

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park, 2147

Tel: 9672.4037

Parish Church: 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park 2147



(Established 1961)

PARISH BULLETIN

Email: admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
 Parish Administrator: Fr John Paul Escarlan
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Bev Baxter
 Sacramental Coordinator: Mrs Madge Miranda (Thursday/Friday)
 Assistant Secretary: Mr Joel Agius
 Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9am to 4pm
 Parish School: St Bernadette's, 18 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park
 Principal: Mr Phillip Kapitanow, Tel: 8869 6400

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Parish of St Bernadette's strives to be a vibrant, active, Catholic community, that is welcoming and nurturing to all and celebrates being a people of God, with Christ as the model.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

18 DECEMBER 2022

TAKING FLESH IN A VERY HUMAN WAY!

Gospel in Life

Amazing progress has taken place in our ability to view the unborn child as it develops in its mother's womb. From a certain stage in her baby's growth, a mother has always been able to feel the child moving inside her. Fathers too have been able to place a hand on the mother's stomach and feel their child as it kicks and jumps.

However, ultrasound technology has revolutionised how people understand and think about human life in the womb. Now, rather than just feeling their child move, a mother and father can actually see it. They can watch as it sucks its thumb, as it turns and stretches. An incredible video called 'Window to the Womb' even shows an unborn child doing somersaults inside its mother's womb!

It has become common practice for expectant parents to be given ultrasound pictures of their unborn children. They rightly consider these to be the first photographs of their child. Sometimes they even put them in frames or save them in photo albums. They provide a record of the first nine months of life.

We now know that much more is going on in the womb that we previously imagined. We can see the unborn child living in harmony and security with its mother and, through her, with the outside world. Ultrasound enables us to see and appreciate what God has always known: the beauty of wonder of human life as it grows and develops.

Very soon we shall be placing the child Jesus in the manger of our Christmas cribs.

The figure of that tiny baby reminds us that God has not only blessed us by creating us, but also chose to become one with us. God can work through human lives and make them extraordinary.

Mary and Elizabeth had faith to believe God's promises: they were prepared to trust God's word. The visitation is more than a nice story. It's an invitation to deepen our faith and trust in God's love.

It's a call to recognise the presence of Christ in the people we meet and to allow Christ to shine through our often fragile human lives.

Mary and Elizabeth were unique in what God asked of them. We too have a unique calling. As someone once said, we are all meant to be mothers of God, because Jesus needs to be continually born in our lives.

(Weekly Parable from e-News)

PARISH GROUPS & MINISTRIES

<p>Administration Office Counters Cleaners Grounds/Gardeners</p> <p>Faith Formation Baptism Preparation Children's Church R.C.I.A. Sacramental Team SRE Teachers Faith Reflection Days Parish Retreats Men's Group</p> <p>Finance Committee</p>	<p>Family Life & Social Senior's Group Netball Club Playgroup Parish School Band Craft Group</p> <p>Spirituality Friends of Mary Immaculate Schoenstatt Mothers Assoc. of the Srs. of St Joseph Lenten Groups Bible Study Piety Stall Parish Lending Library</p>	<p>Liturgy Minister at the Altar Altar Servers Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Flowers Ministers of the Word Worship Environment Music Ministry Money Collectors Welcomers Sacristy Helpers</p> <p>Young Adults Group</p> <p>Pastoral Council</p>	<p>Pastoral Outreach Pastoral Care of the Sick St Vincent de Paul Society Vinnie's Pantry Home Visitation</p> <p>Parish School Parent Groups: Community Education Social Fundraising</p> <hr/> <p>For enquiries about these groups please contact the Parish Centre on 9672.4037 or visit our website www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au</p>
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RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: Let the Lord enter: He is king of glory!

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son: his name will be Emmanuel - God is with us. Alleluia!

Today's Readings:
Isaiah 7: 10-14
Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-24

Next Week:
Holy Family
Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14; Psalm 127
Colossians 3: 21-21; Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23



GOSPEL



This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

EXPLORING THE WORD

In Palestine, the betrothal period was akin to our period of engagement but was somewhat more binding. The couple are considered married but have not yet come to live together. An indiscretion of the nature described by Matthew requires a formal divorce and thus public knowledge. Joseph seeks to spare Mary this public disgrace, but God intercedes and alerts Joseph to the real identity of this child, which is in her 'by the Holy Spirit'. For Matthew, this is the most important point of his infancy narrative. The child Jesus is the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy that the maiden will conceive 'God-with-us'. God has freely chosen to come among people. The second important point in this text is Joseph's response. The anguish and turmoil he must have felt is overcome by his trust in God's ways, and he obeys. He simply 'did what the angel told him to do'. Through his trust and acceptance of God's will, human history will never be the same because 'God-is-with-us'.

- You could tell something of the story of King Ahaz (featured in the first reading) and his disregard of God's commands and compare this with the response of Joseph.
- What does this convey of the nature of faith?

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR



I hope and pray that you and your family are having a reflective Advent Season.

I want to inform you that Bishop Vincent has appointed Deacon Jerome Emmanuel as Assistant Deacon of our parish. This appointment will commence on 1 February 2023. Deacon Jerome is one of the permanent and married deacons in our Diocese. Please keep him in your prayers as we welcome him next year into our parish.

The Filipino Chaplaincy in our Diocese invites you to its traditional 9-day Novena Dawn Masses or Misa de Gallo from Dec 16 to 24 at 4:30AM at St Patrick's church, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. The Masses are celebrated in English.

St Bernadette; pray for us!

May God bless us always!

Fr John Paul

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our Christmas Mass times for 2022 are as follows:

- ♦ Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
6pm - Children's Mass
8:30pm - Youth-led Mass
11:30pm - Christmas Carols
Midnight Mass
- ♦ Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)
8:30am Mass
10am Mass
- ♦ Reconciliation: Wednesday 21st December - 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Saturdays 9:45am - 10:15am, 4:30pm - 5:30pm (No afternoon Adoration and Reconciliation on Christmas Eve, 24th December)



PARISH OFFICE HOURS DURING CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office will close on Friday 23/12/22 and reopen on Wednesday 11/1/23.

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

If you or someone close to you has suffered any abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic Groups) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us. Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options. Phone (02) 9933 0233. Web: safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au. For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact NSW Police on 1800 333 000.



VINNIES PANTRY

The St Vincent De Paul members would like to thank all parishioners for their continued generous support for Vinnies Pantry and the Poor Box throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S MASS

Children of the Parish are invited to join in and take part in various roles at our Christmas Children's Mass this year. Children can join in and be:



- ◆ actors/actresses in the Gospel Tableau
- ◆ readers of the Prayers of the Faithful
- ◆ welcomers

and children of all ages are encouraged to dress as Angels, Shepherds, Mary or Joseph.

We will have a practice on **Monday 19th December at 5.30pm at the Church**. Children will be given roles and we will practice as a group.

If your child would like to participate in any of these roles, please contact the Parish Office on 9672 4037 or email

liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2023

The 2023 Edition of Break Open The Word is now available for Ministers of the Word. Please take one from the box in the Sacristy.

CRAFT GROUP

The ladies craft group has raised a total of \$1802 for our Parish.

A huge thankyou to all the ladies involved: Anne, Jan, Lorraine, Lorna, Miriana, Jenny and Anne.

Thankyou also to our generous parishioners for your support during our sales.

If you would like to join our craft group next year, we meet every Wednesday from 10 to 12 at the St Joseph Centre (bring your own craft along or learn something new).

Thanks,
Bridget

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS



Any children in the parish who would like to be part of a children's choir for the Christmas Eve Children's Mass are invited to come along to rehearse on Monday the 12th of December and Monday the 19th of December. Both rehearsals will be held from 5pm-6pm in the church. We will then have a final rehearsal on Christmas Eve, before Mass. Please contact Mark on 0431712889 or Leanne on 0413047373 for further details.

Diocese of Parramatta WYD23 Pilgrimage Registrations Open!

Registration for WYD23 in Lisbon has now opened. Young people aged 16-35 can now view our itinerary, inclusions, indicative pricing, register and pay their \$800 deposit to secure their place. Limited spaces still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit www.parrawyd.org

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>.

Enrolment forms are also available from the Parish Office.

PIETY SHOP SALE

During December we are having a sale of "new" and donated "pre-loved" items. All proceeds from the sale will be used to buy stock for the Piety shop.

Thank you - The Piety Team

PIETY SHOP

Now on Sale:

Columban Calendar - \$10 each

Boxed Christmas Cards - \$2.50 per packet/box

God's Word 2023

PARISH PRIVACY POLICY

Following proclamation of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) at the end of 2001, the parish has reviewed its records and methods for holding and collecting information about parishioners. A Privacy Policy has been developed and approved by the Parish Priest and Parish Pastoral Council, in accordance with Diocesan norms, and a copy can be obtained from the Parish Centre during office hours.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**24th & 25th OF DECEMBER 2022**

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30pm	Midnight	8.30am	10am
Altar Servers	Noah Bonello	Liam Agius	Volunteer Required	Volunteer Required	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan	Aidan Villadolid	Fernando Gallegos Francis Sultana	Mario Spiteri	Ray Baterna Reymund Rillera
Minister of the Word	Children	Joel Agius ® 1 Jessie Pranadjaja ® 2 Joel Agius ©	Michael Muranty ® 1 Michael Muranty ® 2 Kate Fardouly ©	Perla Billedo ® 1 Ana Vlatko ® 2 Kim McDonald ©	Eva Narajos® 1 Reginald Vibar ® 2 Rolaine Vibar ©
Eucharistic Minister	Ella Martirez Joanne Digwood	Anne Walsh	Rosa Watson	Volunteer Required	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Children	Youth Ministry	Volunteer Required	Louise Bruni	Volunteer Required
Music	Mordini Children's Choir	Youth Choir	Parish Choir	CDs - Eva Narajos	Savea Choir
Flowers	Vicki Sant				
Counters	Kevin Sloane & Kevin Isbester				
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Dennis & Helen Gonzales				

For the following sick parishioners, relatives and friends:

Victoria Herzig, Sandra McShane, Gwen Gunderson, Phoebe Mae Lasmarias, Ann Thompson, Sr M. Teresa, Glenn Mowbray, Julie Daly, Annette McKenzie, Brendan Doran, Paul Mowbray, Ivy Deguzman, Karan Moloney, Joe Calabria, Carmen Sammit, Margaret Duff, John Roch, Trish Mowbray, Ginette Sharrock, Professor Keith Kennet, Jossie Thompson, Neven Vuleta, Joseph Leslie, Angie Delara, Gerard Leslie, David Smythe, Beryl Foster, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Sue James, Myra Sessions, David Ward, Brian Sloane, David Williams, Nathan Weaver.

For our deceased brothers and sisters:**Recently deceased:****Anniversary:** Malcolm Speers

Deceased: Gabriel Faddoul & deceased members of the Faddoul & Tawa families, Fe Diaz Hizo. Deceased members & benefactors of the St Vincent de Paul Society. May all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace and rise in glory.