

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.

4th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 29 JANUARY 2023

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel of Matthew is keen to cast Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'. Moses was revered in Jewish history not only as the one who led the people out of Egypt, but even more importantly as the one who received the Ten Commandments from God. The first five books of the Bible, known to Jews as the Torah, or the Law, were accredited to Moses for a very long time. So Moses was seen as the one who received the Commandments from God and who also wrote down the Law of the people, the Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the Jewish people. When the Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses it emphasises the way in which Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses to fulfilment and bring about a new understanding and appreciation of both the Law and God. Jesus introduced a new way of perceiving God; as a God of compassion and mercy, rather than the jealous, vengeful God that is often expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time.

Living the Gospel – Be-attitudes

One way to read the Beatitudes is that Jesus was commending and blessing the various people who found themselves in those sorts of conditions. Another, is as a list of qualities that all people should strive to exhibit. It's not just some people who happen to be economically poor who are blessed. Rather, we must all have a poverty of spirit – a humility about our need for God's merciful action in our lives. All are called to hunger and thirst for justice and all are called to be merciful. The Beatitudes are not a menu to select from, but rather an essential list of ingredients.

Gospel Focus – Covenant

The structure of the Beatitudes can be seen as yet another attempt by God to re-establish a covenant between Godself and the people. Throughout Jewish history, God called the people back into relationship and re-established God's covenant with them. Like all the previous versions of the covenant, the Beatitudes contain both a series of demands and a series of promises. It is a two-way deal. The first part of each Beatitude is a statement of what the people are called to do and the second part is God's promise of how they will be rewarded for their right action.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12



Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

for they shall have the earth as their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

EXPLORING THE WORD

The rendering of the Greek term used in this text as ‘happy’ is rather weak. A better term is ‘blessed’. At the heart of the Beatitudes is Jesus’ instruction to his followers to cultivate certain qualities in their lives. To be gentle, to mourn, to thirst for what is right, to be merciful, to be pure of heart and to be peacemakers are signs of the presence of the kingdom of God in our lives. To have such virtues is to be blessed. Jesus teaches that those who suffer some human lack or pain are blessed, not because poverty, pain or sorrow are good in themselves, but because they reveal to us our need for God. Those who are prosperous, comfortable or content find this much more difficult to realise and accept.

The final portion of this text speaks to the experience of the early church, which suffered persecution for the sake of faith in Jesus Christ. Christians today are also called to stand against arrogant secularism, which proclaims that humans do not need God. Even today, people suffer for their faith, but they too are assured that their reward will be great in heaven!

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The Office for Safeguarding is offering a range of opportunities across the Diocese to complete your Safeguarding Training to kick off 2023. Please choose **one** of the following options and venues and register for your Safeguarding Modules.

Weekday Training (All Modules)

Mary Immaculate Parish – 125 Barnier Drive Quakers Hill Monday 13th February: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Weekday Morning Training

St Bernadette’s Parish Lalor Park (Parish Meeting Room)

Module 1: Monday 20th February (10.15am-11.15am)

Module 2: Monday 27th February (10.15am-11.45am)

Module 3: Monday 6th March (10.15am-11.45am)

St Aidan’s Parish – 9 Adelaide Street Rooty Hill

Module 1: Thursday 9th February (7.00pm-8.00pm)

Module 2: Thursday 16th February (7.00pm-8.30pm)

Module 3: Thursday 23rd February (7.00pm-8.30pm)

St Oliver Plunkett’s Parish – 35 Wigram Street Harris Park

Module 1: Tuesday 21st February (7.00pm-8.00pm)

Module 2: Tuesday 28th February (7.00pm-8.30pm)

Module 3: Tuesday 7th March (7.00pm-8.30pm)

Weekday Evening Training

St Finbar’s Parish - 46-52 Levy Street Glenbrook

Module 1: Tuesday 7th February (7.30pm-8.30pm)

Module 2: Tuesday 14th March (7.30pm-9.00pm)

Module 3: Tuesday 9th May (7.30pm-9.00pm)

Saturday Training (All Modules)

St Thomas Aquinas Parish – 168 Hawkesbury Road Springwood

Saturday 11th February (All Modules: 10am - 3pm)

St Joseph’s Parish – 12 Richmond Road

Kingswood Saturday 25th February (All Modules: 10am - 3pm)

St Bernadette’s Parish – 367 Old Northern Road Castle Hill Saturday 4th March (All Modules: 9am - 2pm)

Please register for **one** of these options (Parish and Date/s) by emailing:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you would like to complete the training online ‘Sign Up’ by clicking on this link:

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at:

maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

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.

WELCOME We especially welcome to our faith community: Sebastian Bautista & Miles Halago. They will be baptised into our community this Sunday. Congratulations to their parents and families and may you have a joyous and blessed day.

VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of November, you are invited to donate **1 PACKET ONLY of NAPPIES** in 1 of the following sizes: 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 for boy or girl. Thank you.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Come and join us on our Monthly Monday night Bible Study for a deep dive into the scriptures set for proclamation on each Sunday from the churches' Lectionary. A typical bible study session includes: an opening prayer, a review of the Sunday Scripture Readings, followed by open discussion points and a closing prayer. All bible studies are free. No registration is required: you can just contact one of the co-ordinators, either Cyril or Patrick, for information and let either one of them know of your interest to join the friendly group. All are Welcome. So why not bring a friend or a family member.

WHERE: St Bernadette's Parish Centre, 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park

TIME: 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

WHEN: Monday Night on 6 February 2023

For further information, contact either:

CYRIL on 0432 639 053 (cyril.loba@gmail.com) or PATRICK on 0416 240 298

(Patrick.cagney@optusnet.com.au)

Welcomers & Counters Ministries

Would you like to become a Welcomer or Counter at our Parish? The Welcomers & Counters Ministries are looking for more volunteers to help welcome parishioners to our Weekend Masses and count the collections on Mondays.

If you are interested in joining either of these Ministries, please contact the Parish Office on 9672 4037, or email liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Ordination to the Priesthood: 2 February

Bishop Vincent Long and the Diocese of Parramatta invite you to the Ordination to the Priesthood of Adam Carlow, Matthew Dimian and Jack Elkazzi on Thursday 2 February at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Please RSVP to the Cathedral Parish team at secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au if you are able to attend.

"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.

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.

Copies will be available at the Piety Store for \$5.00 from Saturday 4th February.

High School Youth Group

All young people aged 12-17 (Yrs 7-12) are invited to a social/games night to launch the St Bernadette's High School Youth Group.

Join us in the Parish Hall from 6pm on Friday 17th February for pizza, drinks, and games. Hope to see you there as we kick off the year!

Funeral Mass for Cardinal Pell

A Pontifical Requiem Mass for Cardinal George Pell will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, February 2 at 11am, before a private burial in the cathedral's crypt.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be the Principal Celebrant at the Mass, which will be open to all and also livestreamed on the [St Mary's Cathedral YouTube Channel](#). Screens will be erected in the St Mary's Cathedral forecourt to accommodate the large numbers of mourners expected to attend.

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.

Last chance to secure your Diocese of Parramatta WYD23 Pilgrimage spot!

There are only 10 seats left on the Diocesan pilgrimage with Bishop Vincent to WYD23 in Lisbon! Young people aged 16-35 are encouraged to secure their place as soon as possible to avoid missing out. View the pilgrimage itinerary, inclusions, indicative pricing and registration information at www.parrawyd.org

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 Lasmarías, 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: Benigno Zamora JR, Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Ailsia McDonald

Anniversary: Edward James Townsend, Bruce McDonald

Deceased:

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.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

4th & 5th FEBRUARY 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri Jess Barbin	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Fernando Gallegos Reymund Rillera	Joe Formosa	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Kim McDonald @ 1 Wendy Hord @ 2 Michael Hord @	Carmen Bonello @ 1 Reginald Vibar @ 2 Ana Vlatko @	Karina Marafioti @ 1 Thelma Islip @ 2 Eva Narajos @
Eucharistic Minister	Bernadette Nolan	Sue Gilmore	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Wendy Walsh	Rosa Watson
Music	Mordini Family	Parish Choir	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Michelle Brohier		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ricardo Serrado		