



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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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

22-23 August 2026 *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A*



Hello everyone!

Every year on 27 August, the Church celebrates Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine of Hippo. Her life speaks especially to parents and families who carry the pain of seeing someone they love drift away from faith. Monica's story is not one of quick answers or easy solutions. It is a testimony to patient love, persistent prayer, and confidence in God's grace.

Monica was born in Thagaste, North Africa in the fourth century to Christian parents, her year of birth is suggested to be around 332. She was married to Patricius, a pagan man whose violent temper and dissolute way of life made their marriage difficult. Although the social circumstances of her time were very different from our own, the central lesson of Monica's life is not passive acceptance of injustice. Rather, she sought to live with prudence, courage, and charity while entrusting her family to God. Her Christian witness gradually influenced both her husband and her mother-in-law, and Patricius eventually embraced the Christian faith shortly before his death.

Monica and Patricius had at least three children, Augustine, Navigius and Perpetua of Hippo. Her son Augustine would become one of the greatest theologians and bishops in Christian history. Yet Augustine's youth caused his mother Monica deep anxiety. He was brilliant, ambitious, and attracted to a life of pleasure. He also became associated with Manichaeism, a religious movement incompatible with the Catholic faith. Monica could not force Augustine to believe, but she could pray, love, speak the truth, and remain faithful.

For many years, she prayed and wept for her son's conversion. At one point, after Augustine had gone to Rome, Monica followed him and eventually found him in Milan. There she encountered Saint Ambrose, the bishop whose preaching and pastoral care profoundly influenced Augustine. Monica's long years of prayer were answered not according to her timetable, but according to God's providence. In 387, Ambrose baptized Augustine after 17 years of resistance.

Saint Augustine later recognized the hidden strength of his mother's faith. He described Monica as a woman who served others generously and cared for the Christian community as though she were the mother of all. Pope Francis has likewise pointed to Saint Monica as an example of a mother who continually "knocks at God's heart" in prayer for her children, especially those who have taken dangerous or mistaken paths.

After Augustine's baptism, Monica understood that God had granted the deepest desire of her life. While waiting with Augustine at Ostia to return to Africa, mother and son spoke about eternal life and the joy of communion with God. Soon afterward, Monica became ill and died. Her earthly pilgrimage ended peacefully because her hope had already been fixed on heaven. Many scholars would suggest that it was Augustine's grief for the death of his mother that inspired him to write his "Confessions".

Saint Monica teaches us that prayer is not a way of controlling God or another person. It is an act of trust that places loved ones into the hands of divine mercy. Her example encourages parents to persevere without despair, to combine prayer with truthful love, and to remember that conversion is ultimately God's work.

Her feast is a reminder that no sincere prayer offered in faith is wasted. God's grace may work quietly for years before its fruit becomes visible. Saint Monica's life therefore invites every family to hope to keep praying, keep loving, and keep entrusting those you love to God.

Saint Monica was buried at Ostia and at first seemed to have been almost forgotten, though her body was removed during the 6th century to a hidden crypt in the church of Santa Aurea in Ostia. Monica was buried near the tomb of Aurea of Ostia. Her tomb was later transferred to the Basilica of Sant'Agostino, Rome.

Saint Monica! Pray for us!



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

Parish Office Closed Tuesday 25th August 10am-2pm during safeguarding training session.

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 4th September 7:00-8:30pm in the St Joseph’s Room. We will be talking about Metanoia

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 20th SEPTEMBER

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 20th September 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall. Natalia Zurawska will be sharing with us on Forgiveness: Under the fig tree.
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 29-30 August 2026					
Mass Ministry	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Les Blanch Rod Burridge	Scott Koslow Lisa Biasucci Sue Pinkerton	Steve Vassallo Catherine Whitelock Ann O'Brien	Venetia Lee Maribel Alvarez Lorenzo Reyez	Laura Burton
Communion Ministers	Lisa Hurst Rick Jenkins Brian Fitzalan Natalia Chui Conni Tierney	Yvonne Desouza Patrick Bowie Monica Rodrigues Campion Fernando	Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam +1	Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos	Dess Guttierres Anabel Formosa
Bookshop	Kathleen Abernethy	Eugenia Fidel	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Coney Lau	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children’s Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Maria Gobbo	Mon 31 st August Remy de Leon Margaret Stedman	Joe Harney Paul D’Cruz Trish McDonald	Jody Masina Jenny Blacklock	Maria Mochnik Yvonne Desouza Doug Desouza Anna Schweda Karen D’ouza Neil Fonseca	Jane Ng

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, or to complete online training modules, please visit the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding website: parracatholic.org/safeguarding/. Thank you for helping keep our parish a safe and welcoming place.

Parish Office Closed Tuesday 25th August 10am-2pm during safeguarding training session.



PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

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



COFFEE & CHAT THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER: VIDERI DEMENTIA CARE

Please stop by the Marian Center for coffee & chat this Thursday morning after the 9.15am mass. All Welcome. Videri Dementia Care will be coming to speak about supporting a partner living with dementia and answering your questions about what support is actually out there. Whether you're caring for a partner right now, supporting a friend who is, or just want to understand more.

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 Parish Hall. See timetable below for open hours. Entry is free and no bookings are required.

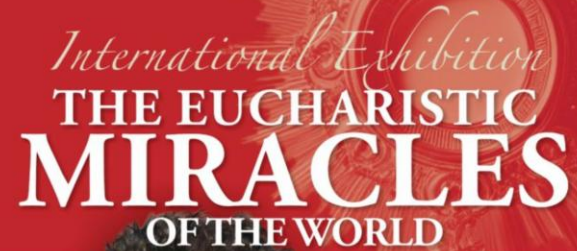


GUEST SPEAKER: DR CHRISTIAN STEPHENS

Join Dr Christian 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. Entry is free, no bookings required.



St Bernadette's
Parish Castle Hill



International Exhibition
**THE EUCHARISTIC
MIRACLES
OF THE WORLD**

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



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 this Sunday 23rd August at 7pm in the St Joseph's Room. We will go through further details, expectations of pilgrims, and fundraising opportunities. **The Diocese will only be taking those who are 18+ by July 2027.**



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.

Melbourne Cup Lunch



Tickets now on sale
at the Parish Office
or online via the QR Code



12:30pm-4:00pm
Tuesday 3rd November 2026
The Heritage House, Kenthurst
\$120 per person



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

August	This Week
Tues 25 th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 26 th	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 27 th	Coffee and Chat: Videri Dementia Care Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 28 th	Junior Youth: Sharing Your Faith
Sat 29 th /Sun 30 th	Father's Day Raffle tickets on sale
September	Next Month
Friday 4 th Sept	First Friday Senior Youth: Metanoia
Sat 5 th /Sun 6 th	Father's Day Raffle tickets on sale
Sat 12 th	Spiritual Reading Book Club
Sun 13 th -Sat 26 th	Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit
Thurs 17 th Sept	Parish Outing: Mary MacKillop Museum
Sun 20 th	Young Adults: Natalia Zurawska
Thurs 24 th	Coffee & Chat: Castle Hill Police
Sat 26 th	Seminar: Dr Christian Stephens 3pm
Sun 27 th	BBQ: Youth

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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Readings Next Weekend

29-30 August 2026

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Jer 20:7-9

Second reading

Rom 12:1-2

Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

Feast Days This Week

24 Aug	Saint Bartholomew
25 Aug	Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calsanz
27 Aug	Saint Monica
28 Aug	Saint Augustine
29 Aug	The Passion of St John the Baptist

You are Peter and on this rock

I will build my Church

Matthew 16:18



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Michael Harney

Anniversaries: Luke Gardoni, Kunjumariam Nicolas, Lawrence De Souza, Sybil Lingier

In Remembrance: C C Varghese

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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