

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.

4th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

19 MARCH 2023

JESUS: THE TRUE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The story of the man born blind continues the theme touched on last week of a journey of faith symbolised in this passage as a journey from darkness to light. Once again knowing the original context will help our understanding of this passage. John chapters 7, 8 and 9 all take place within the Jewish festival of Tabernacles. Within this festival there are three great symbols and rituals.

1. Every morning the High Priest leads a procession from the Temple down to the pool of Siloam where he collects a large beaker of water. This he carries back to the Temple and pours on the altar with all the people joyfully singing psalms and acclamations.

2. Then in the evening, four enormous seven branched candlesticks were set up in the Temple courtyards and under this light the people would joyfully dance, celebrating God's saving presence with them.

3. A third ritual was also in the morning when the priests would turn and face the rising sun, and then turn their back to the sun and face the Temple as an act of affirmation of faith in the one God of Israel. At one time in their history, people had turned their back to the Temple and worshipped the sun, so this ritual was an expression of sorrow for the past and a commitment to true worship of God.

Within this festival Jesus appropriates all these symbols. He says, 'If anyone thirst let him come to me and drink; whoever believes, as Scripture says, out of his belly shall flow streams of living water.' (7:37) Then on the last day, the great day of the festival he proclaims, 'I am the light of the world'. (8:12). Jesus is now the true source of living water and the light of the world. In the story of the man born blind, Jesus' claims are acted out. The passage begins by refuting the Jewish idea that illness was a punishment for sin.

Jesus cures the man by mixing his spittle with the earth to make a paste which he places on the eyes of the man. He then tells him to go to the pool of Siloam – the same pool that was part of the ritual of Tabernacles. We are told that the word Siloam means 'sent'. This word further makes the link between Jesus and the waters of Siloam for in this Gospel Jesus consistently speaks of himself as one 'sent' by God e.g. 'I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me' (7:29). Jesus is 'the Sent one' of God.

The man, now restored to sight, is ignorant of Jesus and in the dialogues that follow he gradually comes to know Jesus' identity. First he calls him a man – the man Jesus. Then he calls him 'a prophet'. In these discussions he refuses to be intimidated by the Pharisees. He knows his own truth. He was born blind and now can see and only God's power could have achieved this. Finally, the man meets Jesus again and when he recognises that this is the one who cured him, he calls Jesus, 'Lord' and worships him. The title 'Lord' in Greek is Kyrios which is how the divine name Yahweh (Hebrew) was always translated into Greek. This man has journeyed in faith to his recognition of Jesus as God and therefore deserving of worship. Here, he enacts the same ritual that the priests carry out every day of the festival of Tabernacles when they turn from the sun to the Temple. But in this account the Jewish leaders fail to recognise God's presence in Jesus – they are like their ancestors who failed and turned their backs to the God of the Temple. Now, God is present in Jesus and these leaders are blind to his true identity. The blind man exemplifies a journey to faith, from blindness to sight, from ignorance to true knowledge of Jesus. This is the theme also found in the letter to the Ephesians which reminds all believers – you were in darkness once, but now you are in the light of the Lord.

Who are we in this story, the blind man or the Pharisees? We can think we are living in the light but we too can be blinded to the truth of who Jesus is, where he is to be found, and what the Gospel can ask of us. This week could be a time of soul-searching, making sure that our eyes have not been dimmed by complacency or comfort. Only Jesus can truly offer living water. Only Jesus is the true light of the world. The Gospel holds up the possibility of two journeys – towards the light or towards the darkness. The light of Easter invites us forward but we must first pass through the shadow of the cross. As we make the journey of the blind man we pray, 'Christ be our light!'

© Sr Mary Coloe

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Lord Jesus Christ!



GOSPEL

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROCESS

Registration for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation will start from March 13. As Scripture classes commenced only in the second week of March, parents wishing to present their children for Holy Communion or Confirmation need to collect their Registration Package from the Parish Office (14 Wheeler Street) between 9am and 4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays. Children attending St Bernadette's School will have received the Registration Package on Friday 24th February.

All children attending Kings Langley, Lynwood Park, Seven Hills West & Lalor Park Public Schools are being given their Registration Package for Reconciliation this week. Parents you might need to check your children's bags!

Please tell your friends about this new arrangement, if for some reason they are not aware of it.

Of course, you might even talk to Catholic friends who have not presented their children for any of the Sacraments including Baptism and tell them they are welcome.

Mrs Madge Miranda - Sacramental Coordinator

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 25 and 26 March 2023

Next weekend, 25 and 26 March, our Parish is proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal. 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.

As our Diocese continues to grow, we need to train more visionary young men to join our 11 seminarians in becoming good shepherds of Christ's flock. We invite you to be the extended formation community for our seminarians on their journey to becoming 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. Please give generously 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 next weekend. Thank you.

WELCOME

We especially welcome to our Christian faith community Marliah Studders who will be baptised this Sunday. Congratulations to her parents and family. May you have a joyous and blessed day.

VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of March, you are invited to donate **1 Packet of Breakfast Cereal of your choice** to help Vinnies with their parcels for the needy. Thank you for your continued support.

12th Fiesta Celebration in Honour of St Pedro Calungsod (2nd Filipino Saint)

The St Pedro Calungsod Devotees and Diocese of Parramatta invite you to celebrate the Novena/Fiesta for St Pedro Calungsod. A concelebrated Mass will take place at 11:30am on Saturday 1st April at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill. All are welcome to attend and wear red as this is the colour of martyrdom.

Daily Novena Masses will be held at 7pm each night from 23rd March-31st March. The Novena Mass at St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park will be held on Monday 27th March. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Week Timetable

Mon, 3 April – Adoration and Holy Rosary at 8:30am
Holy Mass at 9:15am

Wed, 5 April – No Evening Mass
All clergy of the Diocese will attend the
Chrism Mass at 7:30pm at St Patrick's
Cathedral, Parramatta

Thu, 6 April – No Morning Mass
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm

Fri, 7 April – No Morning Mass
Stations of the Cross at 10:00am
Confession at 11:00am-12:00nn
Passion of the Lord at 3:00pm

Sat, 8 April – No Morning Mass and No Confessions
Easter Vigil at 6:00pm

Sun, 9 April – Resurrection of the Lord at
8:30am and 10:00am

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will take place on Friday, 31st March at 7pm.

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

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and *For All Future Generations*.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

As St Pope John Paul II said, "The future starts today, not tomorrow." Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

Greystanes Parish is hiring! Maintenance and Cleaning

Two employment positions at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, are available for 8-10 hours a week, or the possibility of combining both roles.

- Role 1: Maintenance and improvement works in the buildings and grounds – Requires proven handy-person skills with trade experience or equivalent.
- Role 2: Cleaning and hygiene care for offices, bathrooms and meeting areas – Requires practical experience and pride in work

Role descriptions are available. Please contact Christine via (02) 9631 8135 or parishoffice@olqp.org.au

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.

Masterclass for Mentor Married Couples: 24 March

The Diocese is looking to more deeply accompany couples preparing to be married. Have you been married for more than 5 years? Committed to living the sacrament of Marriage? Willing to give time limited assistance to couples preparing for marriage? Join us for a Masterclass on Friday 24 March at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, on Mentoring engaged couples in your Parish using the SmartLoving Engaged Online program. If you are unable to attend in-person, a follow up Zoom session will be held for interested couples on Saturday 1 April at 10am. To book your attendance or to ask further questions, please email met@parracatholic.org or phone Marisa on (02) 8838 3460.

Young Adult Faith Formation: 2 April

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 2 April 2023 at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd, Minchinbury, at 7pm. Sarah Alimangohan will speak and lead discussion on the question 'What is Beauty?' We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

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, 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: Michael Agius

Anniversary: Enrico Finadri

Deceased: Ailsia 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 MARCH 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald Noah Bonello Rachel Vaz	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Rey Baterna	Mario Spiteri Francis Sultana	Jose (Mari) Tomas
Minister of the Word	Raia Uri @ 1 Jessie Pranadjaja @ 2 Joel Agius @	Ana Vlatko @ 1 Carmen Bonello @ 2 Sue Gilmore @	Perla Billedo @ 1 Kate Fardouly @ 2 Josephine Baracz @
Eucharistic Minister	Joanne Digwood	Catherine Peregrina	Volunteer Required
Welcomer	Youth Ministry	Louise Bruni	Rosa Watson
Music	Lawrence Del Prado Group	CDs - Judith Pineda	Parish Choir
Flowers	No Flowers During Lent		
Counters	Kevin Sloane & Kevin Isbester		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Dennis & Helen Gonzales		