

'God loved the world so much He gave His only Son.'

As a child I learnt about the Trinity in terms of three persons in one God – a short summary of a very complex history of debate about God, Jesus and Spirit. John's Gospel says this with much greater simplicity in the one word 'love'. Too often the language of 'trinity' begins to sound mathematical: three in one, one in three. Trinity is a way of trying to put words on an unfathomable mystery of the inner life of God. A life we could never have imagined, except it was first experienced. Within Judaism, there were a number of ways of naming the Holy One – Elohim, the generic term for God; YHWH the personal name and experience of God in Israel. The ancient writers of Israel constantly struggled to name the paradox of a God who was utterly transcendent, and yet a God who was present to them. To maintain the sense of God's transcendence, when they spoke of the immanent experience of God various groups used different words. The Prophets said, 'The Word of the Lord came to me,' and 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me'. The wisdom teachers spoke of Holy Wisdom being present in the order and elegance of the natural world as well as in human history. Later the rabbis used an Aramaic word 'Shekinah' as a way of speaking of the presence of God within the cosmos. The life of Jesus of Nazareth and his ongoing risen life within the Christian community stretched the theological concepts and language of Israel to find a new way of naming God. Trinity is the distinctively Christian way of naming our experience of God as a communion of life and love.

The very nature of God is to love – to reach out to another in relationship. In this conversation with Nicodemus Jesus describes why he has come into the world (Greek: *kosmos*); for love of this extraordinary cosmos God gave us a most precious gift in Jesus. John's Gospel makes the promise that those who receive this gift in faith will become children of God (John 1:12) which is this Gospel's way of describing salvation. This means of course that you and I are invited to be drawn into the very heart of God, to be drawn into the Trinity as part of God's own household.

Earlier in the conversation Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again in water and Spirit – a phrase Nicodemus could not understand. The Johannine community understood that with the gift of the Spirit they were in a sense reborn into a new quality of life. John calls this eternity life, which is a way of naming the life God lives in eternity. I use the translation 'eternity' life, rather than 'eternal' life to convey the concept that we are reborn not into ordinary human life that goes on forever, but into a new way of existence. We are born into the family of God, able to call God 'Father' and each other sisters and brothers. In the first reading, this is what Moses begs for when he asks, 'adopt us as your heritage'. If you want a living example of the Trinity look at a family where children participate in the life and love of their parents.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Trinity, we are not celebrating an esoteric doctrine from the past; we are celebrating One who is a dynamic relationship inviting us to be participants in this dynamism.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Glory and praise for ever!

<u>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</u>: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'God loved the world

so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the

world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

Fr John Paul's Mass of Thanksgiving & Farewell

There will be a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving at our parish on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 7:00pm. Adoration and Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette with the Holy Rosary will take place at 6:30pm. After the Mass, there will be a light supper in the parish hall. You are all very welcome to come and join in thanking God for the time Fr JP has served as our parish administrator.

If you can, please bring a small plate of ready to eat food to share. A clipboard will be outside the church over the next two weekends for you to write down anything that you will be bringing. As we can't heat the food could you please bring it hot and covered, ready to eat.

This weekend and next weekend, there will also be a bucket collection for a farewell gift Fr John Paul. This will be our gift to him in thanks for all he has done for this Parish over the last 17 months. If you would like to contribute, there will be a basket at the back of the church.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Dear parishioners:

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

Let us welcome Fr Ranillo 'Raning' Creta, Fr Kevin Redmond, and Fr Paul Aguilar to our parish this weekend. We thank them for the generosity of their time to celebrate this weekend's Holy Masses.

Fr Ranillo 'Raning' Creta is rostered to celebrate the 6:00pm Vigil Mass. He has been the Parish Priest at St Paul the Apostle Parish in Winston Hills.

Fr Kevin Redmond is rostered to celebrate the 8:30am Mass. He is the Assistant Priest at St Andrew the Apostle Parish in Marayong.

Fr Paul Aguilar is rostered to celebrate the 10:00am Mass. He is the Parish Priest at St Edward's Parish in Tamworth.

Fr Ed Kenny will celebrate the weekday Masses on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9:15am and Wednesday at 7:30PM. There will be no Adoration and Confession on Saturday afternoon on 10 June. But Fr Ed will offer the Sacrament of Confession after the Saturday morning Masses on those dates.

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

Fr John Paul

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

If you or someone close to you has suffered any abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic Groups) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us. Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options. Phone (02) 9933 0233. Web: safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au. For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact NSW Police on 1800 333 000.

VINNIES PANTRY



During the month of June, you are invited to donate **any Toiletry item of your choice** to help Vinnies with their parcels for the needy.

The St Vincent De Paul Society is also in need of any used and clean blankets. If you are able to help, please place blankets in the Vinnies Pantry Box at the back of the church.

Thank you for your continued support.

Monday Night Bible Study



Come and join us on our Monthly Monday night Bible Study for a deep dive into the scriptures set for proclamation on each Sunday from the churches' Lectionary. A typical bible study session includes: an opening

prayer, a review of the Sunday Scripture Readings, followed by open discussion points and a closing prayer. <u>All bible studies are free</u>. No registration is required: you can just contact one of the co-ordinators, either Patrick or Cyril, for information and let either one of them know of your interest to join the friendly group. <u>All are Welcome</u>.

WHERE: St Bernadette's Parish Centre, 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park TIME: 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm WHEN: Monday Night 5 June 2023

For further information, contact either: PATRICK on 0416 240 298 (<u>Patrick.cagney@optusnet.com.au</u>)

Seniors Meeting

The next Seniors Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall **next Thursday 8th June at** 9:45AM. All welcome.

Soul Sisters

The Soul Sisters women's group will be meeting again for coffee and a chat on Tuesday 6th June

at 8pm. Kindly hosted by Jenny Agius, at 13 Andaman Street, Kings Park. All women over 18 are very welcome to join us!



Choir For Fr JP's Farewell Mass

The Magnificat Choir invites anyone who is interested to join them in singing for Fr John Paul's Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell.



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/.

Save Calvary Hospital

There is a petition to the Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to reverse a decision of the ACT government to compulsorily acquire Calvary Hospital in Canberra. This removes the ownership and management from Calvary Health Care – a Catholic operator – and gives the ownership to the government-run, non-faithbased Canberra Health Services instead. To find out more about the implications of this decision and to sign the petition please visit: www.savecalvary.com.au

Safe Parishes Week – Safeguarding Mandatory Training is Due Now!

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the NSW Child Safe Standards <u>all</u> volunteers in parish ministry are Mandatory Reporters and are required to have completed their Safeguarding Training.

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

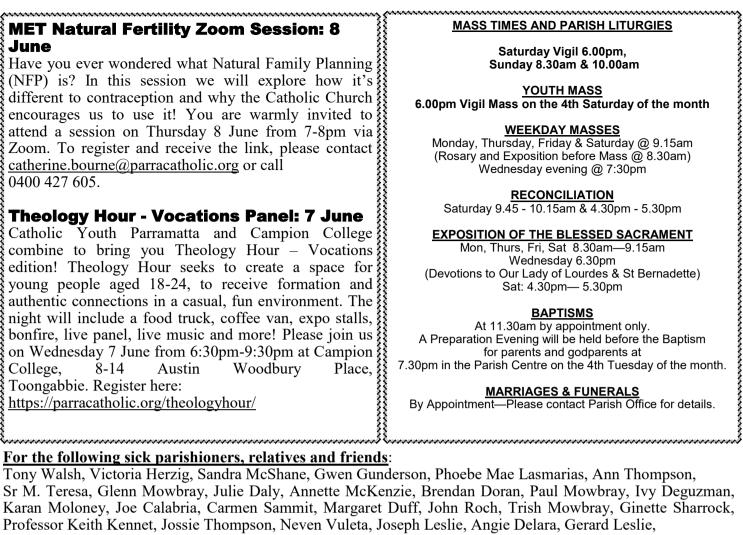
If you would like to complete your 6 points online, 'sign up' NOW at:

https://learning.safeguarding.org.au



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.



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:

Anniversary: Anacleta Cordero

Deceased: Tony Zec, 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:

10th & 11th JUNE 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald	Justin Spiteri Andrew Spiteri	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Liam Agius
Minister at the Altar	Francis Sultana	Alexander De Vega	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Wendy Hord ® 1 Kim McDonald ® 2 Michael Hord ©	Judith Smith ® 1 Carmen Bonello ® 2 Ana Vlatko ©	Rolaine Vibar ® 1 Eva Narajos ® 2 Kate Fardouly ©
Eucharistic Minister	Ella Martirez	Sue Gilmore	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Wendy Walsh	Rosa Watson
Music	Magnificat Choir	St Pedro Calungsod Choir	Parish Choir
Flowers	Vicky Sant		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Nick Soon / Couples for Christ		