

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 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

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.

6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 12 FEBRUARY 2023

ECCLESIASTICUS 15:15-20

Many commentators regard this reading from Ecclesiasticus (the Hebrew name of the author is Ben Sira, or Sirach in Greek) as a classic Jewish presentation of the doctrine of free will. The author lived in the late 3rd and early 2nd centuries BCE. One can see the doctrine clearly in the opening two parallel lines, in particular the statements, 'if you wish' and 'within your power'. God has given the human being the power (of free will) to keep the commandments. According to the following two lines of poetry, God has also established the boundaries within which free will operates. That is, 'He has set fire and water before you' to choose from. A subsequent line of the poem identifies the fire and water as life and death respectively; this may appear rather unusual to an Australian reader for whom fire is the death-dealing element whereas water brings life to the thirsty land. But these terms or images are probably used here to evoke important elements of Israel's tradition. Thus, the fire would evoke the fire of God's presence on Mt Sinai in Exodus 19-24 when the covenant was established between God and Israel (so life), while the water would evoke God's victory over the Egyptian forces at the sea in Exodus 14 (so death). Within the more immediate context of the book, life and death also probably refer to obeying or disobeying the commandments. For this writer, one who disobeys or disregards God's commandments does not live the only 'real' life, which is one lived in relationship with God, but rather is 'like' the dead Egyptians on the seashore in Exodus 14. God so respects human freedom that, as the next line says, God will give what the person chooses – be it the way of life or the way of death.

This is a strong statement that could lead one to think that God then wipes the divine hands, as it were, of one who chooses the way of death (disobedience). The following lines of the poem may be designed to counter this. These state that God's wisdom is vast and God sees everything. God's caring gaze is focused on 'those who fear him', a statement that is designed to encourage readers to make the right choice. But the next line states that God 'notes every action of man'. Hence, even the actions of evildoers are of vital concern to God and, as the next chapter of the book asserts, 'His mercy is great, but his severity is as great; he judges every man as his deeds deserve' (16:12).

It would of course be most ungodlike of God to command human beings to obey the law without providing them with the wherewithal to do so. Ben Sira is well aware of this and in the later text 17:8 states that 'He put his own light (or eye) in their hearts to show them the magnificence of his works'. In short God has empowered human beings to keep the law but, as the Bible points out time and time again, human beings prefer to do things off their own bat and cause chaos and disorder. But, as the Bible also asserts, God does not abandon human beings but seeks to enable them to recognise and accept their sinfulness so as to restore them to a right relationship with God and with one another (what we call grace theology). For Christians the bearer of the fullness of God's grace is Jesus.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:17-37



Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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

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

Saturday Training (All Modules)

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:

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 January, 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.

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 Tony Smith

The funeral of Tony Smith will be held on Monday February 13th at 10:30am at St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park. All are welcome to attend.

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 this Friday 17th February for pizza, drinks, games and music. Hope to see you there as we kick off the year!

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council will meet on Thursday February 23rd at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

Opening School Mass

St Bernadette's Parish Primary School opening school mass will take place on Wednesday February 15th at 10am at St Bernadette's Church.

Ash Wednesday Masses

This year's Ash Wednesday Masses will be at 9:15am and 7:30pm.

There will be Adoration and Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette at 6:30pm.

Blessed Palms

If you have any palms from last year's Palm Sunday Masses, you are invited to bring them to the church next weekend so that they can be used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday. There will be a box on the table outside the church for you to leave them in. Thank you.

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 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.

MET Lenten Scripture Reflection Night: 21 February

Looking for a Scripture reflection session on the season of Lent? You and your key contacts are most welcome to attend the 2023 Diocesan Lenten Scripture Reflection Night with Dr Laurie Woods. Tuesday 21 February – 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/lent2023>

St Finbar's Lenten Biblical Studies

Fr Joseph Lam will be holding a Biblical Study on The Gospel of Matthew on the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus throughout the Lenten period.

Each session will take place on a Tuesday evening at 7:30pm at St Finbar's Catholic Parish, 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook NSW 2773. The three session dates are 28 February, 7 March & 28 March.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Wednesday Evening Devotions

Our parish is hosting 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.

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.

Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 19 February

You are invited to the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking on Sunday 19 February at 2pm at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. We hope you will join us to commemorate the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in Australia and worldwide and look forward to celebrating the legacy of St Josephine Bakhita with you.

MET Lenten Music Formation Session: 13 February

Musicians and liturgy planners are invited to attend an evening exploring music for Lent on Monday 13 February from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, MET, and Assistant Music Director at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To RSVP, please contact 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:

Rey Astillo, 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: Ailsia McDonald, Joseph Morgan, Fr Ruben Elago MSP, Gwen Kendall, Tony Smith

Anniversary: Sam Serna, Fr Tim Crowley, Jeffrey Deal

Deceased: Abigail Devega, Bruce McDonald, Michael Griffiths, Graham Griffiths

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:

18th & 19th FEBRUARY 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Joshua Vaz Rachel Vaz Noah Bonello	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Fernando Gallegos Leonides Martinez	Alexander De Vega	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Albert Agius @ 1 Lissa Carter @ 2 David Smyth @	Ana Vlatko @ 1 Sue Gilmore @ 2 Carmen Bonello @	Ephpheta @ 1 Ephpheta @ 2 Kate Fardouly @
Eucharistic Minister	Kim McDonald	Helen Gonzales	Jocelyn Bade
Welcomer	Lorraine Stirton	Wendy Walsh	Cindy Astillo
Music	Couples for Christ	St Francis Choir	Parish Choir
Flowers	Amabel Keelty		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Jenny Agius / Sue Gilmore / Sheila Magallnes		