



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

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

4-5 July 2026 *Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A*

Hello everyone,

After some months, I would like to return to my weekly articles about some of the saints that we celebrate during the week. This week, I would like to share with you the life of St Maria Goretti, whose feast falls on the 6th of July.

St. Maria Goretti



St Maria Goretti is remembered as a virgin and martyr whose short life shone with deep prayer, strong family love, heroic fidelity, and generous forgiveness. Her story is not only a moving account of suffering, but also a clear lesson in what it means to belong completely to Christ, even when it is costly.

Maria Teresa Goretti was born in Corinaldo, Italy on 16 October 1890 and, because of family circumstances, lived through hardship in the Pontine Marshes area. Her parents were farmers, and the family was forced to migrate and work relentlessly.

Despite poverty that even prevented her from going to school, her days were marked by serenity and unity in the family, where children were welcomed as a gift and taught self-respect and respect for others, with a sense of duty rooted in love of God. Her father died of malaria when she was about ten. In that grief, she showed extraordinary spiritual strength, encouraging her mother with the words: "Mother, be brave, God will help us." Maria helped her family and took on responsibilities as a child, including work that supported the household. Yet prayer never disappeared from her life. The biography notes that she remained faithful to prayer, "especially the Rosary."

A striking detail is that, though she was illiterate, she asked to receive the Sacrament of Communion a year earlier than expected. She was willing to sacrifice sleep so she could attend Mass on Sundays even though it was some distance from home.

When Maria was around twelve, the peace of her life was attacked. The biography describes how Alessandro Serenelli, previously considered almost like a brother, repeatedly tried to wrong her. When she refused and warned him not to offend God, he threatened her and tried to silence her.

On 5 July 1902, Maria was assaulted while the families were away. She defended her chastity, warning him: "No! God does not want!" He struck her and she suffered mortal wounds. On the day after, before she died in hospital at Nettuno, she showed not only courage but also Christian charity, she forgave him and expressed a desire that he might reach heaven. Pope John Paul II later called her "the sweet little martyr of purity," emphasizing that she did not break God's commandment even under threat of death.

Maria Goretti's forgiveness is central to her witness. John Paul II highlights that her murderer recognized his sin, sought forgiveness from God and the victim's family, and later sought reconciliation with her mother; likewise, her mother pardoned him in the tribunal before the trial.

As we can see, her martyrdom is not only a testimony to purity, but also a testimony to mercy, an extraordinary relevance for a world that longs for peace. Maria Goretti was beatified on 27 April 1947 and canonized on 24 June 1950, with Pope Pius XII leading the canonization.

Today, she remains a model for young people and families: a sign that grace can blossom in poverty, that fidelity to Christ can withstand extreme pressure, and that the Gospel's power includes the strength to forgive.

Saint Maria Goretti, pray for us!



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)

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

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

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

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 19th 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

ROSTERS 11-12 July 2026

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Judith Donoghue John Geoghegan Lourdes Nathan	Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza	Jerard Heffernan Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando	Irene Ngu Jeethu Bobby May O'Connell	Michelle Barreto Laura Burton Nathan Colaco
Communion Ministers	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee +1	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin +1	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winni Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Anabel Formosa Brennie Hassan Jane Lapidario
Bookshop	Maureen Fearnside	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Josie and Seng Yeoh	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Darshi Wettasinghe	Mon 13 th July Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	Campion Fernando Gary Moeller Emelie De Leon	N/A	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Cheryl D'Sylva Karen Grace Francesca Cirillo	Claire Lagunzad

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2026

Registrations are now open for the sacrament of Confirmation. This program is suitable for children who are in Year 6 and above, who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation & Eucharist. Registrations close Monday 27th July. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or 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, 7:00pm in the hall. Books are available from the Parish Office or on the night for \$40 each, cash only while stocks last.

ST BERNADETTE'S SPIRITUAL READING BOOK CLUB

Our next book club meeting is this Saturday the 11th July at 9am in the St Joseph's Room. We are currently reading chapters 1-9 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

PARISH OUTING SEPTEMBER 17TH

Nancy is organising a Parish Outing to Mary MacKillop Place on Thursday 17th 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: LECTORS (readers) AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

We are looking for volunteers to assist with reading and distribution of Communion at our weekend masses. You will be placed on a rotating roster (approximately every 4-6 weeks, depending on mass times)
Readers: 9am mass x1, 10:30am Mass x3, 6pm Mass x1
Communion: 7:30am x4, 9am x3, 10:30am x5
All training provided. Please contact Nancy on 9634 2622 or at pa@stbernadette.org.au

PETERS PENCE COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your generous donations. We raised just over \$1900 for Pope Leo IVX's charities.

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 on sale after masses
11/12th and 18/19th July (cash or EFTPOS)
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/

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

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

SPECIAL PARISH GROUP OFFER
GROUP BOOKINGS 10+
UPTO 20% OFF!

Offer ends July 10. Book Now Limited Seats

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR GROUP TODAY!
www.bethewitness.com.au

www.bethewitness.com.au | With the support and encouragement of Bishop Vincent Long | Presented by Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

July	This Week
Tues 7 th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 8 th	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 9 th	Bible Study with Fr Fernando Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Sat 11 th July	Spiritual reading book club 9am
July	This Month
Sun 19 th July	Young Adults: Trivia Night
Thurs 23 rd July	Coffee and Chat
Sun 26 th July	Fundraiser BBQ
Mon 27 th July	Confirmation enrolments close

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this: 'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14 R. v.1

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second Reading Romans 8:9.11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Communion Antiphon:

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

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Readings Next Weekend

11-12 July 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Is 55:10-11

Second reading

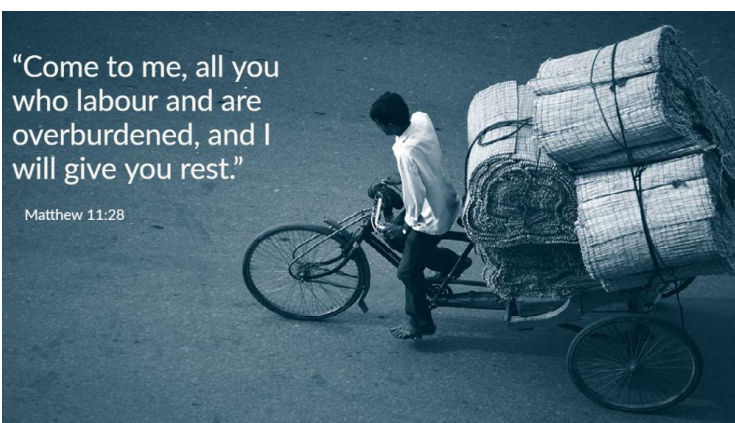
Rom 8:18-23

Gospel

Mt 13:1-23

Feast Days This Week

6 July	Saint Maria Goretti
7 July	Saint Peter to Rot
9 July	Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions
11 July	Saint Benedict



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Patrick Chee Keong Foong, Carmen Moreno
Vita Aloschi (funeral 11am Saturday 18th July at St Michael's, Lane Cove)

Anniversaries: Dorothy Barbour, P E Joseph, Tom Edwards, Dorothy Barbour

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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