



The Massabielle

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

February 29 & March 1, 2020 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

Issue Number 881

POPE FRANCIS' LENTEN MESSAGE

Hello Everybody!

As every year I would like to use this space to share the Lenten Message the Holy Father Pope Francis has given this year. I hope you find this message inspiring and may this message also help us with our Lenten practices.

Peace in Jesus
Fr. Fernando Montano

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

The paschal mystery as the basis of conversion

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This kerygma sums up the mystery of a love "so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue" (Christus Vivit, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit: "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

The urgency of conversion

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been

bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace

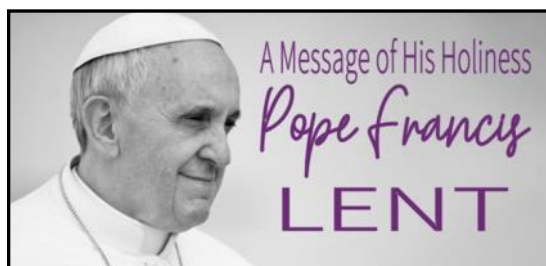
pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

God's passionate will to dialogue with his children

The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favourable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives, and in the life of the Church and the world, this opportunity to change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), this saving will led the Father to burden his Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, "turning of God against himself" (Deus Caritas Est, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. Mt 5:43-48).

The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (Acts 17:21). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterizes worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media.

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Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of

Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

Francis

Readings Next Weekend 2nd Sunday of Lent - Year A

Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Have you changed your credit card or been given a new expiry date? Please phone the parish office on 9634 2622 to update our records.

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.

CATECHIST COMMISSIONING: Congratulations to our Catechists who will be commissioned at the 10.30 Mass today. Thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our children in the state schools.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, 6th March at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport or by providing sandwiches it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Maureen Fearnside on 9634 3329.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – Reconciliation 2020: A reminder that session 3 will take place this Monday, 2nd March at 7pm or Saturday 7th March at 3.30pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Alice on 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.



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.

LENTEN PROGRAM: Please join Fr Shinto in a Lenten discussion group on Thursday evenings during Lent at 7.00pm in the Marian Centre. The program 'Grace' is from the Wollongong Diocese. All welcome. Books have sold out but can be downloaded from dow.org.au/products/grace-lenten-program-2020-book-pdf-digital-download/.

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER this 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.

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 this Wednesday March 4. All welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION this Friday following 6.45am Mass until 11.45am.



IntoLife: Years 5-8 Friday 6th March from 7:00-8:30pm in the hall. Jesus - The Early Years: Birth, childhood and early ministry of Jesus. Bring a friend and a gold coin donation.

LifeNight: Years 9-12 Sunday 1st March from 7:00-8:45pm in the hall. The Creed pt.1: A Statement of Belief. 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.

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

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

SCHOOLS OPEN DAYS AND INFORMATION

St Bernadette's Primary School: Open Day this Thursday, 5th March from 9.00 to 10.30am. For information contact 9407 6600.

Gilroy Catholic College Enrolments applications for Year 7 2021 close Friday 27 March 2020. First Round Offers will be sent out Monday 6 April. Families who wish to enrol for Year 7 2020 and currently have a student attending Gilroy will need to complete an application form. Application Packages are available from the College office or download the forms from gilroy.catholic.edu.au. For all enquiries contact 8853 8200 or mmcbain@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Oakhill College Open Day on Sunday, 8th March from 11.00am-3.00pm. Principal's Address is at 11.30am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm. Visit the website to register your interest at 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 or to RSVP contact Mrs Jo Biggs at enrol@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au or phone 9634 2367.

Mount St Benedict's Open Day today (Sunday) 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. Bookings online at www.msb.nsw.edu.au.

Catherine McAuley Westmead is enrolling for Year 7 2021. Open Evening this Wednesday 4th March from 4.00 to 7.00pm Applications close on 27th March.

OLMC Parramatta Open Day on Sunday, 8th March from 10.00am – 2.00pm. Principals welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm. Please register on the College website www.olmc.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
 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
 Wed 6.45am
 Thurs 6.45am
 First Fri 6.45am & 12 noon
 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 Wednesday at 10.30am), Berta Coriales, Rodolfo Diaz, Margaret Lam, Chiquitita Gutierrez and Alan Prendergast who have died recently and for the anniversary of Mildred Taylor and in remembrance of Corazon Alfelore and Celeste De Belen.

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, Betty Granata, Xander Ranieri, Robert Waddell, Yvonne Hill, June Phelan, Grace Boitano, Josephine Robayo, Carmen Moreno, Victoria Tranilla, Ederlina Badiola, Robin Youngblood, Helen Tarlinton and Julianne Edmilao.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND - 7 & 8 March, 2020

SERVERS		LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL	James Tchang S9	Patricia Williams John Geoghegan Lourdes Nathan	Ross & Sue Pinkerton, Annarita Mezger, Louise Jongejan, Maureen & Ray Scully, Conni Tierney, Keith D'Sylva, Delphine Fernandes
7.30am	David Tye 10	Martin Collins Jo Wickens Frances Ward	Patrick Bowie, Andrea Tomic, Jessica Punzalan, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00am	Vince Connelly S6	Karin Abrams Tim Abrams Debra Vermeer	Brian & Jenny Blacklock, Neil Bone, Tony Vermeer, Erin Myers, Jana Fizely, Ann O'Brien, Skirma Cervin, Rosalie Sampath
10.30am	Matthew D'Souza S7	Sylvia Rego Gemma Saccasan Peter Saccasan	Anita Christy, Dorothy Finucane, Mark Beard, Bernadette Boulos, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

6.00PM PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - 8 March, 2020

Servers	Projectionist	Piano	Drums	Singers
Joshua Formosa S8	Josh Becker Offertory Brendan Hassan	Alyssa Tchang	Jason Irawan Noel Thomas	Natalia Mathias Claire Ward Andrea Karatsiolis Rhiannon Athaide

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Tanya Taggart Lenit Robinson FLOWER ROSTER Lent - No flowers CHURCH LINEN Tess De Santo	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Maria Mochnik, Yvonne Desouza, Kathy Habek, Anna Schweda, Rebecca Aylmer COUNTING (1st Collection) Marie Woodward Jan Mooney	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Bernie Good, Debbie Fang, Douglas Carvalho, Eugenia Fidel BOOKSHOP Laurie Burrige / Heather Woods / Christine & Hubert Jenneke / Crystal Good / Leah Bonifacio
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