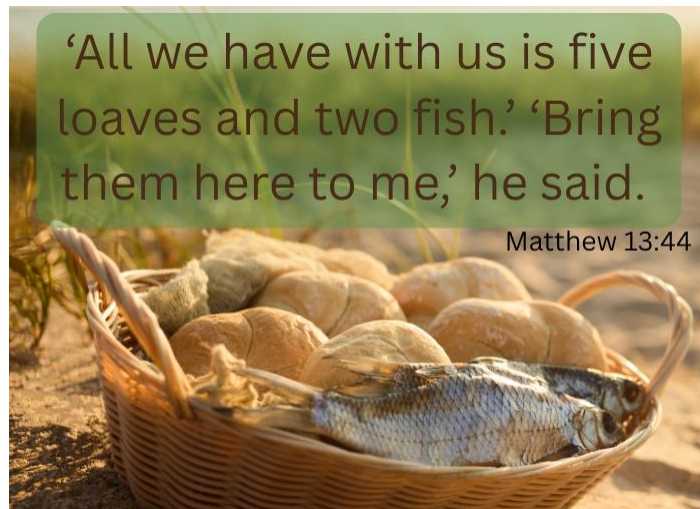
Mt 14:22-33

Feast Days This Week

- 3 Aug Saint Dominic
- 4 Aug Saint John Vianney
- 5 Aug Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major
- 6 Aug The Transfiguration of the Lord
- 7 Aug Saints Sixtus II and companions, Saint Catejan
- 8 Aug Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop

'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said.

Matthew 13:44



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Robert Leung, John Trainor

Anniversaries: Kitty Marren, M P Jacob, Romelia Jacome Desantagio

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Kristine Murgatroyd, Lukas Ivanic, Siena Maria Burns, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles, Rowena Ferguson, Helen Jacob