

## ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](http://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](mailto:admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)

Parish Priest: Fr Clifford D'Souza

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.

## 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

## 30 JULY 2023

W.M Thomson in *The Land and the Book*, tells of a case of treasure discovery which he came upon in Sidon in a garden among the acacia trees. Workers digging in the garden uncovered several copper pots full of gold coins of Alexander the Great and his father Philip. They were wild with excitement and had every intention of keeping the find to themselves, but the local government got the wind of it and claimed the gold coins. Thomson suggests that government officials buried these coins with the intention of appropriating them in the chaos which was bound to follow Alexander's death. Thomson goes on to say how there are people who make it their life's business to search for hidden treasure. When Jesus told this parable, he told the kind of story that anyone would recognise in Palestine and in the middle east. The treasure the gospel is referring to is our faith which tells us we are heirs to the kingdom of God. One of the encouraging aspects of this story is that such a treasure can be found in ordinary places. God is constantly speaking to us in the simplicity of our lives. What we have got to do is to open our eyes to his presence and search for him in the bits and pieces of everyday happenings. This will come about with prayer and by taking a good look at ourselves and trying to discover what God is saying to us at any given moment. We can stumble across the treasure, in suffering bravely borne and properly accepted or when a serious illness leaves us invalidated and our entire future is put in jeopardy. Such times of crises with everything falling apart may be a call to new growth and an adventure in holiness.

Let us reflect on the depth and the value we put on our faith in Christ. How many of us can honestly say that nothing else matters but this precious gift handed down to us by our parents and by previous generation at so great cost? Does it mean anything to us that Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we could share in his glory? If we really want happiness there is no point in turning to the passing things of life hoping that they will fill our emptiness and loneliness. We must invest time and energy in detaching ourselves from such superficiality. Our great destiny is to share in God's glory so our sole preoccupation should be to stake everything on Christ and the values he stands for and portrays. This takes time and patience.

Talking about time, Pope Francis is very fond of saying "time is greater than space." He quotes this aphorism in all four of his encyclicals and exhortations. What he means is that we must be patient. It takes time to strike gold, to find the pearl of great price, to haul in the right fish. It takes time to search for the truth, to build trust, to co-operate in making God's kingdom come. Political-bureaucratic planning and

self-assertion alone will never bring us to that "fullness". We might control the space around us for a while but will not always get what we want, when we want it. The best things happen in God's good time and in the meantime, we must persevere, living in the now, working slowly but surely, "without anxiety, but with clear convictions and tenacity," leaving room for the Holy Spirit. The pearl of great price that is the kingdom of heaven is worth the wait, for it is so beautiful.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Lord, I love your commands.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

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## Upcoming Feast Days

31st July - St Ignatius of Loyola

1st August - St Alphonsus Liguori

2nd August - St Eusebius of Vercelli,  
St Peter Julian Eymard

3rd August - Saint Dominic

4th August - St John Vianney

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who came to celebrate Fr Ed's 60th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination last weekend and to all who helped out in any way. We continue to pray for Fr Ed and thank him for his dedicated service to our Parish of St Bernadette's.

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## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROCESS

**HOLY** Parents who have registered their children for First Holy Communion are reminded that the Process is due to take place in term three.

**COMMUNION** It will commence with a Meeting for Parents Only

On Thursday August 10 at 9.15am OR 7.30pm. (You need to attend the AM or PM meeting) in the Parish Meeting Room.

Failure to attend this meeting would indicate your decision to withdraw from the Process.

God Bless you.

Madge Miranda Sacramental Coordinator.

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## FR CLIFFORD'S HOLIDAYS

Please note that I will be on leave beginning 24th July until 19th August. During this period, I thank Fr Ed Kenny for celebrating the weekday Masses and the Saturday Vigil Masses. I also thank Fr. Bob Anderson for kindly celebrating the Sunday Masses at 8.30am and 10am.

Please note August 15th, The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be only **ONE** Mass at 9.15am here at St Bernadette's.



## WELCOME

We especially welcome to our Christian faith community: Violet Naing. She will be baptised this Sunday. Congratulations to her parents and family. May you have a joyous and blessed day.

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## VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of August, you are invited to donate **one of either Men's Handkerchiefs, Socks or Shaving needs** to give the men who are struggling a small Father's Day gift.

Thank you for your continued support.

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## Volunteers Needed

Our Parish is looking for more volunteers. We currently need more volunteers in the following Ministries:

- Cleaners: Clean the Church on one Saturday of the month
- Readers to read at the Sunday morning Masses (We currently have enough Readers for the Saturday Vigil Mass)
- Altar Servers: Young people can join this Ministry after receiving their First Holy Communion. Training will be provided.
- Welcomers

If you are interested in joining one of these Ministries, please contact the Parish Office on 9672 4037 or email [liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](mailto:liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)

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## Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying or Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

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**TAX RECEIPTS** are available on the table outside the Church. Caritas and Catholic Foundation collections are tax deductible but **Planned Giving is not a tax deduction.**

Thank you for your generous giving in the last financial year.

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to so many parishioners who signed a card of congratulations for my 60th Ordination Anniversary. Also for your gracious gift. I don't feel any different.  
Fr. Ed Kenny.

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## Diocesan Synod

Submissions for the Diocesan Synod are closing this Monday 31st July. If you would like to make a submission and have your say, you can do so by going to <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>. Membership applications for the Synod will also be closing on Monday 31st July. To apply to be a member of the Synod in October, please fill out the form at the following link: [https://parracatholic.org/synod2023\\_membership/](https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_membership/)

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## Follow our World Youth Day pilgrimage from home!

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](http://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News).

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## Diocesan Adult Confirmation: 5 September

Adult Confirmation 2023 will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 2 September at 9:30am – 2pm at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist but are yet to receive the Confirmation. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org).

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## ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Bernadette's Primary School is now enrolling for K-6 for 2024. To enrol, or to enquire about enrolling, please call 8869 6400 or visit [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.catholic.edu.au)

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## 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.

**MET Worship RCIA Teams Formation Seminars: Beginning 3 August**

MET Worship's Formation Seminar for RCIA Teams will be commencing on Thursday 3 August throughout August from 7pm to 9pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. New topics will be covered each week throughout the Seminar including Using Rituals, Mystagogia and more! To RSVP and to learn more about the seminar topics, please contact [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795.

**Rouse Hill Parish Family Fiesta: 6 August**

The Annual Our Lady of the Angels Family Fiesta will be on Sunday 6 August at 1 Wellgate Avenue, North Kellyville. Celebrations commence with Mass at 11am followed by a procession. Rides, Entertainment, Petting Zoo and wonderful International Food will be available from 1pm and continue throughout the afternoon with a fireworks display to finish at 6pm. This is a wonderful event for all the family and we hope to see you there!

**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**

Tuesday, 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**

Tues, 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:**

Mrs Peterson, Dennis Tracey, Harry Tracey, Rachel Surdich, Laura Vecchiet, 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, David Williams, Nathan Weaver. Maria Posa, Angelo Posa.

**For our deceased brothers and sisters:**

**Recently deceased:** Fr. Carl Ashton, Robert Leopardi

**Anniversary:** Dominic Surdich, Ana Perorich, Joseph McKenzie

**Deceased:** Nicola Deganti, 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:**

**5th & 6th AUGUST 2023**

| <b>Ministry</b>       | <b>6.00pm</b>  | <b>8.30am</b>  | <b>10.00am</b>  |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Altar Servers         | Arielle McDonald<br>Lucie McDonald                         | Jess Barbin<br>Noah Bonello                                | Cate Astillo<br>Zara Astillo                            |
| Minister at the Altar | Leonides Martinez  | Rey Baterna  | Jose (Mari) Tomas                                       |
| Minister of the Word  | Minda Vuleta @ 1<br>Lissa Carter @ 2<br>Bernadette Nolan @ | Judith Smith @ 1<br>Carmen Bonello @ 2<br>Lynne Tolhurst @ | Kate Fardouly @ 1<br>Eva Narajos @ 2<br>Perla Billedo @ |
| Eucharistic Minister  | Joanne Digwood   | Sue Gilmore  | Sarah Key   |
| Welcomer              | Volunteer Required   | Louise Bruni   | Cindy Astillo   |
| Music                 | Mordini Family   | Parish Choir   | Couples for Christ                                      |
| Flowers               | Michelle Brohier   |  |   |
| Counters              | Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca                       |  |   |
| Church Cleaners       | Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ricardo Serrado                 |  |   |