



# The Massabielle

The Weekly Newsletter of St Bernadette's  
Parish Community, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

February 22 & 23, 2020 - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

Issue Number 880

## THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Hello Everybody:

This coming Wednesday the Church celebrates the beginning of the holy season of Lent. As we know, Lent is a time consecrated in an especial manner to penance; and this penance is mainly practiced by fasting and abstinence.

This holy time of Lent has to be understood in the context of the Resurrection of Jesus. These forty days of preparation have to be lived in a way in which we prepare our spirits and our hearts to celebrate and experience in ourselves the new life that Jesus gives with his resurrection. It is my invitation to all of you to start getting ready for this holy season and to find ways to mark this particular time of penance, prayer, sacrifices and almsgiving.

Conversion is a personal journey that we are all called to take. In biblical language the invitation to conversion appears many times in a singular form as an act of the will that the disciple must personally chose. (Rm 10: 9-11). Even the invitation of Jesus to follow him is addressed to the person. (Mt. 16:24-26). However, this year as we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a parish, hopefully we can also be aware that we are walking as a community of faith in the paths of conversion and holiness. Some biblical narratives speak of the whole household being converted and embracing the faith. (Acts 16:34). These of course are examples that speak of the power of witnessing that moves others to join in and to change our old ways. I am sure many of us find strength and inspiration on seeing our brothers and sisters in the faith giving example of a life of dedication and holiness.

The Parish will organize a series of devotions and reflections to help us, as a community, to prepare ourselves during this period of Lent. To begin we will be having four Masses on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent and to allow as many parishioners as possible to join the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and to also receive the Ashes. The Mass times have been advertised in the Parish Bulletin and Parish Announcements at the

end of Masses this weekend. Please remember that Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent and the reception of Ashes signifies that we are willing to make an extra effort in this time to manifest our desire to follow Jesus more closely and with a renewed heart.

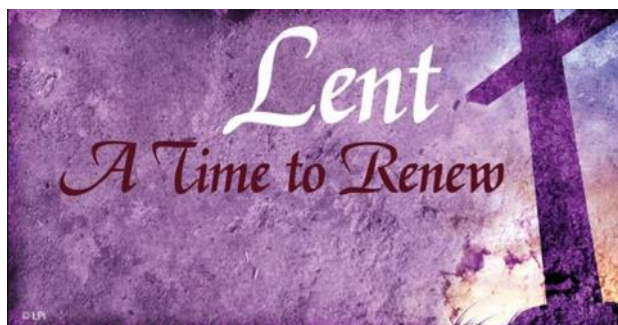
Fr Shinto will be running a Lenten program that is mainly a sharing and reflection on the readings for the Sundays of Lent. This will be the third year Fr Shinto is running the program and the feedback has been very positive therefore he has decided to take it on board one more year and create another opportunity to

come as a community to reflect and meditate. The program is based on the material produced by the Diocese of Wollongong and it also comes with daily reflections that you can do every day during Lent. If you are interested please join Fr

Shinto every Thursday of Lent at 7:00pm in the Marian Centre.

Also on Fridays during Lent the parish will be praying the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm. This is always a very popular practice. Every year we are very happy to see many of you come with devotion to walk with Jesus and Mary the Way of the Cross and meditate on the sufferings of Jesus and redemptive significance of the Stations. As every year, a priest will be available to hear confessions while the recitation of the Stations of the Cross is happening. This is an extra time for the sacrament of Reconciliation; the other times of Saturday morning after Mass and Saturday evening at 4:30pm remain unchanged.

As we did last year, some parishioners have requested to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed after the Stations of the Cross to allow them more quiet time of prayer and meditation in the presence of Jesus. This is another way to intensify our prayer time and also present Jesus our prayers for the salvation of all. The Blessed Sacrament will be quietly exposed at the end of the recitation of the Stations of the Cross and then quietly reposed at around 9:00pm.





## Today's Readings

### First Reading: Leviticus 1-2,17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love

your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

If for any reason you cannot make the time to attend the program on Thursday or the Stations of the Cross on Friday, I would encourage you to create opportunities for some prayers and reflections at home. A simple idea to remind ourselves daily of this sacred time of Lent is that you can set up a simple altar at home with maybe a Crucifix or the image of Our Lady of Sorrows or any image that reminds us that we are in this particular time of prayer and sacrifice. Another simple exercise that I suggest every year is to have a Crucifix and to spend your praying time holding the blessed image of Jesus on the Cross and allow him to talk to us, telling us of his love for us and also about how deep is that love that he is willing to suffer in order for us to have the life that he wants to give us.

Hopefully this short article has given you some ideas on how to prepare better for the celebration of Easter. Once again is my invitation to make this year a different year in the way we live this time of Lent. There are many things that had happened and things which are happening in the world at this time that invite us or challenge us to renew and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ our source of hope yesterday, today and always.

Peace in Jesus  
Fr. Fernando Montano

### Readings Next Weekend

#### 1st Sunday of Lent - Year A

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11



**PARISH MORNING TEA TODAY** after 10.30am Mass in the Marian Centre. Stop by for a cuppa and a chat. All welcome.

**LENTEN PROGRAM:** Please join Fr Shinto in a Lenten discussion group on Thursday evenings during Lent, commencing Thursday 27th February at 7.00pm in the Marian Centre. The program 'Grace' is from the Wollongong Diocese and books, which include daily reflection, will be available for \$10 each. All welcome.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Friday 6th March at 7.30pm at St Columba's Presbyterian Church, 247 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill. The Service this year will be prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and the theme is 'Rise! Take up your mat and walk'. A light supper will follow.

**THE CHAT AND CRAFT GROUP** meets in the Marian Centre on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month with the next meeting on this Friday, 28th February from 10.00am. You are welcome to join them for an enjoyable few hours of conversation and craft. For information phone Ellen on 9634 7276.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be celebrated on Friday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm in the Church followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and silent prayer. Reconciliation will be available during this time.



**PROJECT COMPASSION:** In Australia, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign has become part of the Church's Lenten practice, offering us an opportunity to go above and beyond in our almsgiving to bring joy and hope to others. Through our support of Project Compassion we seek to stand in solidarity with our neighbours as a global community. Project Compassion boxes are available at the Church doors for you to take with you today.

**THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION (DWF) APPEAL:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Catholic Foundation appeal. A total of \$11,000 has been given, which is still well short of our quota. Envelopes are available on the seats again today for those who may have been away from the parish. All donations are tax deductible.

**THIS WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Masses at 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon & 7.30pm**  
**Ashes will be distributed at all Masses**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year until the beginning of the sixtieth year; the law of abstaining from eating meat on Ash Wednesday binds those who have completed their fourteenth year.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – Reconciliation 2020:** A reminder to families enrolled for preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation that session 2 will take place this Monday, 24th February at 7pm or Saturday 29th February at 3.30pm in the Parish Hall. This session is for both parent and child. For more information, contact Alice at the parish office on [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au) or 9634 2622.

**HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION:** Parishioners and visitors are invited to Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction this Thursday evening from 8 to 9pm.

**THE REPARATION PRAYER GROUP** meets in the Parish Basement from 8.00 to 9.00pm on Tuesday evenings for Rosary and prayer. All welcome.

**RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX:** As part of a four month pilgrimage in Australia, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux and her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, will visit St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta for overnight veneration from 9.30pm on Wednesday March 4. The relics will leave the Cathedral the following morning for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

**GREASE:** Gilroy Catholic College presents Grease the Musical at the Pioneer Theatre, Castle Hill on Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th April at 7pm Evening Shows and 1pm Saturday Matinee Show. Price: Adults \$35 / Concession \$25. Bookings at [www.trybooking.com/565143](http://www.trybooking.com/565143).

**SUNDAY MASS TRANSPORT:** Parishioners, do you have a spare seat or two in your car? Are you able to help transport elderly parishioners to the 9am Mass, on average once per month? If you can assist please ring Tim Abrams on 0417 662 405.

**CATHERINE MCAULEY WESTMEAD** is enrolling for Year 7 2021. Applications close on 27th March 2020. There is an Open Evening coming up on Wednesday 4th March from 4.00 to 7.00pm.



**IntoLife: Years 5-8** Friday 28th February from 7:00-8:30pm in the hall. Social: Games Night. Bring a friend and a gold coin donation.

**LifeNight: Years 9-12** Sunday 23rd February from 7:00-8:45pm in the hall. Baptism: What does a Catholic Baptism mean? Bring a friend and a gold coin donation for dinner.

**Young Adults Ministry** We are looking at expanding our youth ministry to cater for the young adults (18-35) in the parish through both social and faith-based activities. We would love your input into what you would like from a young adults program. Please fill out the survey to help us create a program that caters for you! [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15jM-WnJGCJFWnkiJAa7VN2tFsKXIKVF5gKy6Qb\\_8dwg](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15jM-WnJGCJFWnkiJAa7VN2tFsKXIKVF5gKy6Qb_8dwg)

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER:** We will be launching our Young Adults ministry with a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday 25th February at 7pm in the hall. All young adults (18-35yrs) are welcome. RSVP Laura Burton (Youth Minister) on 0433 259 234 or [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au).

For more information contact Laura Burton (Youth Minister) on 0433259234 or [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au)

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram** at St Bernadette's Youth Castlehill.

**TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP:** Lent begins this Wednesday. Now is a good time to put aside some time on Tuesday mornings at 10am in the Marian Centre to reflect on the Gospels during Lent. All welcome. For information: Pauline: 0407 417 039.

**OAKHILL COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** Prospective students and families are invited to the Oakhill College Open Day on Sunday, 8th March from 11.00am-3.00pm. Join them for a tour around the College and visit the subject displays, co-curricular activities and a variety of performances. Principal's Address is at 11.30am 12.30pm and 1.30pm. Visit the website to register your interest: [www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au](http://www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au).

**ST GABRIEL'S SCHOOL** in Castle Hill, is a K-Yr 8 school for children with a mild to moderate intellectual disability as well as Autism. The Open Day for K-Yr 6 enrolments will be Wednesday, 11th March at 9.30am. In the evening will be High School Information for Years 7-9 enrolments at 6.30pm. For enquiries contact [enrol@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrol@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au) or phone 9634 2367.

**CARDS & MAHJONG:** All ages are welcome to come to the Marian Centre on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 1.30pm to join the 'Beyond 60' group for an enjoyable few hours of games. The next afternoon will be held this Friday 28th February. For information phone Carmen on 9634 4014.

**MOUNT ST BENEDICT'S OPEN DAY** next Sunday 1st March from 10am to 2pm at 449C Pennant Hills road, Pennant Hills. Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2022. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4. Bookings online at [www.msb.nsw.edu.au](http://www.msb.nsw.edu.au).



**St Bernadette's Parish Community**  
**Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154**  
 Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)  
 Web page: <http://www.stbernadette.org.au>

**Parish Staff**

Rev Fernando Montano, Parish Priest  
 Rev Shinto Francis, Assistant Priest  
 Mrs Nancy Eberhaut, Pastoral Associate  
 Ms Laura Burton, Youth Minister Youth Mass  
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw JP, Sacramental Co-ordinator  
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager  
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)  
 Mr Darren Edwards, Groundsman

**Mass Times for this Week**

**Sunday** Sat 6.00pm  
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am (incense)  
 6.00pm Parish LIFE TEEN  
**Weekdays** Mon 6.45am  
 Tue 6.45am  
 Ash Wed 6.45, 9.15, 12 noon, 7.30pm  
 Thurs 6.45am  
 Fri 6.45am  
 Sat 8.00am

**Reconciliation** Sat 8.30am - 9.00am, 4.30pm - 5.00pm

**Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am**

**Baptisms:** By appointment only. Contact Frances Gallagher at the Parish Office. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mrs Bianca Cooke (Principal) 9407 6600

**Please pray for** Peter McLoughlin (funeral on Wednesday 4th March at 10.30am), William Sherwood, John MacArthur, Felicidad Capiral and Aristotle Malapit who have died recently and in remembrance of Josey & C C Varghese and Lorenza Dalli.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Bob Redmond, Joseph Graczyk, Alfred Tsang, Joe Borg, Maureen Gain, Michael Hope, Bernie Rogers, John Doyle, Felipa Camat, Klaus Hahn, David Rix, Masaki Iwatani, Helen Shaw, Kym Holden, Michelle McLoughlin, Maria Robayo, Peter Viler, John Reynolds, Christina McAuley, Vicky Crawford, Betty Granata, Xander Ranieri, Robert Waddell, Yvonne Hill, June Phelan, Grace Boitano, Josephine Robayo, Carmen Moreno, Victoria Tranilla, Ederlina Badiola, Robin Youngblood and Helen Tarlinton.

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND - 29 February & 1 March, 2020**

SERVERS		LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
<b>VIGIL</b>	Edy Kesuma S4	Louise Jongejan Gary Tierney Cheryl Braisby	Lyla Mathias, Cynthia & Charles D'Emanuele, Alf Jacobs, Raymond Raad, Antony Barsic, Colleen Leong, Don & Remy De Leon
<b>7.30am</b>	Michael Lopez S5	Wayne Vergano Jackie Willard Margaret Ash	Clarissa De Lima, Justin Ward, Remy Sie, Bernard Rogers, Geoff Roney, Catherine Seddon
<b>9.00am</b>	Melvyn Myers S1	Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Gabrielle Jamison, Catherine Chan, John Hogan, Doug & Yvonne Desouza, Ranmalee De Silva, Catherine Whitelock, Lynda Sillick, Yvette McKinnon
<b>10.30am</b>	Reg Sinha S2	Beard Family Jan Crawford	Mary & Jeyaraj Winslow, Crystal & Bernie Good, Gaye Crammond, Lydia Flores, Teresa Somasundram

**6.00PM PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - 1 March, 2020**

Servers	Projectionist	Piano	Drums	Singers
Raphael De Leon S3	Josh Becker	Jolene Chua	Noah Bellerose	Patricia Wibisono Rachel Chua Josh Holden
	Offertory	Woodwind	Guitar	
	Brendan Hassan	Izaak De Padua	Darien Winarso	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING	COUNTING (2nd Collection)
Minna Koo Elaine Edmiston	Julieann Gething, Imma Arumai, Mercedes Aragon, Eva Rangel, Josephine Li	Matthew Troy, Catherine Low, Julie Hooper, Ryan Coelho
FLOWER ROSTER	COUNTING (1st Collection)	BOOKSHOP
Lent - No flowers	Bert & Helga Hofstaetter	Ryan Coelho / Catherine Seddon / Jenny & Brian Blacklock / Josie & Seng Yeoh / Susan Edge Bennett
CHURCH LINEN		
Lois & John Donnelly		