

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.

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

14 MAY 2023

'The Father will give you another Paraclete.'

This Gospel continues from last Sunday as Jesus offers consolation to his disciples on the eve of his departure. Today we hear of the Spirit who will come to the disciples when Jesus returns to his Father. Because the Spirit will come and dwell with them, the disciples will not be left orphaned; they will not be left alone and desolate. The Spirit dwelling in the community will continue to mediate the presence of God with us.

In the OT there was no distinction between the loss of both parents and the loss of a father. To be an orphan was to be 'fatherless,' without a protector. During the Exile Israel cried out, 'We have become orphans, fatherless' (Lam 5:3). The image of the orphan harkens back to the opening verses of John 14, which were discussed in last week's commentary: 'In my Father's household are many dwellings.' Even though the physical Jesus of Nazareth is no longer with the disciples, they are promised that the Father, Jesus and Spirit will dwell in them. They will still dwell within the Father's house/hold and so will not be left 'fatherless'.

When Jesus says, 'I live' the evangelist uses a form of the verb *zoē*. In John's Gospel this term is used to describe not just ordinary life (*bios*) but the intimate life of God which Jesus participates in and following his death, when disciples are drawn into his relationship with God, they too will have, they too 'will live'. Right now, disciples have ordinary mortal life (*bios*), but in and through Jesus they will become part of the household of God and will have eternity life (*zoē*). As this Gospel says, 'I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.' Here, before the events of the crucifixion, Jesus interprets the meaning of his death for his disciples. His death in John is called his return to the Father. Death is the means of his returning to the original glory of his being with God. But in his death, disciples become brothers and sisters and children of God.

The word 'Paraclete/Advocate' comes from the world of legal dealings. It can seem a strange word but it is the image Jesus offers to emphasise we have God on our side. The Greek word is based on the word 'to call' and so it means 'one who answers the call' or one who is called on for support – thus ad-vocate. John's community was engaged in a struggle with both the Roman world and the Jewish world where Christianity had its origins. This is the context in which Jesus speaks of the Spirit as the Advocate in these struggles. The one who will answer their call, who will help and offer support.

Today, our context is different but we still have much to struggle with in a society that no longer lives out and publicly espouses Gospel values. We still need the Spirit to be on our side as we struggle to live as Jesus lived; we still need the Spirit of truth to offer guidance and counsel as we struggle with the complex moral issues raised in our times. The Gospel still needs to be given a voice through the example and words of Christian men and women supported by our Advocate, the Spirit of truth.

© Sr Mary Coloe

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

John 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’



A Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God, You have loved us with an everlasting love (Jer 31:3) You have loved us even more as a mother loved her child. Today, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of mothers.



We pray for the mothers-to-be, who are just beginning to be the bearers of new life in them, may they welcome their forthcoming child with loving anticipation and joy.

We pray for the young mothers, may they cherish their child with tender care and unconditional love.

We pray for the mothers who are separated from their children especially because of war, poverty, conflict, violence and for any other reasons comfort them, strengthen their hope, and let them feel your loving embrace that wipes every tear away.

We pray for all Mother-figures, those who have loved, surrounded and shaped us with motherly care and compassion.

We especially pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us, their sacrifices and care gave us a glimpse of the extent of your love for us. Thank you for them.

Grant health, blessings, and well-being for those of our mothers who are still alive.

We also remember those mothers who are no longer with us. While they live forever in our hearts and memory grant them eternal rest and reward of their labours.

Amen.

“Mothers are indispensable to society and the church, showing the world what it means to generously give oneself for others, to respect life and to display tenderness and moral strength even in times of trouble.”

Pope Francis.

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton

Next weekend, our Parish will be supporting the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton. Will you be the face of Christ for our First Nations people in need? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will support a welcoming place where Aboriginal people can express their identity, share their culture and knowledge within our community, access practical support and development opportunities, and make social connections. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan to our First Nations people.



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.

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.

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 St Andrew the Apostle Primary School Hall, Marayong. 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/.

There will also be a youth-focussed consultation on Thursday 18 May from 7pm at West HQ, Rooty Hill.

Planned Giving Envelopes



Planned Giving Envelopes for 2023/24 will be available on the table outside the church from this weekend. If you are registered for Planned Giving and no longer wish to be, please inform the Parish Office on 9672 4037.

Thank you.

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

Invitation to Register for CPR Training: 5 June

You are invited to register for an accredited CPR Course being offered by Surf Life Saving NSW. This is being offered as FREE course to the Parishes of the Diocese as part of a project being offered by The University of Sydney, Westmead Applied Research Centre. The course runs for 2.5 hours and will be presented at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, on Monday 5 June from 4pm. Please contact the Parish Office for information on how to register for the venue of your choice.

Annual Schoenstatt Marian Pilgrimage: 21 May

The Mt Schoenstatt Shrine and Retreat Centre's Annual Marian Pilgrimage will be held again on Sunday 21 May. Reconciliation will be available from 9.30am before Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv celebrates Mass and recommissions pilgrim mother coordinators. Mass will be followed by a Eucharistic Procession from the valley to the Shrine. As this is an outdoor event, please bring your own chairs. Hot food, tea and coffee available for sale or BYO. Any enquiries, please call (02) 4773 8338 or email



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: Ah Thong Leong, Joseph Bartolo, Rey Astillo, Teodora Lee

Anniversary:

Deceased: 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, especially all mothers who have gone before us.

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

20th & 21st MAY 2023

| Ministry | 6.00pm | 8.30am | 10.00am |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Altar Servers | Noah Bonello Rachel Vaz | Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri | Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Jess Barbin |
| Minister at the Altar | Francis Sultana | Mario Spiteri | Fernando Gallegos |
| Minister of the Word | Michael Muranty © 1 David Smyth © 2 Bernadette Nolan © | Lynne Tolhurst © 1 Judith Smith © 2 Alex De Vega © | Ephpheta © 1 Ephpheta © 2 Karina Marafioti © |
| Eucharistic Minister | Joel Agius | Helen Gonzales | Jocelyn Bade |
| Welcomer | Agius Family | Louise Bruni | Rosa Watson |
| Music | Couples for Christ | St Francis Choir | Parish Choir |
| Flowers | Amabel Keelty | | |
| Counters | Kevin Sloane & Frank Rowland | | |
| Church Cleaners | Rosa Watson / Jenny Agius / Sue Gilmore / Sheila Magallanes | | |