

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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

21 MAY 2023

'I am with you always.'

Today is a strange feast. A celebration of a real absence and a real presence. The Galilean Jesus of Nazareth as known by his disciples is no longer with us. This historical Jesus is absent and today acknowledges that absence. And yet, the Risen Christ known to those of faith continues to be a living presence in our midst. This is the real presence we celebrate today.

The graphic story of Jesus' Ascension is found only in Luke's Gospel where the Jesus of history is carried up to heaven and so begins a second phase as the Spirit empowers the community to continue the mission of Jesus. Luke then opens his second volume, The Acts of the Apostles with this same experience of the Ascension, followed by the coming of the Spirit during the Jewish Festival of Pentecost. This is Luke's perspective.

Matthew's theology is different. There is no description of Jesus leaving, in fact Matthew's Gospel ends with the promise of Jesus, 'I am with you always'. These words '*I am with you*' echo the words spoken to Joseph when Jesus' birth is first announced, 'He shall be called Emmanuel – a name that means *God-is-with-us*.' The entire Gospel is framed by this image of God-with-us. This is who Jesus is for the first disciples, and this is who Jesus is for all who continue in their footsteps.

Matthew's Jesus is modelled on the great Jewish prophet and teacher Moses, which is evident in this scene. Where the followers of Moses were those within Israel, Jesus commands that discipleship now be extended to 'all nations'. God's covenant with Israel is now open to all people. Where belonging to Israel was sealed with the ritual of circumcision, Jesus gives his disciples a new ritual for those who would belong to his community, namely, the ritual of baptism. Where Judaism was founded on the teaching and Law of Moses, the community of Christians is founded on the teaching of Jesus.

You might recall that in Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.' (Matt 5:17-18) But in Matthew's account of the crucifixion there are signs that mark the end of the world. There is an earthquake and the tombs open and those once dead return to life. For Matthew the Cross marks the passing away of heaven and earth and the beginning of a new age. Jesus' commission to his disciples establishes the membership, the initiation ritual, and the ethic for a new community in the new age. A community for 'all nations,' who participate in one baptism and follow the teaching of Jesus.

These final words of Matthew's Gospel I find most encouraging. We are told that when the disciples saw Jesus, some worshipped him, but some still doubted. This small nucleus of the Christian community holds both people of faith and disciples with room to doubt. This is the community who, in spite of its frailty hears the words, 'I am with you always.'

Let us be heartened by these words of a God who continues to be with us, even in our failings.

© Sr Mary Coloe

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



PRAYER FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD

O God, who always walks with us
on the journey of life, we call upon you
to lead us forth united.

Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.
Keep us anchored in your love.

Open our hearts as we listen and discern.
Reveal to us the way we are called
to go out into the deep.

Give us the courage to pursue
the mission with bold humility.

May we experience renewal in our local Church
today,
and for generations to come.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ,
who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to
guide your Church,
to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and
forever.

Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Dear parishioners:

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

This weekend will be my last Vigil and Sunday Masses in our parish. From Saturday, 27 May to Sunday, 11 June; I will be away to attend 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. Please keep us in your prayers.

There will be different priests from the Diocese to celebrate the weekend Masses. Fr Ed Kenny will celebrate the weekday Masses. There will be no Adoration and Confession on Saturday afternoon on 27 May, 3 June and 10 June. But Fr Ed will offer the Sacrament of Confession after the Saturday morning Masses on those dates.

I will celebrate a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell at our parish on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 at 7:00pm. There will be Adoration and Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette at 6:30pm. After the Mass, there will be a light supper at the parish hall. You are all very welcome to come as I offer my gratitude to God for granting me an opportunity to serve you as your parish administrator since January 1, 2022.

St Bernadette, pray for us. May God bless us always.

Fr John Paul

WELCOME

We especially welcome to our Christian faith community Raigne Vibar, Ashley Alvarez, Lilah Piri, Tiberius Aoun-Padovan and Kaliyah Martinez 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.

Good Samaritan Appeal

Our Parish is proud to support the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal raising funds for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton. The centre helps people seeking practical assistance, learning opportunities, and connection with others. This may be through healthcare, help with everyday family needs, or financial and legal counselling. There's also help for people impacted by domestic violence and those who are navigating the justice system or needing mentoring support.

Please give generously via the giving envelopes and place them in the collection baskets at the back for the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal. Thank you.

Safe Parishes Week – Safeguarding Mandatory Training is Due Now!

Are you new to Parish Ministry this year and have not completed your Safeguarding Training?

Are you an existing volunteer and have not yet completed your 6 points of mandatory Safeguarding Training?

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the NSW Child Safe Standards **all** volunteers in parish ministry are Mandatory Reporters and are required to have completed their Safeguarding Training. The Office of the Children's Guardian expects all volunteers in parish ministry have now met this Standard. In the Diocese of Parramatta we have a zero tolerance of abuse. We therefore commit to keeping children safe as well as all adults at risk.

You are now required to register for the Mandatory 6 points of Safeguarding Training to complete Cycle 1: Register for the Mandatory Training during Safe Parishes Week on Friday, 9th June at 9.30am - 2.30pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown.

Please register for this mandatory training at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org
If you would like to complete your 6 points online, 'sign up' NOW at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

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/.

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.

'Anointed' MGL Sisters Pentecost Intensive Retreat: 24-28 May

Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service through inputs, discussion and practical workshops. Join us for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville. More info & register: www.trybooking.com/CFBRF

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Pentecost Celebration: 27 May

Come and prepare on the eve of Pentecost with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW and Parramatta Communities. Come to an uplifting, inspiring, encouraging afternoon of worship, testimonies, listening to the Word of God and prayer ministry on Saturday 27 May from 2pm to 5pm at Servants of Jesus, 15 Park Rd Seven Hills. Register now via <https://www.trybooking.com/CHJKP>

Diocesan Liturgical Conference: 15 July

The Diocesan Liturgy Conference is on again in 2023! Save the date for Saturday 15 July at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong. Fr Peter Williams AM VG will be the Keynote speaker as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. The conference will include a variety of workshops. More information to come soon.



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.

Walking Together - Youth PoWR Meets the Uluru Statement: 28 May

In view of the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament, Youth PoWR and the Challenging Racism Project at WSU are hosting a free interactive workshop led by Youth Off the Streets to foster purpose and understanding among non-Indigenous youth so they can confidently walk the path of reconciliation with First Nations people. For young adults aged 18-35 Please join us: Sunday 28 May @ 12-4pm, Vegetarian food served at midday. Come! Eat! Meet! Participate! Peter Shergold Building, WSU Level 9, 169 Macquarie St, Parramatta 2150. Register your attendance FREE at Humanitix: events.humanitix.com/youthpowr-meets-uluru

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

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.

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

27th & 28th 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
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan	Mario Spiteri	Fernando Gallegos
Minister of the Word	Jessie Pranadjaja @ 1 Joel Agius @ 2 Raia Uri @	Ana Vlatko @ 1 Carmen Bonello @ 2 Matthew Kenyon @	Thelma Islip @ 1 Kate Fardouly @ 2 Eva Narajos @
Eucharistic Minister	Anne Simpson	Sue Gilmore	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Youth Ministry	Wendy Walsh	Volunteer Required
Music	Lawrence Del Prado Group	CDs - Judith Pineda	Parish Choir
Flowers	Myrna Baterna		
Counters	Toma Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ria Rillera		