

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

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: Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz Tel: 8869 6400

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



(Established 1961)

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.

2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 15 JANUARY 2023

Look! There is the Lamb of God.

From now until Lent we will be reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It may be helpful to know something about this significant Christian city.

Corinth is approximately two days walk from Athens and lies in the middle of a narrow isthmus. Nowadays since 1893, there is a canal cutting across this isthmus. On the East was the Aegean Sea, and on the West was the Ionian Sea. It was safer for a boat to pull in to shore and to carry goods six kilometres overland than take the 300 kilometre sea voyage around the southern Greek Peninsula. Large rollers wheeled ships overland. Corinth therefore was a major city controlling trade North-South, and East-West. Having such a significant port, it levied taxes and was a very wealthy city. In 46 BC it was rebuilt by Julius Caesar and made a Roman colony. It was a very multicultural city with numerous Temples and every two years Panhellenic festivals were held, second only to the Olympics. It was a great commercial city and a centre for communication. It was a very lively, trading, rough city – a boom town, open and feisty. Paul brought the gospel into this multicultural, commercial city.

The Corinthian community can give heart to any parish. This is a community that Paul personally evangelised but if ever a community could get things wrong the Corinthians did. They were enthusiastic in their faith but also prey to normal human frailty – jealousy, factions, misunderstandings. After starting them off, Paul left Corinth to travel to other regions but then began to hear that all was not well in Corinth. Chloe, a wealthy business woman from Ephesus, went to Corinth probably on business and brought back news. Her report was not good so Paul sent Timothy to Corinth. Then, while Timothy was in transit, some emissaries arrived from Corinth with a letter about problems with sexual immorality and divisions in the community. He wrote the letter we have as 1 Corinthians.

The letter begins in the formal style of ancient letters. The sender is named, Paul, then the recipient, to the church of God in Corinth, followed by a short greeting – May God send you grace and peace. Paul then begins with the body of the letter which we will read in the following weeks.

The Gospel turns from Matthew's to the Gospel of John and see through John's 'lens', the testimony of John the Baptist regarding the strange incident of Jesus' baptism. According to the Fourth Gospel, Jesus' first disciples were at first disciples of John the Baptist, and scholars suggest that there may have even been confusion in the community about who was the more important, Jesus or John. The Gospel very clearly points out that Jesus is the more important figure. John baptises with water but he proclaims that Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

Considering John and Jesus leads me to think about the importance our world places on competition and being the best. If we get trapped into this framework we end up measuring ourselves against others, as if they provide the standard. The Gospel presents a different way of measuring our worth, in terms of God's calling to us in the gifts we have received that lead us to take certain directions. John's integrity lies within, and in knowing his role in life, which was to bear witness to Jesus, not to take over Jesus' role. My ultimate peace and happiness lies in living *my* life, not the life of someone else; not 'keeping up with the Joneses', but keeping true to the life God has given me.

This can sound easy, but it takes a lifetime of seeking self and seeking God, rather than seeking the world. The 'sin of the world' can take many guises, most of them terribly attractive. The integrity of a person like John invites me yet again to see what I am truly seeking.

© Sr Mary Coloe PVBM

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become children of God. Alleluia!



GOSPEL



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

LENTEN PROGRAM - YEAR A - 2023

The season of Lent provides an ideal time to focus again on the person who is at the heart of our Christian faith - Jesus. This Lenten season, St Bernadette's Parish is offering the opportunity to gather in groups informally as a faith community to:

- * Pray
- * Share personal insights into faith
- * Grow in understanding of the Scriptures
- * Relate faith to life through reflection in real life stories

This program, **TRIUMPH** provides many opportunities for individuals and groups to reflect on their mission to bring the Gospel values of peace, justice, forgiveness and love to our homes and communities.

If you are able to lead a Lenten group, please talk to Fr John Paul or contact the parish office. We will be ordering soon from the Diocese of Wollongong and we will let you know once the copies are available.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings with the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I hope and pray that you had an enjoyable and wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations with your family, relatives, and friends.

I just want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your commitment to your faith in Christ, your generosity to our parish and warm welcome to me that I have observed and experienced since I came to our parish.

I am looking forward for this new year to be once again a time of great encounter with God as we continue to grow in our faith in Him and in our relationship with our brothers and sisters.

This year, we will welcome to our parish, Deacon Jerome Emmanuel, who has been appointed by Bishop Vincent as Assistant Deacon in our parish, effective from February 1. He will be attending all three weekend Masses on February 4 and 5 for an opportunity to greet and meet you.

Please keep me and Deacon Jerome in your prayers as we continue to serve God through you here in our parish.

May God bless and guide us always!

St Bernadette; pray for us!

Fr John Paul

ST BERNADETTE'S LALOR PARK WEDNESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONS

Come and join us in our weekly devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette every Wednesday evening at 6.30pm with Adoration and Rosary and special prayers, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9672 4037

or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

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.

SRE Ministry

Are you looking for an opportunity to share your faith with others? Do you have half an hour to spare once a week?

The SRE (Special Religious Education) Ministry is in need of more teachers and helpers to join us in taking the faith into our four state schools each week. We teach at the following schools:

- ♦ Lynwood Park Public School: Tuesday 12pm-1pm
- ♦ Kings Langley Public School: Tuesday 2pm-3pm
- ♦ Lalor Park Public School: Wednesday 1pm-1:30pm
- ♦ Seven Hills West Public School: Thursday 11:30am-12pm

Each new SRE will be provided with training and support to help you in this Ministry.

If you are interested, please contact Joel Agius on 0422 675 934

or email Joel.Agius@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au, or contact the Parish Office on 9672 4037.

We would love to have you on board.

Welcomers Ministry

Would you like to become a Welcomer at our Parish? The Welcomers Ministry is looking for more volunteers to help welcome parishioners to our Weekend Masses.

If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please contact the Parish Office on 9672 4037, or email liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Toongabbie Parish Position Vacant

St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie, is advertising for a Sacramental/SRE Coordinator. The successful applicant will be in charge of the Sacramental Program, the Special Religious Education (SRE) Program and provide administrative assistance to the Parish Priest and Parish Secretary. Hours will be 18 hours per weeks worked over 3 days. Please forward applications and resumes to the parish Secretary by 1 February 2023 to

secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au

"Soul Sisters"

A new women's fellowship group for our parish. Monthly catch-ups for any women in the parish who wish to catch up for a coffee and a chat! First meetup will be on Monday 6th of February at 8pm at the Mordini's place, 2 Lawson Street Lalor Park. Please contact Leanne Mordini on 0413047373 for further details.

"Pathfinders"

A new parish Youth Group for Years 5 and 6 students. Initial meeting will be for **parents only** so that we can chat about how often the group will meet, who will volunteer etc – this meeting will be held in the Parish Centre on Monday the 23rd of January at 7.30pm. Please contact Leanne Mordini on 0413047373 for further information.

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.

Sr Nathalie Becquart Sydney Public Forum and Lecture: 3 February

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCI, the Vatican's most influential female, is coming to Australia for a whirlwind tour in February 2023. Sr Nathalie will be in Sydney on Friday 3 February, presenting at a public forum at 4pm and a public lecture at 7pm, both held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Places are limited, so please register via <https://parracatholic.org/srnathalie/>.

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.

Parish of Richmond St Paul's Feast: 21 January

Come join the celebrations at the Parish of Richmond's 2023 Annual St Paul's Feast on Saturday 21 January. Mass will be celebrated at St Monica's at 5.30pm, followed by a procession. Other activities include the Our Lady Queen of Peace Band, food and drink, chocolate wheel and kids amusement rides. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Vicki on 0410 545 783.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday, 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2023 to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

MASS TIMES AND PARISH LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm,
Sunday 8.30am & 10.00am

YOUTH MASS

6.00pm Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of the month

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday @ 9.15am
(Rosary and Exposition before Mass @ 8.30am)
Wednesday evening @ 7.30pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.45 - 10.15am & 4.30pm - 5.30pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8.30am—9.15am
Wednesday 6.30pm
(Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette)
Sat: 4.30pm—5.30pm

BAPTISMS

At 11.30am by appointment only.
A Preparation Evening will be held before the Baptism for parents and godparents at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By Appointment—Please contact Parish Office for details.

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: Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Ailsia McDonald, Elaine Melinz, Primitiva Sumampong

Anniversary: Fay Roch, Remedios Acre, Olipio and Margarita Matildo

Deceased: Michelle Makin, Linda Mackinnon

Deceased members & benefactors of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

21st & 22nd JANUARY 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Liam Agius	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri Zoe Kenyon	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Noah Bonello
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan	Jose (Mari) Tomas	Fernando Gallegos Reymund Rillera
Minister of the Word	Joel Agius @ 1 Raia Uri @ 2 Jessie Pranadjaja @	Matthew Kenyon @ 1 Judith Smith @ 2 Alex De Vega @	Thelma Islip @ 1 Eva Narajos @ 2 Karina Marafioti @
Eucharistic Minister	Victor Patruno	Sue Gilmore	Rosa Watson
Welcomer	Lorraine Stirton	Wendy Walsh	Cindy Astillo
Music		CDs - Judith Pineda	CDs - Sue Gilmore
Flowers	Myrna Baterna		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Dennis & Helen Gonzales		