

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.

PALM SUNDAY - YEAR A

02 APRIL 2023

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The **Gospel of the Entry** of Jesus into Jerusalem. What is distinctive in the First Gospel's account is the stress – typical for Matthew – upon the way Jesus fulfils Scripture (a blend of Isa 62:11 and Zec 9:9) by riding into the city on a colt. (So anxious, actually, is Matthew to have Jesus fulfil the prophecy of Zechariah exactly that he actually has him riding both the she-ass and her colt at the same time!) What Matthew wants to bring out is the truth that, though Jesus is entering David's city as its Messianic king and is rightly acclaimed as such by his disciples, he is not doing so in the way of worldly rulers. They would enter seated on a magnificent white charger. He is coming in the way Scripture had foretold he would: riding the mount of the common people to make clear that he comes not as one who will lord it over people but, as the Son of Man who has come, 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (Matt 20:28). This agrees with the presentation of Jesus as the 'Servant' figure throughout the gospel (8:17; cf. Isa 53:4; 12:15-21; cf. Isa 42:1-4).

St Matthew's account of the **Passion** follows that of St Mark very closely but with certain additions that bring out an issue Matthew particularly wishes to stress. In the biblical tradition which Matthew inherited and of which he is so conscious, the shedding of innocent blood was considered a monstrous crime; guilt for shedding innocent blood could adhere to towns and communities down entire generations. If such a crime occurred, the key thing was to find the perpetrator and carry out the prescribed punishment and ritual so that the guilt would not remain a stain and pollution upon the community as a whole. Matthew invites us to contemplate the arrest and eventual execution of Jesus from this point of view – as a shedding of the most innocent blood the world has ever known. This haunting issue lends the Matthean Passion narrative great dramatic power – which is why it has inspired works of high art down the ages (notably J. S. Bach's *St Matthew Passion*).

So Matthew lingers on persons and episodes central to this issue. Most prominent is the tragic figure of Judas. We are told not only of his betrayal of Jesus but also of his subsequent remorse and his futile attempt to cleanse himself of guilt by getting the chief priests to take back the blood-money (27:3-10). The priests will have none of this but, anxious to avoid any guilt themselves, use the money for a philanthropic purpose. Judas meanwhile, unable to forgive himself and unable, it would seem, to believe that he might find forgiveness and a fresh start with Jesus, goes off and hangs himself.

Next, Pilate, warned by his wife to have nothing to do with 'that innocent man' (27:19), washes his hands before the crowd, saying 'I am innocent of this man's blood' (27:24), which of course he is not. Finally, the people as a whole answer, 'His blood be upon us and upon our children' (27:25). No verse in scripture has caused more suffering than this one. None needs such careful handling in preaching. In no sense does this cry, terrible as it is, mean that the crowd is taking upon itself responsibility for the death of Jesus down the generations, so that in some way the responsibility would fall upon Jewish people for all time. This would be a monstrous misinterpretation. Matthew's gospel was written shortly after the Fall of Jerusalem to the Roman armies in 70 CE. Many other Jewish writings of the time cast about for a reason for that calamity. For Matthew the reason is that the citizens of Jerusalem, urged on by their leaders, called down upon themselves 'and their children' responsibility for the innocent blood of Jesus. 'Their children' refers strictly to the coming generation – the generation that would be in its mature years at the time when Jerusalem fell to the Romans. There is absolutely no suggestion that the responsibility should somehow continue on or that it should adhere to the Jewish people as a whole. This needs to be made expressly clear.

Early in the Passion narrative, when Jesus is arrested, one of his companions attempts to resist violently, cutting off the ear of the High Priest's slave (26:51). Jesus rebukes him, pointing out that, if he wanted, he could appeal to his Father for twelve legions of angels (26:52-53). But then he adds, 'How then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' (26:54). This makes clear the absolute freedom with which he goes to his death – the freedom of self-sacrificial love. All that will happen – the betrayal, the miscarriage of justice, the shedding of innocent blood: all this evil – is gathered up and overcome by an overwhelming act of divine love, foretold in the scriptures. Even as Jesus dies there is already a hint of love's victory as the earthquake and opening of tombs foreshadows the resurrection (27:50-54).

© Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem



When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'

And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

The Passion of our Lord according to Matthew

Dear Parishioners

Let me take this opportunity to announce that Bishop Vincent has appointed a new Parish Priest to St Bernadette's, Lalor Park. I trust you will all give a warm welcome to Fr Clifford D'Souza when he takes up his new appointment here in this parish in the forthcoming weeks. He is currently the Parish Administrator of St Matthew's Parish, Windsor.

Holy Week is now upon us, and for those of you who wish to prepare and walk the journey with Jesus at this time, the Holy Week and Easter Triduum schedule is as follows:

Holy Monday

8:45AM – Adoration and Rosary

9:15AM – Holy Mass

9:45AM-10:15AM – Sacrament of Confession

Holy Wednesday

No Evening Mass

(All Clergy of the Diocese will attend the 7:30PM Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral with Bishop Vincent for the Blessings of the Oils and Renewal of Priestly Promises)

Mundy Thursday

7:30PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until 10:00PM

10:00PM - Night Prayer

Good Friday

10:00AM – Stations of the Cross

11:00AM-12:00PM - Sacrament of Confession

3:00PM – Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday

No Morning Mass and no Confession

6:00PM – Easter Vigil Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord (Saturday)

Easter Sunday

8:30AM – Holy Mass

10:00AM – Holy Mass

Let us pray for each other especially in this holiest week in our Christian life.

St Bernadette, pray for us.

Fr John Paul



VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of April, you are invited to donate **1 tin of Spaghetti and/or Baked Beans** to help Vinnies with their parcels for the needy. Thank you for your continued support.

Stations of the Cross

Young people of our Parish who are of High School age or above are invited to be a reader at this year's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. There will be a practice for the service held on Tuesday 4th April at 6pm in the church.

If you are interested, please speak to Fr John Paul or email liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Annual Leave

Fr John Paul will be away after Easter Sunday for a week (April 10 - 17, 2023). Fr Ed Kenny will celebrate the weekday Masses and visiting priests will celebrate the weekend Masses.

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal

Thank you for your support of the Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal last weekend. Your generosity will enable our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park to provide for the education and formation of the faithful men who have answered God's call to become priests.

Your prayerful support and accompaniment will enable our seminarians, to pursue their vocation of a life of humble service as priests for our Diocese.

If you have not already done so, you can still donate via the giving envelopes and place them in the collection baskets provided at the back of the church for the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal.

Thank you.

Simon Carrington Presents: 'Sexual Desire: A Call To Love'

All young adults of the Parish are invited to a talk presented by Simon Carrington at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown on Thursday 27th April at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm for fellowship.

Simon is a renowned chastity, relationships, sexuality, and Theology of the Body speaker. He is the founder of Fire Up Ministries and has completed studies at both the University of Notre Dame, Australia and the Theology of the Body Institute, USA. Simon has been active in youth/young adults ministry for several years with a passionate focus on chastity, sexuality, apologetics, and Theology of the Body. Endorsed by Parousia Media, Simon has spoken to parishes and schools all over Sydney.

The talk is targeted towards those between the ages of 18-35, but all are welcome to join.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Come and join us on our Monthly Monday nights 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 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 3 April 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)

JOIN THE PARISH CHOIR FOR EASTER TRIDUUM

You are most welcome to join the Parish Choir for 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

Soul Sisters

The Soul Sisters women's group will be meeting again for coffee and a chat on Monday the 3rd of April at 8pm. Kindly hosted by Jenny Agius, at 13 Andaman Street, Kings Park. All women over 18 are very welcome to join us!

Positions Vacant:

Policy Coordinator

The Diocese of Parramatta is recruiting for a part-time Policy Coordinator to work within the Chancery. If you have experience in policy writing and tertiary qualifications in Law, HR or compliance, we encourage you to apply. For a confidential chat call Marie Iemma on 0499 874 420 or email your CV and cover letter to parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org

More details at:

parracatholic.org/employment

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.

CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

The FaithFeed On The Move: 7 May

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Glenbrook in the Mountains Deanery - all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be on Sunday 7 May at the parish hall after the 6PM mass. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories + live music + activities + great conversation. Book now: <https://tinyurl.com/tffrego>

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:

Tony Walsh, 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, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Sue James, Myra Sessions, David Ward, Brian Sloane, David Williams, Nathan Weaver.

For our deceased brothers and sisters:

Recently deceased: Rey Astillo, Beryl Foster, Tony Smith, Raymond (Ray) Smith

Anniversary: Veronidia Acre, Trevor Correy

Deceased: Ailsia McDonald, Sally Bartlett

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:

8th & 9th APRIL 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Please see Special Holy Week Roster	Please see Special Holy Week Roster	Please see Special Holy Week Roster
Minister at the Altar	Fernando Gallegos Rey Baterna	Mario Spiteri	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Please see Special Holy Week Roster	Please see Special Holy Week Roster	Please see Special Holy Week Roster
Eucharistic Minister		Volunteer Required	
Welcomer	Agius Family	Louise Bruni	Rosa Watson
Music	Parish Choir	St Pedro Calungsod Choir	Mordini Family
Flowers			
Counters	Kevin Sloane & Rose Townsend		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Couples for Christ / Nick Soon		