

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.

7th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 19 FEBRUARY 2023

LEVITICUS 19:1-2, 17-18

Earlier in our modern era, the book of Leviticus was regarded as an example of the decline of the once charismatic and prophetic religion of Israel into the rather legalistic and ritualistic religion of emergent Judaism in the post-Babylonian exile period (from the late 6th century BCE down to the time of Christ). This is now judged not only to be a jaundiced Christian view of Judaism but also a misreading of the book of Leviticus itself. There is currently considerable interest in this book of priestly theology and its companion book of Numbers. One important theological element in the book is the way it portrays Israel assembled in the desert around the sanctuary of God as mirroring in a way the portrait of the human couple (Adam and Eve) in the garden story (Genesis 2–3). According to the first chapters of Genesis God created us in the image and likeness of God but our common sinfulness (presented in the story or myth of the first humans) stains this image and likeness. As the biblical story unfolds, God is revealed as utterly committed to restoring the defaced image to its full glory, and the chosen 'model' for showcasing the nature of this restoration project by God the master painter/creator is the people of Israel.

A key term in Leviticus that links its understanding of Israel's contribution to the restoration of the image and likeness of God is 'holiness'. 'Holiness' and 'holy' in Leviticus are broader than our use of these terms that tend to refer to the quality of one's moral life. For Leviticus, the term carries more the sense of being 'other' or 'set apart'. God is the quintessentially 'other' in relation to creation, in no way a part of creation. Yet this utterly 'other' being has deigned to establish a relationship with another 'other', the human being. And this relationship is meant to set us apart from our former sinful selves; in this way we become 'holy' or 'godlike'. Our reading commences with the call to be holy, as God is holy, and then describes the kind of activity that will identify one as holy. The way one is meant to relate to one's neighbour is the way God relates to Israel and humanity in general. Even though Israel and humanity is prone to sin and failure, God does not abandon or break the relationship (what is often called in the Bible 'the covenant').

The right relationship that one is meant to have with one's neighbour is completely 'other' to the kind of relationships that sinful human beings try to establish; these are based on domination, exclusion, fear, etc. A corollary of this is that one can only form a right relationship with one's neighbour when one treats him or her as 'the other'; that is, respects his or her individuality and dignity and does not try to turn the other into a mirror image of oneself. Another important feature of Levitical theology as outlined in this passage is contained in the famous command 'you must love your neighbour as yourself'. According to Leviticus, we are commanded to love ourselves as much as we love our neighbour. Indeed, one who hates himself or herself is unlikely to be able to love one's neighbour as 'the other', and vice versa. Self-love in Leviticus is of course not the same as selfishness. Why should we love ourselves, one may ask? Because, Leviticus would say, God loves us, and what God loves we should also love.

© Fr Mark O'Brien

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48



Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

EXPLORING THE WORD

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching. © Sr Dianne Bergant CSA

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 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)

Weekday Evening Training

St Aidan's Parish – 9 Adelaide Street Rooty Hill

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)

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

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:

maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of February 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.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

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

Ash Wednesday Masses—22 February

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.

SRE Meeting

The first SRE meeting for 2023 will take place on Thursday 23rd February at 1pm in the Parish Meeting Room. If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please feel free to come along on the day, or contact Joel Agius on 0422 675 934 or

Joel.Agius@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Holy Family Association & Friends

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth invites you to join them for the Holy Family Association & Friends gathering.

Date: Saturday, 25 February 2023

Venue: Queen of Poland Convent, Meeting Room

116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong

09.30 am: Morning Tea

10.30 am: Speaker: Fr. Geoffrey Plant

Topic:— Living in Hope, Grace and Gratitude

12.00 pm Eucharist, followed by Lunch

For more information please contact

Sr Rita Mob. 0424 678 766 Email: ahfcsfn@gmail.com

Parish Finance Committee Meeting

The Parish Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 2nd March at 6:30pm in the Fr Leonard Room in the Parish Centre.

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>

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.

Positions Vacant:

- Parish Office Administration Assistant – St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood.
- Policy Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**
- People and Culture Adviser – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**

Sacramental Coordinator – Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville – **Applications close Monday 20 February**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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

JOIN THE PARISH CHOIR FOR EASTER TRIDUUM

You are most welcome to join the Parish Choir for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil). The Parish Choir is practising each Tuesday evening at 7:30pm until Holy week. It would be good to have a few more people, even from the Parish's other Choirs, singing with us at this time. Think about it.

If you are interested please contact Elizabeth Kitney on

0408 491 110 or Michele Facchin on 0448 721 000

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.

Aid to the Church in Need Syria Appeal

HELP SYRIA. *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake

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: Domingo Apolinar, Ignatius Bonello, Francesco Marafioti, Joseph Morgan

Anniversary: Sam Serna

Deceased: Abigail Devega, Ailsia McDonald, Bruce McDonald

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:

25th & 26th FEBRUARY 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald Noah Bonello Liam Agius	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri Zoe Kenyon	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan	Jose (Mari) Tomas	Joe Formosa Reymund Rillera
Minister of the Word	Jessie Pranadjaja © 1 Joel Agius © 2 Raia Uri ©	Judith Smith © 1 Lynne Tolhurst © 2 Matthew Kenyon ©	Eva Narajos © 1 Karina Marafioti © 2 Thelma Islip ©
Eucharistic Minister	Bev Baxter	Sue Gilmore	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Youth Ministry	Louise Bruni	Agius Family
Music	Lawrence Del Prado Group	CDs - Rodrigo Medina	Parish Choir
Flowers	Myrna Baterna		
Counters	Kevin Sloane & Frank Rowland		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Dennis & Helen Gonzales		