

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 Deacon: Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

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

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.

5th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 5 FEBRUARY 2023

ISAIAH 58:7-10

The passage from Isaiah (which much modern scholarship identifies as part of a post-exilic addition to the work of the earlier 8th century BCE Jerusalem prophet) is set in the context of a debate or dispute. As the text presents it, the people claim to be fasting and seeking God but, despite this, God does not look on them favourably. This may reflect something of the difficult situation of those returned from exile as they tried to rebuild their society and clashed with those who had been left in the land by the Babylonian conquerors, presumably to produce crops to feed the empire's forces and pay taxes. In response to this the prophetic voice is summoned by God to proclaim 'their faults to my people'. Note that even though the people are indicted by the word of God they remain 'my people'.

The prophetic critique of the people's critique of God (and perhaps the priests and other officials) unfolds in two stages. The first outlines the criteria for being in a right relationship with God; the focus is on what one does for one's neighbour rather than what one does for one's own benefit – fasting and attending liturgies in order to gain God's blessing. The clear implication is that those censured in this prophecy (and every reader is challenged to see where he or she stands in relation to it) are not doing this but serving themselves. Two things flow from the called-for change of heart and action. One is that the self-serving, sinful person is healed of his or her spiritual ailments ('your wound will be quickly healed over'). The second is the establishment of an intimate relationship with God: to those who give themselves for the welfare of their neighbour God will give himself to them ('Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say "I am here"').

The second stage of the text's response to the people is to transform the preceding criteria into conditions (cf. the repeated 'if' in the text). This is the third paragraph of the reading. Note how specific the three initial conditions are; the implication is that God, the universal just judge, knows precisely the crimes that the people are committing against their neighbours. They are the kinds of conduct towards others that have to stop – the yoke (effective slavery of another), the clenched fist (intimidation and threat), the wicked word (false accusations and abuse of the law court). In contrast, the final two conditions are positive, recalling the initial criteria and effectively reversing the misconduct exposed in the preceding two lines. To give one's bread to the hungry is to open one's hand in friendship rather than clench the fist in hostility, and one relieves the oppressed by removing the yoke that weighs them down. If the people perform these reversals in honesty and sincerity, the final lines of the reading assure them that their present darkness will be turned to light – both for them and their neighbour.

© Fr Mark O'Brien

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16



Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

EXPLORING THE WORD

To understand this text, it is important to place it alongside the Beatitudes that immediately precede it (you could read these together first). In that text, the virtues to be cultivated by followers of Jesus are outlined, but the danger with taking the Beatitudes on their own is that faith can become contented peacefulness and somewhat inward-looking. To avoid this risk, Matthew follows the Beatitudes with this text, which teaches disciples about the task of Christians in the world. They have been given the gifts; they are the salt of the earth. But if they just see their blessedness and rest there, they risk becoming 'tasteless' and good only to be 'trampled underfoot'. Instead, the disciples are urged to place their light high on a hill and to let it shine for all to see. They are witnesses to God's living presence, not just for the nation of Israel but for all the world. In seeing the way that Christians live and act—their 'good works'—others will be drawn to God through their active witness to faith. Others will come to give praise to God in heaven. This is an amazing responsibility, and Jesus acknowledges that some salt may lose its taste and some lights be hidden. The challenge for Christians, new and old, is not to take the gift of faith for granted and let it become tasteless; not to keep the light confined to private moments but to allow others to see the difference faith makes so that they can know the presence and power of God.

- How is this a challenge to you?
- How can you let your faith shine forth?

MESSAGE FROM DEACON JEROME

Prayerful Greetings,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the Deacon assigned to your parish to assist Fr John Paul effective 1st February 2023. My name is Jerome Emmanuel. I am the third in the family of five children. I was brought up and nurtured in a strong Catholic faith in Sri Lanka by my parents and especially my uncles and aunts who were priests and religious nuns. I had a great desire to become a priest when I was very young and when the time came for serious discussion with my parents seeking permission to enter the minor seminary, my father, in his wisdom, declined my request, but suggested that he may consider after I complete my High School Education, if and when I so wish. Midway my High School studies, my father passed away, and my thoughts of entering the seminary faded into oblivion, partly driven by the need to embark on professional career path to earn some income to support myself and my mother and siblings. I was married in 1984 and migrated to Australia in late 1980s and ever since called Sydney our home. We are blessed with two boys, and now with a grandson who just had his first birthday.

Fast forward to early 2000, the process of discernment to the Ministry of Diaconate began about twenty years ago when one of the Franciscan Friars asked me to consider joining the ministry of Acolyte. It was a heartfelt "Yes" from the bottom of my heart, and the process of interior transformation started to gather momentum. Having made enquiries about the ministry of Permanent Diaconate, I enrolled in "Certificate of Pastoral Formation" course which was a prerequisite for Ministry in the Church. Having completed the course in 2011, and later theological studies, as part of the formation process that focused on four pillars namely, Personal, Spiritual, Theological and Ministerial with each part interwoven with the other to make the person the living sign of the servanthood of the Holy Catholic Church and make one worthy to serve at the Altar, Word and Charity, I was ordained to the Office of Permanent Diaconate on 21st October 2017. Upon my ordination, I was assigned to St Aidan's Catholic Church at Rooty Hill in November 2017 where I served for the past 5 years and 3 months, well past my initial three year assignment. With God's help, I pray that I have the opportunity to assist and work with Fr John Paul and to share God's Word as much as possible over the years to come. Please feel free to introduce yourself or just say "Hello" or Hello Deacon Jerome.

Deacon Jerome

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

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.

SENIORS MEETING

The next Seniors Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall at 9:45AM on Thursday 9th of February. All welcome.

FRIENDS OF MARY

The next Friends of Mary meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th of February at 9:45AM in the Parish Centre. Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch.
All welcome.

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.loa@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

Funeral of Gwen Kendall

The funeral of Gwen Kendall will be held on Wednesday February 8th at 11am at St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope. All are welcome to attend.

SAFEGUARDING

From 1 February 2023, the Children's Guardian now has power in law to take action to ensure organisations comply with the Child Safe Standards. This is a State Government law, not just a Diocesan Policy.

It is therefore important that, if you are a volunteer in our Parish, you undertake and complete the three mandatory Safeguarding modules. You can sign up to do these modules Face-to-Face at one of the upcoming sessions advertised over the last couple of weeks, or complete your training online at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

Each Parish Ministry is very important to our faith and local community. Let us all show this by our collective commitment to this training.

"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 are now available at the Piety Store for \$5.00.

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!

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 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: Fr Ruben Elago MSP, Gwen Kendall, Tony Smith, Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Ailsia McDonald

Anniversary: Fr Tim Crowley, Jeffrey Deal

Deceased: Michael Griffiths, Graham Griffiths

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

11th & 12th FEBRUARY 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Joshua Vaz Rachel Vaz	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri Zoe Kenyon	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Rey Baterna Leonides Martinez	Mario Spiteri Francis Sultana	Michael Webster
Minister of the Word	Michael Muranty @ 1 Bernadette Nolan @ 2 Minda Vuleta @	Alex De Vega @ 1 Judith Smith @ 2 Matthew Kenyon @	Josephine Baracz @ 1 Perla Billedo @ 2 Rolaine Vibar @
Eucharistic Minister	Jessica Anderson	Catherine Peregrina	Rosa Watson
Welcomer	Agius Family	Louise Bruni	Volunteer Required
Music	Magnificat Choir	St Pedro Calungsod Choir	Parish Choir
Flowers	Vicki Sant		
Counters	Kevin Sloane & Kevin Isbester		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Nick Soon / Couples for Christ		