



THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY CASTLE HILL

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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Fr Menard Gaspi

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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

8-9 August 2026 *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A*

Hello everyone!

This week, I would like to share with you something about the life of St Clare of Assisi, her feast falls on the 11th of August.

St. Clare of Assisi was born on the 16th of July 1194. She is one of the Church's most beloved saints because her life shows how the Gospel can take root in the heart with remarkable courage. Born in Assisi, she belonged to a noble family, but from her early years she was drawn to prayer and to a serious desire for a more spiritual life, turning away from the attractions of the world.

When St. Francis of Assisi preached in the church of San Giorgio during Lent, Clare—then only around eighteen—heard words that “kindled a flame” in her heart. She sought Francis out secretly and asked to be helped to live “after the manner of the holy Gospel.”

A decisive moment came around Palm Sunday, on the 20th of March 1212 and with the consent of Guido II, bishop of Assisi, Clare left her father's house accompanied by her aunt Bianca and another companion and proceeded to the chapel of the Porziuncula to meet Francis. There, her hair was cut, and she exchanged her rich gown for a plain robe and veil. Fully cutting a woman's hair was a symbolic act showing that she was no longer bound by the laws of man or society but rather that she followed the will of God. St. Francis cut her hair, clothing her in a rough penitential habit. This was the beginning of Clare's “bridal” belonging to Christ—her total consecration to the Lord.

At first, Clare was placed with Benedictine nuns so she could be formed and protected as she began this new way of life. But her father tried to prevent her by force or persuasion. Clare's determination did not waver, and she remained faithful to her vow. Soon her sister Agnes followed Clare, and together they grew in the Franciscan charism of poverty and prayer. Eventually Francis provided the sisters with a poor dwelling near the church of San Damiano, making it a lasting home for Clare and her community.

St. Clare's holiness was not only about personal asceticism; it was about an intense contemplative love that overflowed into the life of others. Pope John Paul II describes her spiritual journey as beginning in “the spirit of poverty,” which empties the heart so God can fill it with grace—like a vessel open to the “manner of working” of the Holy Spirit.

For St. Clare, poverty was “the wealth of the soul,” and her contemplation was centered on Christ crucified and on the Eucharist. She had a profound devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and her prayers were linked—according to the tradition preserved in the Church's sources—to God's protection for the monastery and the city of Assisi. Clare also became abbess of San Damiano and guided her sisters with firm charity, striving to preserve the “privilege of most high poverty.”

She spent the last years of her life in suffering. Her illness did not weaken her desire for God. Yet even as her strength declined, her love for Christ remained steadfast, and her witness became a living reminder that the Gospel's “poor” path is not empty, but luminous. St. Clare died in Assisi on August 11, 1253. On her deathbed, Clare was heard to say to herself, “Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for He Who created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be You, my God, for having created me.” She was canonized shortly thereafter by Pope Alexander IV in 1255.

St. Clare of Assisi, Pray for us!



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 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 15-16 August 2026					
Ministry	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Lectors	Mitch Dielwart Garry Tierney Stacey Leong	Wayne Vergano Jackie Willard Margaret Ash	Neil Fonseca Anne D'Cruz Danielle Vassallo	Irene Ngu Jeethu Bobby May O'Connell	John Zdrilic Jane Lapidario Michelle Kim
Communion Ministers	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Lucille Wilson Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Julian Bong Sherryl Rozario David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Angela Stenglin Christine Jenneke Hubert Jenneke Rosalie Sampath Celeste McLean	Lydia Flores Paul Irwin Florina Vanderwaals Mary Winslow Jeyaraj Winslow	Dess Gutierrez Olivia Eberhaut Catherine Wibisono
Bookshop	Elaine Small	Eugenia Fidel	Jenny and Brian Blacklock	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children's Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Vanessa Tso	Mon 16 th August Christine and Hubert Jenneke	John Geoghegan Kevin Johnson Douglas Carvalho	Lolita Suyko Natalie Coghlan	Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanna Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni	Lois and John Donnelly

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>

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



BETHLEHEM OLIVEWOOD STALL

15th/16th August 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.



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



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.

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



MARY MACKILLOP BUS TRIP

Money is now due for those who booked on the bus trip to Mary MacKillop Centre on Thursday 17th September. Please bring your \$70 cash in an envelope to the Parish Office.

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.

	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

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



GET #ACTIVE4VOICATIONS

Please pray for vocations and support Bishop Vincent, Fr Menard and our Seminarians as they take on the City2Surf this Sunday 9th August to promote priestly vocations. Spur them on with a donation at tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations.

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.

Velada Musical por VENEZUELA

SATURDAY AUGUST 15TH

Misa en Español 7:00 pm @ Church

Concert starts @ 8:30 - 10:00 pm
(Hall doors open @ 7:30)

LIMITED CAPACITY BOOK AHEAD OF TIME

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

August	This Week
Tues 11 th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 12 th	Wednesday morning bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 13 th	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 14 th	Junior Youth: Choosing Jesus
Sat 15 th	Feast of the Assumption: 8am and 10am
Sat 15 th /Sun 16 th	Bethlehem Olivewood Stall
Sun 16 th	Young Adults: Noel Thomas

August	This Month
Fri 21 st Aug	Senior Youth: Abortion
Sun 23 rd Aug	Fundraiser BBQ: Care Group
Thurs 27 th Aug	Coffee and Chat: Videri Dementia Care

Save the Date

Melbourne Cup Lunch

12:30pm-4pm Tuesday 3rd November

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person +drinks

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9-11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Communion Antiphon:

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

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Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried.

Matthew 14:30

Readings Next Weekend

15-16 August 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Is 56:1, 6-7

Second reading

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel

Mt 15:21-28

Feast Days This Week

10 Aug	Saint Lawrence
11 Aug	Saint Clare
12 Aug	Saint Jane Frances de Chantal
13 Aug	Saints Pontain and Hippolytus
14 Aug	Saint Maximilian Kolbe
15 Aug	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Michael Harney, Hermoine Haigh

Anniversaries: Angelina Pardo-Adan, Felice Zadro, Maria Fidel, Victoria Fidel,

Cosima Criso Di Quattro, Francesco Di Quattro, Vickey Fava, Severo Yu, Manuel Jose Yu

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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