

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park, 2147

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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.

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

07 MAY 2023

'At home' with God

Taken from the long discourse given by Jesus at the Last Supper, the **Gospel**, John 14:1-10, reflects upon this time and the understanding it will require from the disciples, that is, from the Church. In fact, there are two 'departures' of Jesus in view. The actual setting of the supper on the night before Jesus is to die makes it natural to understand the 'going away' of which he speaks as a reference to this imminent departure in death; his 'return', then, would refer to his reappearance, on the third day, as risen Lord. While at one level this is true, the discourse really addresses the more permanent 'going away' of Jesus when he finally returns to the Father following his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord. His 'return' would then be his return at the end of time, a thought otherwise rare in the Fourth Gospel.

On this second level, what Jesus is really addressing in the discourse is not the period between Good Friday and Easter Sunday but the 'time of Church' that will follow – and will in fact extend indefinitely. This will be a time when the disciples will not have the reassurance of his physical presence and will feel that loss keenly ('Do not let your hearts be troubled. ...') What Jesus wants to insist upon here, however, is that it will be a 'graced' time, in fact a 'better' time. His departure to the Father will not mean loss but enrichment.

This gives the clue to understanding rightly Jesus' statement about there being 'many rooms' in his Father's house and about his going there to prepare a place for the disciples. In a way that has long provided comfort for many people, the statement, at face value, conveys the impression of heaven as a kind of vast motel to which Jesus is going in order to prepare 'rooms' for the faithful after they die. This does not, however, do full justice to the way the Johannine gospel confronts the problem of death and, in particular, to the richness which the gospel draws out of the motif of divine 'remaining'/'dwelling'.

John's Gospel presents the entire work of Jesus Christ as nothing less than a fulfilment of a divine project to bring about mutual 'at-homeness' between God and human beings. As heralded in the Prologue, the Word, whose proper dwelling is in eternity 'with God' (1:1-2), has 'become flesh' (1:14). In the human person of Jesus Christ, God has made a dwelling-place – literally, 'has pitched his tent' – among us. The disciples 'have seen his glory' in the sense that the words and actions of Jesus, notably his 'signs' (miracles), have rendered ordinary human life transparent to God's presence and to the gift of 'eternal life' which, through Jesus, God wishes to impart. To 'have eternal life' in this sense is nothing less than to have a share in God's own life, to become 'children of God' (1:12; 11:52), inhabitants of God's 'house' forever. As Jesus explains to Martha, grieving at the death of her brother Lazarus, this is the true response and remedy to human mortality: 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live; and whoever lives believing in me, will never die' (John 11:25-26).

What Jesus is attempting to explain to the puzzled disciples in today's Gospel is that this gift of eternal life, and the divine 'at-homeness' that goes with it, can only come about through his 'going away' for a time. His suffering and death are necessary to defeat the grip of sin and death upon the human race and open up the way to life.

The many 'rooms' or 'dwelling places' which he is going away to prepare are in fact the separate instances of God's 'indwelling' in the heart of each and every believer. As he will say later, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them' (14:23). The disciples, as Philip so plaintively points out, cannot 'see' the Father. But, Jesus explains, he himself is 'the Way' to the revelation of the Father (the 'Truth'), in which is contained the gift of '(eternal) life' ('the Life'). In relating to him (Jesus), they are becoming 'at home' with God and God with them.

© Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

John 14: 1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:



‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?’

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Dear parishioners:

I hope and pray that you and your family are well.

Parish Appointment

As announced last weekend, Bishop Vincent has appointed me as the new Parish Priest of St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills. This appointment will take effect from Friday, 16 June 2023. Similarly, Fr Clifford’s appointment in our parish as the new Parish Priest will take effect on that same day.

My last weekend Masses here at St Bernadette’s will be on Saturday, 20 and Sunday, 21 May.

I will be away from Saturday, 27 May to Sunday, 11 June as I will be attending an Intensive Course on Enhancing Catholic School Identity together with other 29 participants from the Diocese of Parramatta at the University of Leuven in Belgium.

Sacrament of Confirmation

We warmly welcome all the children, preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, 22 June, who will do the Rite of Commitment during all the Masses this weekend.

Please include these children and their families as they spiritually prepare and fully participate in the formation sessions.

Cruzada de Penitencia y Caridad

Last Saturday, 29 April, I celebrated Holy Mass with a Rite of Blessing for the statues of Mother Mary, (*Virgen del los Remedios*), and of Jesus Christ, (*Santo Cristo del Perdon y Caridad*). These statues are temporarily placed at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for public venerations for the next two weekends. These statues will be brought to people’s homes if they wish to for their own personal and family venerations through prayers. If you wish to have these statues visiting your home, please let me know.

St Bernadette, pray for us.

May God bless us always!

Fr John Paul

WELCOME

We especially welcome to our Christian faith community Jayce Bucasan and Teranya Vaffoor 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 May, you are invited to donate **1 Litre of Long Life Full Cream Milk** to help Vinnies with their parcels for the needy. Thank you for your continued support.

Seniors Meeting

The next Seniors Meeting will be held next Thursday 11th May at 9:45AM in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

Couples For Christ Christian Life Program

Couples for Christ Australia or CFCA will be running a Christian Life Program starting on Sunday 14th May 2023 and running over 8 Sundays. The program is broken into 3 modules: Basic Truths of Christianity, The Authentic Christian Life and Living a Spirit-Filled Christian Life. There are no fees or costs involved for the participants. The only investment required is your time, your openness and participation.

You are invited to an Orientation Day on Sunday 14 May 2023 from 1:00 PM at the Parish Centre of St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park. For more information please take a brochure from the back of the church, see the notice board or contact: Beato & Rose Pudadera 0403 471 393, Max & Cherry Facun 0403 471 454, Mike & Connie Savari 0476 269 504, or Ely & Thelma Reyes 0402 918 258.

Diocesan Synod

Submissions for the Diocesan Synod are now open. If you would like to make a submission and have your say, you can do so by going to <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>.

You are also invited to register to attend our Deanery Consultation, which will be taking place on Saturday 17th June from 6:30pm-9:30pm at the Marayong School Hall. It would be ideal to have at least 20-30 parishioners from the Parish attend this Consultation if possible. If you would like to attend, you can register here: https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_deaneryreg/.

HOLY LAND (GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION)

Parish Collection: \$1540.00

Through this collection, you join Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Holy Land Collection, you become an instrument of peace in the land where Jesus walked.

Thank you for your continued support.

Young Adult Faith Formation: 7 May

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 7 May at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd, Minchinbury, at 7pm. Tim O'Shea will be discussing 'What is a human being?'. 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.

Faith in Marriage Seminar: 19 May

The annual Diocesan Faith in Marriage Seminar returns in 2023 with Chris Padgett, American Speaker, Musician, Author and Professor of Theology. This free event will be held on Friday 19 May at 7:30pm at St Paul the Apostle Church, 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills. Please register your attendance at marriage@parracatholic.org

The Healing and Caring Formation Session

This session will focus on the relationship between healing and caring in the healthcare ministry of the Church. In this respect, the focus will be on the relationships and interactions between the Sacramental, Pastoral and Professional dimensions of the Church's ministry to the Sick and the dying in following Jesus, the healer who cares for the sick and the dying. It will be led by Deacon Dr. Michael Tan, a retired GP, and Dr. Natalie Ong, a paediatrician at the Childrens' Hospital. The session is for anybody with an interest in the healthcare ministry of the church, whether Sacramental, Pastoral or Professional. It will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall on Saturday 20th May from 9:30am-12:30pm. For further information, contact Deacon Dr. Michael Tan Michael.tan@parracatholic.org Registrations - met@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.

Safe Parishes Week

Safe Parishes Week begins on 5th June 2023. This year marks our second year of our Safeguarding Training and many parishioners are due for their renewal training.

This year we are offering a week's program of Face to Face Mandatory and Elective Modules at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown. The Program includes Mandatory Modules (Cycle 1 – 6 points) and Cycle 2 (4 points) and a range of Elective Modules.

Contact your Parish Office for information on the complete Training Program.

You are invited to register for Modules that interest you by emailing: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org
Of course, you are still most welcome to 'sign up' to our online Safeguarding Training Platform at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

Thanks again for your support and commitment to making Parishes safe for children and adults at risk.

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. Maria Posa, Angelo Posa.

For our deceased brothers and sisters:

Recently deceased: Rey Astillo, Delia Camat Higoy, Teodora Lee

Anniversary: Nicanor Pascual, Ester Razo, Consuelo Mangola, Evelyn & Youssef Brais

Deceased: Ah Thong Leong, Chahady, Pascual Perez Sr, Felicula Perez, Jose Suarez, Esperanza Suarez, Zoraida Munford, Ailsia McDonald, Bruce 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:

13th & 14th MAY 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri Zoe Kenyon	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Leonides Martinez	Alexander De Vega	Jose (Mari) Tomas
Minister of the Word	Minda Vuleta @ 1 Tina Uri @ 2 Jamie Dal @	Sue Gilmore @ 1 Matthew Kenyon @ 2 Rolaine Vibar @	Perla Billedo @ 1 Josephine Baracz @ 2 Thelma Islip @
Eucharistic Minister	Bev Baxter	Catherine Peregrina	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Wendy Walsh	Cindy Astillo
Music	Magnificat Choir	St Pedro Calungsod Choir	Parish Choir
Flowers	Vicky Sant		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Couples for Christ		