

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.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) - YEAR A 16 APRIL 2023

UNDOUBTABLE WOUNDS

There is something attractive about Thomas the Doubter – something about his obstinate integrity in not too readily accepting the other disciples' report that they had seen the Risen Lord. After all, he had devotedly followed this Galilean for several years, but then there was the shock and trauma of the barbaric death on the cross. Who could be surprised at his doubting the reports of his fellow apostles? But our Risen Lord Jesus Christ was quite willing to wait, to embody the patience of God. And the other disciples – now the 'true believers' in the resurrection – must have caught something of this patience of God. They did not expel Thomas from their company but kept him within their circle. It was their continuing friendship with the Doubter which gave him the opportunity to be present for the appearance of the Risen Lord in their midst.

Perhaps there is a lesson for the Church to not too quickly raise the barriers excluding those struggling with belief in the Christian faith. That is a consoling aspect of this gospel episode. Another aspect ends up as quite a challenge for us.

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.' Did you notice that Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such? That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can join Thomas in *this* faith, can *only* join Thomas in this faith, by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded by hunger, humiliation, illness, enslavement in a myriad of ways. We have to bend down and touch those wounds: feeding, esteeming, visiting, breaking chains. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

As Pope Francis says: "Jesus asks us to take a leap of faith towards Him, but through these, His wounds. Sometimes, we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. We may say, and certainly have heard others say: "I believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a great teacher, or I am attracted by his miracles of healing, but to call him God? That is a step too far." You, or the other person, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith. In the meantime we can take heart from the final blessing of Our Lord. Blessings are promised to we who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who find that, in touching his wounds we cannot help but proclaim, 'My Lord and my God'.

© Fr Michael Tate

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!



GOSPEL

John 20: 19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

"Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!"

I hope and pray that you continue to celebrate the Easter joy that we experience from the Risen Christ.

On this 2nd Sunday of Easter, we also celebrate this day as Divine Mercy Sunday as proclaimed by St John Paul II in Jubilee Year 2000 during the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, 'a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church', who worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God.

In her Diary, Jesus told Sr. Faustina: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy" (*Diary*, 300). St Pope John Paul II reminded us, "Through the work of Sr Faustina, this message has become linked for ever to the 20th century, the last of the second millennium and the bridge to the third. It is not a new message but can be considered a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time."

May this Season of Easter bring us peace - the kind of peace that only our God can offer to humanity. May we continue to embrace His merciful love for us by extending this mercy to others: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5: 7).

Have a blessed and joyful feast of the Divine Mercy.

St Bernadette, pray for us.

May God bless you always!

Fr John Paul

WELCOME

We especially welcome to our Christian faith community Gibson Ira and Kalla and Leela Abbas who will be baptised this Sunday. Congratulations to their parents and families. May you have a joyous and blessed day.

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.

Craft Stall

The craft ladies will be holding a stall on the 6th & 7th of May (the weekend before Mother's Day) after each Mass.

There will be many craft items for sale, including handmade cards, tea towels, scarves, beanies and much, much more. Bring your cash with 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 speaker on chastity, relationships, sexuality and Theology of the Body .

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.

ANZAC DAY



Mass will be held on ANZAC Day, Tuesday 25th April, at 9:15am. Rosary and Adoration will take place before Mass from 8:30am.

Everyone is welcome to stay for a cuppa after Mass. A small plate of food to share would be greatly appreciated.

Positions Vacant:

Policy Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta
Communications and Digital Manager –
Diocese of Parramatta
Communications Assistant – Diocese of
Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

CCD St Matthew's Gospel Series: Starting 28 April

CCD is hosting Dr Laurie Woods presenting A Study of St Matthew's Gospel - April 28; May 5, 12, 19 & 26. 10 am to 2pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To book please email Maree Collis

ccd.training@parracatholic.org

MET FaithLIFE Scripture Course: Starting 2 May

Want to learn more about different ways to pray? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on "Prayer" with Br Barry Donaghue, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesday: 2 + 9 + 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

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>

MET Worship Liturgical Music Workshop: 4 May

Musicians, Clergy & Liturgy Planners are invited to attend a Music Workshop Presented by Eric Grella on Singing the Psalms & Chant on Thursday 4 May from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. RSVP by 1 May to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

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

Anniversary:

Deceased: Ailsia McDonald

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:

22nd & 23rd APRIL 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald Noah Bonello	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan	Mario Spiteri	Reymund Rillera
Minister of the Word	Joel Agius @ 1 Raia Uri @ 2 Jessie Pranadjaja @	Matthew Kenyon @ 1 Ana Vlatko @ 2 Carmen Bonello @	Kate Fardouly @ 1 Karina Marafioti @ 2 Eva Narajos @
Eucharistic Minister	Bernadette Nolan	Catherine Peregrina	Jocelyn Bade
Welcomer	Agius Family	Louise Bruni	Cindy Astillo
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		