



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

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Fr Menard Gaspi

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pa@stbernadette.org.au

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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

15-16 August 2026 *Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A*

Hello Everyone!

On 22 August, the Church celebrates the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast invites us to rejoice in Mary's glory and, at the same time, to recognize her continuing maternal care for the Church and for every disciple of Christ.

Although many would think that this feast is new in the Catholic calendar, the roots of this belief go back to the early Church. In the fifth century, around the time of the Council of Ephesus (431) proclaimed Mary Theotokos—"Mother of God"—Christians also began increasingly to call her Queen. The primary theological foundation of Mary's queenship is her divine motherhood. Mary gave birth according to the flesh to Jesus Christ, who is the eternal Son of God and the universal King. For this reason, the ancient Christian tradition called her "the Mother of the King of the universe" and "the Virgin Mother who brought forth the King of the whole world."

This tells us that the Church's understanding of Mary's queenship is inseparable from the mystery of Christ. Jesus is King because he is the Son of God and our Redeemer. Mary is Queen because she is the Mother of God and because, as the new Eve united with the new Adam, she cooperated in the work of salvation. Her queenship is therefore not independent of Christ; it is entirely received from him and directed toward the extension of his Kingdom.

The connection between the Queenship of Mary and her Assumption, the solemnity that we celebrated just yesterday, is especially important. At the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things. In Mary, the Church sees the first fruits of the destiny promised to all who faithfully follow Christ, that is the victory over sin and death and full communion with God.

Pope Pius XII formally instituted the liturgical feast in 1954, at the conclusion of the Marian Year and in response to petitions from Catholics throughout the world. The Pope proclaimed the feast with the Encyclical Ad Caeli Reginam (To the Queen of Heaven). He desired that this firmly established truth about Mary should shine more clearly in the life of the Church. The feast was originally assigned to 31 May, a day assigned now the celebrate the "Visitation of Mary". The liturgical celebration is now kept on 22 August, within the octave of the Solemnity of the Assumption, emphasizing that Mary's queenship flows from her sharing in the glory of her risen Son.

We must always remember that Mary's royal authority is unlike worldly power. She does not rule through domination, ambition, or force. Her queenship is a queenship of service and love. She watches over her children, intercedes for us, and leads us to Jesus. Pope Benedict XVI described the title "Queen" as a title of trust, joy, and love, because Mary remains close to those who call upon her in suffering, confusion, and the ordinary struggles of life.

Mary's queenship also has a deep maternal character. The title "Queen" does not replace the title "Mother"; rather, it expresses the power entrusted to her so that she may fulfill her maternal mission. Her concern extends to the whole human race, and her prayer continually seeks the salvation of her children.

As we celebrate this feast, let us place our lives under Mary's loving care. May she teach us her faith, her humility, and her generous obedience to God's will. Above all, may she lead us faithfully to Christ, the true King, whose Kingdom is eternal and whose mercy never fails.

Hail Holy Queen! Pray for us!



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano



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 28th August 7:00-8:30pm in the hall
Junior Youth will be talking about Sharing Your Faith.

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Friday 21st August 7:00-8:30pm in the St Joseph’s Room. We will be talking about Abortion.

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 22-23 August 2026					
Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Ministry					
Lectors	Judith Donoghue John Geoghegan Veronica Raic	Martin Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza	Jerard Heffernan Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando	Joanne Dobry Carolyn Curro Malena del Gallego	Timothy Leong Anabel Formosa Rheza Tan
Communion Ministers	Felicity Carvalho Douglas Carvalho Mary McMahon Bernard Home Pauline Home	Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee Hilary Zhang	Mary Tondini Ranmalee De Silva Lynda Sillick Yvette Braganza +1	Mila Mina Coney Lau Helen Carr-Boyd Elizabeth Joseph Jiji Joseph	Mandy Leong Don de Leon Puspa Winendiah
Bookshop	Pauline Home	Catherine Seddon	Margaret Stedman	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children’s Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Regina Jaegal	Mon 24 th August Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	John Giorgiutti Claire Lagunzad Joe Lagunzad Mila Mina	Sandra Emmet Nina Irwin	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Cheryl D’Sylva Karen Grce Francesca Cirillo	Claire Lagunzad



BETHLEHEM OLIVEWOOD STALL

This weekend there will be handcrafted olive wood 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.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: MODULE 6

For those needing to complete Module 6 Safeguarding training, we will be holding a face-to-face session here at St Bernadette's on Tuesday 25th August at 11:30am-2pm in the St Joseph's Room. To register, please contact the Parish Office at admin@stbernadette.org.au. We will be arranging face-to-face training for modules 1-3 and 4-5 later in the year. For more information, please visit the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding website: parracatholic.org/safeguarding/



PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

The Care Group are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses next Sunday 23rd August. Bacon & Egg Rolls \$5 each. Cash and EFTPOS available.



WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 MEETING

For those interested in attending World Youth Day in Korea next year with the Parramatta Diocese, we will be holding a Parish information night next Sunday 23rd August at 7pm in the St Joseph's Room. We will go through further details, expectations of pilgrims, and fundraising opportunities.



FATHERS DAY RAFFLE

Our Youth will be selling tickets for our Fathers' Day raffle on 29/30 August and 5/6 September. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Money raised will go towards WYD2027.

5 Major prizes to be won: 1st and 2nd prize Wiggles Family pass + meet & Greet, 3rd Prize \$100 Ciel restaurant voucher, 4th Prize: Ciel Wine pack, 5th Prize: JANCE Liqueur pack.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS

Photos are now available for the First Holy Communions 2026. Photos can be collected from the Parish Office Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, or from Nancy at the weekend Parish masses.

We still have a number of photos from previous years Communion and Confirmation. These can be collected from the Parish Office.

ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 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 & School Tours via our website.

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

For further information, please contact the school office on 9407 6600.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

ANNUAL WALK ON THE ASSUMPTION: 15 AUGUST

Join the Annual pilgrimage walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption, beginning with 11:00am Mass at the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville, followed by a 14km walk to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Refreshment stops will be held at St Michael's, Baulkham Hills, and St Monica's, North Parramatta. The pilgrimage concludes with prayers at approx. 6pm. Banners and statues are welcome, and you may join the walk at any point. For enquiries, contact Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Office on (02) 9629 2595.

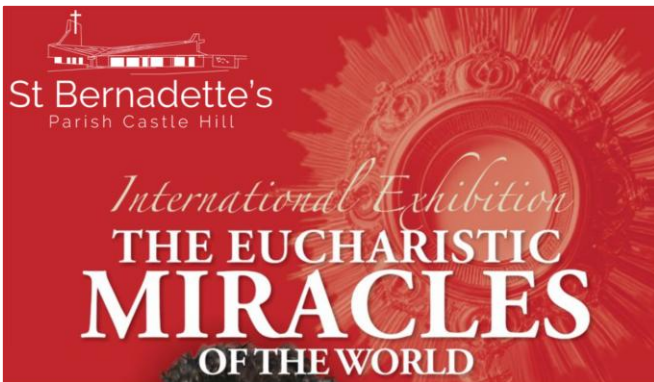
ST CARLO ACUTIS'S EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES

EXHIBITION: 13-27 SEPTEMBER

Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese. We will be hosting the exhibit at St Bernadette's from Saturday 13th September to Sunday 27th September in the Hall. See timetable below for open hours. Entry is free and no bookings are required.



Join Dr Christians Stephens on Saturday 26 September from 3:00-4:30pm in the hall for a seminar on 'The Fruits of the Eucharist'. The seminar is being held as part of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibition.



In the Parish Hall

	13-19 September	20-26 September
Sunday	6:30am-12noon, 3:00pm-7pm	6:30am-12noon, 3:00pm-7pm
Monday	9am-5pm	9am-5pm
Tuesday	9am-5pm	9am-5pm
Wednesday	9am-6:30pm	9am-6:30pm
Thursday	7pm-9pm	9am-5pm, 7pm-9pm
Friday	9am-9pm	9am-5pm
Saturday	7:30am-10am, 3pm-6pm	7:30am-10am, Seminar 3pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-6pm



Save the Date



Melbourne Cup Lunch

12:30pm-4pm Tuesday 3rd November

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person +drinks

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

August

This Week

Tues 18 th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 19 th	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 20 th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 21 st	Senior Youth: Abortion
Sun 23 rd	Fundraiser BBQ: Care Group

August

This Month

Thurs 27 th Aug	Coffee and Chat: Videri Dementia Care
Friday 28 th Aug	Junior Youth: Sharing Your Faith

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading Isaiah 56:1-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon:

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

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Readings Next Weekend

22-23 August 2026

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Is 22:19-23

Second reading

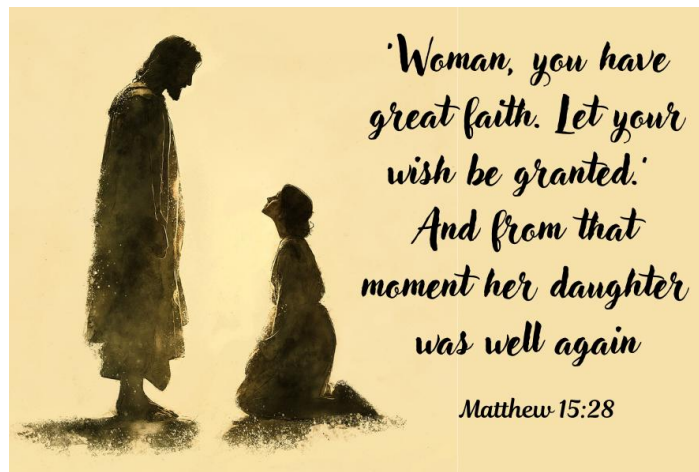
Rom 11:33-36

Gospel

Mt 16:13-20

Feast Days This Week

19 Aug	Saint John Eudes
20 Aug	Saint Bernard
21 Aug	Saint Pius X
22 Aug	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Aldo Sagona

Anniversaries: Henry Costa, Kevin McCann, Kunjamma Jacob, Dennis Davis, Frank Williams, Catherine Home

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Kristine Murgatroyd, Bert Hofstaetter, Lukas Ivanic, Siena Maria Burns, Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles