

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

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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.

EASTER SUNDAY - YEAR A

09 APRIL 2023

SEEING SIGNS OF LIFE

The day begins with darkness and fear. The tomb has been desecrated. The body has been stolen. Whatever Jesus said about resurrection, his disciples did not expect him to rise until the general resurrection of the dead at the end of time. The anonymous disciple loved by Jesus races to the tomb, sees the linen cloth and the face cloth placed apart and believes. In this simple sign of a 'tidy' tomb, he sees what Peter missed, that God has entered this story of death and transformed it to a story of life.

On two occasions in this short reading, we find the use of the passive voice – 'the stone had been moved away' and the linen cloth over his head, 'rolled up' in a place by itself. Frequently in the Scriptures, the use of the passive voice is called the Divine Passive, as it is a way of referring to the action of God without naming God as the direct agent of the action. This is a Semitic way of reverencing God. The face-veil has been removed and rolled with care. Although never named, God is the Divine agent in this episode.

John's Easter story is closer to our real experience than many of the other Resurrection stories. Here we have no angels announcing 'He is raised'; no Jesus present to change sadness into joy. Resurrection is more subtle in this Gospel. Mary and Peter miss the signs. They remain locked in grief still carrying the painful burden of Golgotha. It is the disciple named 'beloved' who first experiences resurrection in his openness to believe in God's power to raise Jesus. Easter calls for faith. Those who know the loss and pain of death know too well the hard, long search to find signs of life. We don't experience a sudden glorious moment of life returned. Like the anonymous disciple, we often stay some time within the tomb before finding grace to turn and enter into life. Such grace is found in simple signs of a love that does endure. Perhaps this is why 'the beloved' disciple first reaches Easter faith.

Naming this day as 'the first day' of the week, is not simply an indicator that it is the day of the Jewish Sabbath (7th day), but is also a hint that in John's Gospel the resurrection is the dawn of a new creation. If you recall the Passion reading on Friday, which is always from John's gospel, you might have noticed that Jesus was arrested in a garden, and then was buried in a garden. We so frequently mix all the gospel accounts together we can sometimes miss seeing the unique theological vision and artistry of each individual evangelist. Only John has Jesus arrested in a garden, and only John has Jesus buried in a garden. Also John emphasises that the Cross is placed 'in the middle' which is the same phrase used to describe the tree of life in Genesis 2, which was also placed 'in the middle of the garden'. Then at the foot of the Cross John has a man and a woman, who is only called 'woman' and 'mother' in this Gospel. These were the names given to Eve. These differences to the Synoptic gospels are deliberate. John is setting the crucifixion within the garden of creation. For John, the cross marks the end of one creation – remember Jesus' words, 'It is finished' – and the beginning of a new creation.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, a similar theology is presented, that the resurrection is a new creation. Paul speaks about being 'brought back to true life' and reminds the Colossians that 'you have died'. For both Paul and John, the Christ event has an impact on all people and in fact all of creation. The old creation, the old life is now finished and a new possibility of life has been revealed and this is God's own eternity life, which humans can participate in. Jesus is the sign that humanity has passed through death and that humanity can be imbued with God's divine life, what Paul calls 'glory' in this passage. So Resurrection is not just a celebration for what happened to Jesus – if it were only that, then Easter would be just a nostalgic memory. Easter celebrates that we also, right now, through the Risen One, can participate in Divine life. So Easter is as much about us, as it is about Jesus.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ has become our Paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

John 20: 1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Seniors Meeting

The next Seniors Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall next Thursday, 13th April at 9:45AM. All welcome.



Dear Parishioners,

Happy Easter!

It is with great joy that once again I celebrate another year of Easter with you here in our parish. As I announced last week, Bishop Vincent is appointing me to another parish in the forthcoming weeks. Hence, this will be my last Easter with you as your parish administrator.

Let me take this opportunity to wholeheartedly express my gratitude to all of you, parishioners of St Bernadette's. I have been inspired to witness your love for God and your dedication to serve Him through your ongoing support and participation in the sacramental life and pastoral mission of the Church.

I wish to especially express my gratitude to all of you who are involved in different ministries in our parish during the Holy Week, Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday - our ministers of the word and of the altar, altar servers, choirs, cleaning ministry, welcomers, altar and church decorators, flower ministry, the parish team, PPC and PFC members and parish youth. I would like to thank you Frank and Kaloni Sultana and family for making and donating to the parish a new cross that we used for the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday.

As we begin this Season of Easter, may the Risen Christ continue to be your source of joy, hope and love for you and your family.

Let us continue to pray for one another as we faithfully follow our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead to assure us that there is a wonderful life after all the sufferings we encounter in this world.

St Bernadette, pray for us.

May God bless us always.

Fr John Paul

An Easter 2023 Message from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta

Dear sisters and brothers,

In the Gospel of Mark, the Resurrection takes place in silence! The three women went to the tomb in the silence of the night. They met an angel who told them Jesus, the crucified one, had risen. Then, trembling and bewildered, they fled.

There is almost something modest and ordinary about it. There was a quiet, with a stillness that only love, and fear can create. Some in the early Church apparently had difficulty with the 'silence' of Mark. The ending was too sharp and abrupt for them. How could the Resurrection, which had begun in fear, not end in joy? How could it end in silence and even fear? But maybe our resurrection faith like that of Thomas, must always include an aspect of questioning, for the Easter mystery is so dazzling; it is beyond our rational comprehension.

Our Trinitarian God is a mystery. A mystery is not a problem. A problem is a puzzle to which techniques can be applied, intuition brought to bear, and a solution found. Science tackles problems. It's great at it. But a mystery is not amenable to that strategy. And life is littered with them.

We especially see all around us the terrible mystery of evil, as it manifests itself in the chaos of the war and conflict in Myanmar, Ukraine, the Congo to name only a few places. And how can we ignore the grinding poverty of so many people and the ecological plight of our fragile precious planet? Human life is brutally devalued in the plight of refugees fleeing their homelands and in the tragedy of so many human beings whose precious dignity and vulnerable lives are threatened from 'the womb to the tomb.' We are also constantly bewildered by the ongoing injustice still perpetuated against indigenous peoples and the horror of violence especially against women and children. Not to mention the horrors of natural disasters like the recent tragic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Where can we turn as Easter people full of hope? Jesus is our only answer to these great mysteries that sometimes seem to overwhelm us. For all that we know of God is, of course, revealed definitively in Jesus of Nazareth. But have you noticed how many times in the Gospels Jesus himself asks questions, rather than gives answers? Our journey living the Paschal Mystery is often more about the questions than the answers. Pontius Pilate asks Jesus a series of questions and Jesus answers cryptically, as if to say, you are really missing the point. And have you noticed that our Holy Father, when unjustly criticised, also prefers to remain silent - rather than repay pettiness with revenge?

Let's recall then this Easter 2023 that the Easter Mystery moves us through the terrible suffering and death of the Son of God, the profound love and courage that kept the women by his side despite their own fears, and the time in the tomb, that in-between space in which we spend much of our own lives.

It invites us to rest in mystery, and then the movement to the joyful moment of Resurrection where even the disciples do not have the right set of questions anymore because they fit the old answers. Is this not the journey of our whole lives: the movement from sorrow to courage to grief to waiting to joy, often holding elements of each at the same time?

What are the questions stirring your soul these days? Can we make space to live in them, not needing to have the answers? The Synodal path we are on as a diocesan local church, is one way for us to listen to those on the margins and make room for the Holy Spirit in our busy lives. In the face of painful transition, let us be empowered by the presence of the risen Lord, calling us beyond the fear of the unknown. The paschal rhythm summons us to die to the old and rise to the new.

My sisters and brothers. Jesus is Risen! Let's journey with him once more on the road to Emmaus and encounter his mysterious presence in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia!

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.

Position Vacant - Secretary & Bookkeeper

St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie is looking for a secretary and bookkeeper. This is a permanent part-time position with 30 hours per week worked over five days. Please forward applications and resumes to the Parish

Secretary secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au by 18th April 2023.

For more information you may contact 96313316

Kellyville Parish Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations: 16 April

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, on Sunday 16 April starting with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 1pm followed by a Procession, Rosary in five languages, Divine Mercy Novena, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction before Holy Mass at 3pm. Confessions from 1pm. Piety items for sale. Bring pictures and statues for special blessing. Refreshments available after Holy Mass.

Everyone is most welcome.

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.

We pray for all those from St Bernadette's who have died.

May all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace and rise in glory.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

15th & 16th APRIL 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald Rachel Vaz	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Jess Barbin
Minister at the Altar	Leonides Martinez	Alexander De Vega	Jose (Mari) Tomas
Minister of the Word	David Smyth @ 1 Michael Muranty @ 2 Lissa Carter @	Judith Smith @ 1 Lynne Tolhurst @ 2 Sue Gilmore @	Ephpheta @ 1 Ephpheta @ 2 Thelma Islip @
Eucharistic Minister	Anne Walsh	Helen Gonzales	
Welcomer	Lorraine Stirton	Wendy Walsh	Volunteer Required
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 Magallanes		