



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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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 2nd Oct

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

26-27 September *Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A*

Hello everyone!

I hope you enjoyed reading the Holy Father's teachings on Sacred Music, just to continue with the theme and while I am still on my holidays, I would like to continue with the reflection on this important aspect of our spiritual life.

As we saw in the last few weeks, Sacred music occupies a unique place in the life of the Catholic Church. It is neither merely decoration added to the liturgy nor simply an artistic form used for religious entertainment. Rather, sacred music belongs to the very life of Christian worship because it gives audible form to the Church's faith, prayer, and participation in the mystery of Christ. Through chant, hymnody, polyphony, and other forms of ecclesial music, the human voice and musical instrument are taken up into the worship of God.



The history of Catholic sacred music reflects the history of the Church herself. It developed from the psalmody of Israel, received the inheritance of the early Christian communities, matured in the monasteries and cathedrals of the Middle Ages, flourished through Renaissance polyphony, encountered new challenges in the modern period, and underwent significant renewal through the Second Vatican Council. Across these centuries, the Church has sought to preserve a central principle: music is sacred when it serves divine worship, expresses the truth of the faith, and leads the Christian people toward sanctification.

Theologically, sacred music is rooted in the sacramental character of Catholic worship. The Church encounters Christ through visible and audible signs, including words, actions, melodies, and the proclamation of Scripture. These sensible signs make divine realities accessible to human beings. Liturgical music therefore participates in the Church's proclamation of the Gospel and in her contemplation of the mysteries celebrated throughout the liturgical year.

Sacred music has also played an important role in transmitting Catholic doctrine. The Church does not merely recite her faith; she sings it. Music allows the faithful to meditate upon the Creed, Scripture, and the mysteries of salvation, transforming theological truth into prayer. For this reason, the history and theology of sacred music cannot be separated from the Church's understanding of the liturgy itself. Sacred music proclaims the faith. When Scripture is sung, it is not merely being performed; it is being proclaimed in a form that engages our whole person. The melody can draw attention to the meaning of the words, assist memory, and deepen the affective reception of revelation.

Faith comes through hearing. The Church's worship is therefore profoundly auditory. The Word is proclaimed, preached, sung, and answered by the assembly. Sacred music extends the act of proclamation by enabling the community to receive the Word meditatively.

The relationship between truth and love is essential. Theological faith receives divine truth, and charity follows from that reception. In liturgy, the truth announced by Scripture and the Creed shapes the love with which the Church worships God. Music contributes to this process by allowing the faithful not only to understand the mysteries intellectually but also to contemplate and interiorly embrace them.

Saint Augustine's well-known insight that singing is praying twice expresses an important Catholic conviction. Sacred music is prayer because it gives voice to the movement of the soul toward God. The sung word can express praise, petition, sorrow, thanksgiving, repentance, and hope.

Continued next week



Peace in Jesus

Fr. Fernando Montano

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

Reference**6006 Your name**

EFT to the Second Collection – for support of the Parish

BSB067 950

Account No00000032

Account NameCastle Hill Catholic Church

Reference**Second 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)

Junior youth are now on break for the holidays. Keep an eye out for Term 4 dates coming soon!

SENIOR YOUTH (years 9-12)

Senior youth are now on break for the holidays. Keep an eye out for Term 4 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 18th OCTOBER

Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 18th October 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hall. Zofia Mrowka will be speaking about the Second Vatican Council.

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 3-4 October 2026					
Mass Ministry	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
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	Olivia Eberhaut Radheen Wettasinghe Lisa Giacomelli
Communion Ministers	Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside	Claire Lagunzad Doug Desouza Bill Lee Hilary Zhang	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin +1	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Rason Chia Patricia Chia Remy de Leon
Bookshop	Pauline Home	Catherine Sedon	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Maria Gobbo	Remy de Leon
Flowers	1st Collection	2nd Collection	Children’s Liturgy	Housekeeping	Church Linen
Olivia Cheng	Tues 6 th Oct Dorothy Finucane Margaret Stedman	Eugenia Fidel Elizabeth de Jesus Helen Fidel	N/A	Julieann Gething Risa Sidik Cheryl D'Sylva Karen Grace Francesca Cirillo	Remy de Leon



**FIRST FRIDAY MASS:
ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND ADORATION**

First Friday Mass will take place this Friday, 2nd October 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



RCIA PROGRAM 2026/27

For those 16+ interested in becoming Catholic, we will begin our Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) program in October. Any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or nancy@stbernadette.org.au



PARISH FUNDRAISER BBQ

The World Youth Day Pilgrims are running a fundraiser BBQ at the morning masses this Sunday 27th September. Bacon & Egg Rolls \$5 each. Cash and EFTPOS available.



WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027

For those interested in attending World Youth Day in Korea next year with the Parramatta Diocese, please complete the expression of interest form by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://forms.gle/Y2aUSzG9zuRt1uGP6>



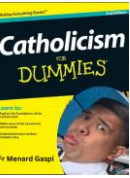
**ST CARLO ACUTIS'S EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION:
13-27 SEPTEMBER**

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 in the Parish Hall until this Sunday 27th September.



GUEST SPEAKER: DR CHRISTIAN STEPHENS

Join Dr Christian Stephens on Saturday 26th 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.



FR MENARD: CATHOLICISM FOR DUMMIES

Fr Menard will be running a 3 week program for those who are new to the church, cradle Catholics who want a refresher, or someone discerning the Catholic Church. Thursday 8th, 15th and 29th October at 6:30pm in the hall, followed by Adoration in the church at 8pm.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK ART COMPETITION

We're inviting you to design the front cover of the Catholic Outlook Magazine's Christmas and Summer 2026 edition! People of all ages from across the Diocese of Parramatta are welcome to submit their artwork for consideration. Let's make this Advent and Christmas season a canvas of faith and joy – together. For more information visit <https://parracatholic.org/catholic-outlook-christmas-magazine-art-competition/>

Blessing of the Pets

To celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi, Fr Menard will be holding a Blessing of the Pets on Sunday 4th October at 4pm on the school basketball courts. All pets welcome!



Melbourne Cup Lunch



12:30pm-4:00pm Tuesday 3rd November

The Heritage House, Kenthurst

\$120 per person

Tickets now on sale

at the Parish Office
or online via the QR Code



harvest St Bernadette's Parish Pilgrimage
journeys • Jordan and the Holy Land



Fr Fernando and Nancy will be leading a pilgrimage to Jordan and the Holy Land in August 2027 with Harvest Journeys. For more information see the flyers on the noticeboard, visit <https://bookings.harvestjourneys.com/pv2737> or contact Nancy on pa@stbernadette.org.au

Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

September/October	This Week
Tues 29 th	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7pm
Wed 30 th	Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs 1 st	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
Fri 2 nd	First Friday Mass and Adoration
Sun 4 th	Blessing of the Pets 4pm
October	Next Month
Mon 5 th Oct	Public Holiday 8am Mass
Thurs 8 th Oct	Catholicism for Dummies 6:30pm
Sat 10 th Oct	Spiritual Reading Book Club
Sun 18 th Oct	Young Adults: Zofia Mrowka
Thurs 22 nd Oct	Coffee and Chat
Sun 25 th Oct	Fundraiser BBQ: World Youth Day

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. . **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

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Readings Next Weekend

3-4 October 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Is 5:1-78

Second reading

Phil 4:6-9

Gospel

Mt 21:33-43

Feast Days This Week

28 Sept

Saint Wenceslaus

Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

29 Sept

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

30 Sept

Saint Jerome

1 Oct

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

2 Oct

The Holy Guardian Angels

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

Recently Deceased: Bert Hofstaetter (funeral Mon 28th 11am) Pamela Deitch (funeral Wed 30th 11am) Ranjith Fernando, Fr Harry Kennedy

Anniversaries: Joe Finucane, Tony Sabat, Honorata Espiritu, Edilberto Espiritu, Howard Anderson, Tim Peh, Eapen Pattara, Teresa Ng

In Remembrance: Julius Nazareth

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Robin Reyden, Kristine Murgatroyd, Lukas Ivanic, Siena Maria Burns,
Victoria Rix, Barbara Ison, Eleanor Ross, Minda Robles