

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 Priest: Fr Clifford D'Souza msfs

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.

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Reflection on Matthew 20: 1-16 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A)

Listening to the parable in this Sunday's Gospel, we are tempted to react and share the grumble of the workers who have laboured since early morning. In human terms it seems a bit unfair that after slaving all day in the sun they got the same pay for their efforts as those who were taken on at the eleventh hour. If we get too uptight about the injustice of the situation, we miss the point of the story.

Jesus' audience would probably know exactly what Jesus was getting at. The vineyard was the kingdom of God. Those who had been working all day long were the Pharisees and Jews in general. The eleventh hour people were sinners and the Gentiles. The Jewish scholar C.G. Montefiore calls this parable one of the greatest, and contains truth which goes to the very heart of Christianity. It means that no matter when people enter the kingdom – late or soon, in the flush of youth, in the strength of the middle of the day, or when the shadows are lengthening – they are equally dear to God. Sometimes people die full of years and full of honour, with their days work ended and their tasks completed. Sometimes young people die almost before the door of life and achievement has opened at all. From God, they will both receive the same welcome; for both, Jesus Christ is waiting, and in neither case, in the divine sense, has life ended too soon or too late.

Also, the generosity of God is worthy of mention. These men did not all do the same work; but they did receive the same pay. There are two great lessons here – all service ranks the same with God. It is not the amount of service given, but the love in which it is given which matters. A wealthy friend may give us a valuable gift, and in truth we are grateful; a child may give us a birthday or Christmas gift which cost only a small amount but which was laboriously and lovingly saved up for – and that gift, with little value of its own touches our heart far more. God does not look on the amount of our service.

The key to understanding the story is contained in the phrase, "Are you envious because I am generous?" That's the real issue here. It isn't that the boss doesn't give a fair go but that he gives more than a fair go! And that's just what God does. He treats people better than they deserve. And sometimes we find it hard to take. The story is not about justice. It is about generosity. So, this Gospel fills us with an inspiring image of a generous, gracious and forgiving God whose love for us has no bounds and whose mercy extends both to those who have laboured all their lives in his service and to those who have broken faith but turn to him in their dying hour. When we come into God's presence let us not parade our entitlements, our rights and our status. Everything we have is a free gift of his love and mercy. We cannot explain his generosity, but one thing is certain – God's ways are not our ways.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

Pope's Intention for the Month of September

For those people on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9
My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27
For me to live is Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon
You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16



Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONS AND MASS

Please note that, beginning September, there will be a slight change with the Wednesday devotions which begin at **6:30pm** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the recitation of the Rosary and the novena prayers to St Bernadette, and Holy Mass thereafter at **7pm** and not 7:30pm.

Week 7 of the Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod

This Sunday 24 September is the beginning of Week 7 of the Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. Join the whole Diocesan community in continuing to pray for our first Diocesan Synod in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 29 October



The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent.

Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending at: marriage@parracatholic.org or phone 8838 3460 by 20 October.

Family and friends are welcome.

Upcoming Feast Days

26th September - Sts Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

27th September - St Vincent de Paul

28th September - St Wenceslaus, Martyr, St Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

29th September - Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

30th September - St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

1st October - St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS OF INITIATION

Parents who are presenting their children for Reconciliation are reminded that they are required to attend the Meeting for Parents Only

On Thursday October 19, at 9:15am OR 7:30pm (you need to attend only one of these) In the Parish Meeting Room (which is below the Parish Office in the Parish Centre).

Non attendance at this meeting could indicate your decision to withdraw from the Sacramental Process or postpone participating in it.

Thank you and God Bless

Madge Miranda, Sacramental Co Ordinator

VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of September, you are invited to donate **1 of the following: Coffee, Biscuits, or Breakfast Cereal** to help with food parcels for the needy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Saturday Evening Adoration

A reminder that each Saturday evening from 4:30pm-5:30pm our Parish provides the opportunity for you to come and spend time with Jesus in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith in which Jesus Christ is Truly Present. We should do our best to give up even a little of our time to adore Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist so that we can make every effort to deepen our faith. It would be great to see more people attending Adoration, especially on Saturday afternoons.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available at this time. I encourage everyone to foster a great devotion to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in their lives.



Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died, and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water, and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at www.caritas.org.au

World Rosary Hour

Friday 13th October is the 106th Anniversary of The Miracle of The Sun, which occurred on this day in Fatima, Portugal in 1917.



As per Our Lady of Fatima's request of prayer, penance and devotion to her Immaculate Heart, all are encouraged to pray the Sorrowful Mysteries at 3pm on this day.

For more information, go to worldrosaryhour.com

SREs Needed

This Ministry is in need of more volunteers. It is incredibly important and rewarding. We'd love to have you on board.

We currently teach for half-hour periods on the following days:

Tuesdays at Lynwood Park Public School and Kings Langley Public School

Wednesdays at Lalor Park Public School

Thursdays at Seven Hills West Public School

Training is provided for all new SREs.

For more information or if you are interested in joining this Ministry in our Parish, please feel free to contact Joel either via the Parish Office or at joel.agius@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Pamphlets with further information are also available at the back of the Church.

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**
- **CD Operators** for the Saturday Vigil Mass and 8:30am Sunday Mass

If you are interested in joining one of these Ministries, please contact the Parish Office on 9672 4037 or email liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.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.

Blacktown Parish Golf Day 2023: 29 September

The parish community of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, is inviting golfers to join their Parish Golf Day, which will take place on Friday 29 September from 7am at Stonecutter Ridge Golf Course - 86 Stonecutters Drive Colebee NSW 2761. All funds raised at this event will go towards the repair of our church roof at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. For further information and/or to register to participate, please click onto the following website:

<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/golfday2023> or contact the parish office: (02) 9622 1125 or admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Rydalmeire Parish Perpetual Adoration Chapel now open

Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmeire, has a new Adoration Chapel that is open to the public 24/7 located at 4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmeire. Fr Chadi welcomes everyone to the Chapel. For after-hours access please contact the Parish Office or Blake on (02) 9684 1541 or admin@holymary.org.au

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 @ 7:00pm

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:

Dean McDonald, Baby Walsh, Gerard Leslie, Mick Toomey, 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, 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: Jill Smyth

Anniversary: Consuelo Y Brautista

Deceased: Abigail DeVega, 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: 30th SEPTEMBER & 1st OCTOBER 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Rachel Vaz	Jess Barbin	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison
Minister at the Altar	Leonides Martinez	Joe Formosa	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Lissa Carter @ 1 Michael Hord @ 2 Wendy Hord @	Sue Gilmore @ 1 Matthew Kenyon @ 2 Lynne Tolhurst @	Josephine Baracz @ 1 Kate Fardouly @ 2 Eva Narajos @
Eucharistic Minister	Joanne Digwood	Catherine Peregrina	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Agius Family	Jan Weaver	Rosa Watson
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 / Michael Muranty		