

# ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](http://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](mailto: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 LENT - YEAR A

26 MARCH 2023

### OLD TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

Old Testament readings for the preceding Sundays have provided us with a brief extract from the Bible's story of sinful humanity (First Sunday), followed by God's resolve to heal humanity through the call of Abraham Israel's ancestor (Second Sunday), the subsequent struggle of the people under Moses' leadership (Third Sunday), and the great promise of king David (Fourth Sunday), a promise that the books of Kings tell us was only briefly realised. Israel was exiled to Babylon in the 6th century BC. To an observer this must have looked like the end but for God there is no end and God never gives up on the chosen people. This Sunday's passage from the book of the exilic prophet Ezekiel proclaims God's resolve to raise the people from the graveyard of defeat and exile. The first part of the book reaffirms the pre-exilic prophets' condemnation of Israel's disobedience and its consequences. This needed to be stated otherwise the theology of a good God who is intolerant of evil is compromised. But, the purpose of God's intervention against evil is to restore right relationships – between God and the people and between the people themselves. This is a key thrust of the second part of Ezekiel, including our reading.

Our passage is part of an imaginative series of visions that permeate the book of Ezekiel. Living in exile far from Jerusalem, the prophet's visionary journeys enable him to 'cross' geographical boundaries and let the reader 'see' and experience the restoration of the land and city that God will bring about. The text is arranged in characteristic Hebrew form, with parallel statements about God's promise to 'open your graves/raise you from your graves' framing a central statement that highlights the purpose of God's promised intervention: it is in order that 'you will know that I am the Lord'. This text is not about resurrection in the Christian sense but restoration of the people to their land and temple. One might have expected the text to say that God will do it because God has chosen Israel and loves her, or that God is doing it for justice's sake. But, for the Bible the most important thing is to know God; it is only when we know who God is that we can know who we are and who our neighbours are, and what our role in creation is. The Bible's claim is that everything falls into place once we know God; that is, believe in God as proclaimed by the Bible and the tradition that accompanies it.

The responsorial psalm 129 (130 in Hebrew numbering) adds an important ingredient to the relationship between God and the people that is not explicit in the reading from Ezekiel. Although forgiveness of sin and restoration to a right relationship with God depends completely on God, the appropriate human response is to acknowledge one's sin. This signals that one accepts God's judgment as just and true and that any future one has depends completely on God. Hence, it is an expression of trust (faith). The psalmist here cries to God from a seemingly infinite distance ('the depths'), convinced that God can reach and transform any situation no matter how bad or desperate it may seem to be. Without such faith, there would be no point crying out to God.

In the second stanza or paragraph, the psalmist acknowledges that God is judge, but once the psalmist acknowledges the justice of God's judgments, forgiveness is given. God does not mark or hold guilt because this would demean human life rather than enhance it. On the basis of this acknowledgement, the third stanza expresses complete confidence in God's forgiveness – by way of a just and merciful judgment. A nice contrast is made with the watchman on the city wall. He knows that dawn is coming but cannot be sure what the dawn will reveal: a peaceful sight or an advancing enemy? In contrast, the psalmist is as certain of God's judgment as the dawn, but is even more certain that it will be favourable. This is the nature of God who is merciful and full of redemption to those who trust.

The final stanza combines two further elements that are not explicitly linked in Ezekiel: God's forgiveness of the individual is a manifestation of the forgiveness of Israel, and vice versa. The ancient world did not have our heightened or hyper sense of individuality. You were someone primarily because you were part of a larger family, clan or nation. You never thought of yourself independently of the larger group of which you were a part. This is why many prophecies address all Israel without any need to make a special mention of the individual or to make an exception for the individual

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die forever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



## **GOSPEL**

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45



The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## **Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 25 and 26 March 2023**

This weekend, 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.

## **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROCESS**

Registration for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation started 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. 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.

Because some letters were given out very late, March 24th is no longer the deadline to submit the forms. Please bring them in as soon as possible.

Mrs Madge Miranda - Sacramental Coordinator

### **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](mailto: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 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.

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### 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.

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### 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 – Mass of Resurrection of the Lord at 8:30am and 10:00am

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### 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

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

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### 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](mailto:liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)

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### 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.

## 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.loba@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.loba@gmail.com)) or  
PATRICK on 0416 240 298

([Patrick.cagney@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Patrick.cagney@optusnet.com.au))

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### 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

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### 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](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)



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### 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.

## 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.

## 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/>

## 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: Raymond (Ray) Smith

Anniversary: Veronidia Acre, Trevor Correy, Enrico Finadri

Deceased:

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:

1st & 2nd APRIL 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Zoe Kenyon Rachel Vaz	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan Reymund Rillera	Joe Formosa	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		Catherine Peregrina	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Wendy Walsh	Agus Family
Music	Mordini Family	Parish Choir	Couples for Christ
Flowers	No Flowers During Lent		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ricardo Serrado		