

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.

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

29 OCTOBER 2023

Reflection on Matthew 22: 34-40 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A)

In the Jewish tradition the Torah contains 613 commandments, covering many aspects of daily life, including family, personal hygiene and diet etc.: 248 positive commandments (do's) and 365 negative commandments (don'ts). The question that was asked of Jesus was "which commandment of the law is the greatest?"

A delightful story is told of Rabbi Hillel the Elder. One day, a potential student declared that he would become the rabbi's disciple if he could recite the whole Law while standing on one leg. Hillel adopted the required position and declared, 'What is hateful to you, do not do to your friend. This is the entire Torah; the rest is interpretation.'

We may well say that Jesus laid down the complete definition of religion; here Jesus opens a window to divine priorities. How do we imagine loving the unseen God; how does one love God?

Religion consists in loving God. The verse which Jesus quotes is Deut. 6:5. That verse was part of the *Shema*, the basic and essential creed of Judaism, the sentence with which every Jewish service still opens, and the first text which every Jewish child commits to memory. It means that to God we must give a total love, a love which dominates our emotions, a love which directs our thoughts, and a love which is the dynamic of our actions. All religion starts with the love which is total commitment of life to God.

The second commandment which Jesus quotes comes from Leviticus 19:18. Our love for God must issue in love for others. But it is to be noted in which order the commandments come; it is love of God first, and love of others second. It is only when we love God that other people become lovable. The biblical teaching about human beings is not that we are collections of chemical elements, not that we are part of the brute creation, but that men and women are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). It is for that reason that human beings are lovable. The true basis of all democracy is in fact the love of God. Take away the love of God, and we can look at human nature and become angry at those who cannot be taught; we can become pessimistic about those who cannot make progress; we can become callous to those who are cold and calculating in their actions. The love of humanity is firmly grounded in the love of God.

The gospel today centres the message of Jesus on love; Jesus brings together the love of God and love of our neighbour as something inseparable – two sides of the same coin. No detail of religious observance is above this law of love. Jesus never allowed the laws of religion overtake the need for love. The message of Jesus is all-embracing and covers all our relationships, both the close relationships of marriage, family and friendship, as well as the call to love the wider world, particularly where the needs are great.

The central message is . . . Love

(Agape is "the highest form of love, charity")

Agape does not love somebody because they are worthy; Agape makes them worthy by the strength and power of its love.

Agape does not love somebody because they are beautiful; Agape loves in such a way that it makes them beautiful.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

Pope's Intention for the Month of October

For the Synod - We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

Responsorial Psalm: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

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!

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40



When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the

Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

2024 Columban Calendar

The 2024 Columban Calendar is now on sale in the Piety Store at \$10 each.

Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?

The Mission Enhancement Team's *Soul Food Podcast* features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify:

<https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

Exploring the Catholic Faith (RCIA)

Has anyone spoken to you or do you know of any non Christian or non Catholic who wants to know the Catholic faith and who lives within the local area? If so, please see me and we can further the interest of the person/s by inviting them to our parish community and initiating them into the teaching and practices of the Catholic church. Fr. Clifford.

Upcoming Feast Days

1st November - All Saints

2nd November - The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

3rd November - St Martin de Porres, Religious

4th November - St Charles Borromeo

October - Month of the Holy Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. This is due to the fact that on October 7th the Church also celebrates the Marian advocacy of "Our Lady of the Rosary". This feast was established by Pope St. Pius V in 1571 to celebrate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7th of that year. Prior to the decisive battle, St. Pius V requested all Western Christians to pray the rosary; thus he attributed the victory to the power of the Marian prayer rather than the power of ships and cannons.

We are all encouraged to pray the Rosary this month as Our Blessed Mother requested of us in her apparitions to the children of Fatima in 1917.

All Souls Day

All Souls' Day, also called *The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed* is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed, observed on 2 November. Through prayer, intercessions, alms and visits to cemeteries, people commemorate the poor souls in purgatory and gain them indulgences.

Masses will be celebrated for your dearly departed on **2 November at 9.15 and 7 pm**. November Mass Offering envelopes are placed in the church. You may place the Mass offerings in a box which will be placed in front of the altar and celebrated through the month.

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.

FAREWELL

Farewell to the Facchin Family: Michele (Music Ministry Organist) Jim (Minister of the Altar and Parish Gardener) and Julie (Music Ministry).

Thank you for your 39 years of faithful service to the parish. We will miss you and we wish you good health and happiness in your new Parish in Queensland. God Bless.

VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of November, you are invited to donate **any one of the following items: Long Life Custard, Chips, Nuts, Drinks or any other Christmas food item of your choice.**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the St Vincent De Paul (Vinnies) through the Pantry or The Poor Box throughout the year.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Come and pray and spend quiet time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament before mass on weekdays and on Saturday before the vigil mass. Please note, every Saturday beginning Saturday 4th November the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the chapel from 4.30 until 5.30pm.

Mass and prayers for deceased clergy: 17 November

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ.

We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

PARRAMATTA STREET FEAST: 11 NOVEMBER

You are invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, Saturday 11 November 2023. Come and share a meal, company and entertainment with members of our community who are on the margins of society. This free event will be held in a spirit of solidarity and friendship at the Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 10:30AM to 1:30PM. The Street Feast is a collaboration between the Diocese of Parramatta, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon and St. Merkorious Charity.

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.agus@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

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

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.

Diocesan Food Drives

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes and schools are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

125th Anniversary Cathedral Organ Concert: 12 November

St Patrick's Cathedral Organists, Choir and Guest Performers will present an array of performances at a Gala Concert to celebrate the 125th anniversary of St Patrick's Cathedral Organ. The Concert will be held on Sunday 12 November from 3pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/CLUFN> or at the door.

For more information, contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

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:

Bruce Filemning, Rachel Surdich, Mabel Green, Dean McDonald, Baby Walsh, Gerard Leslie, Mick Toomey, Dennis Tracey, Harry Tracey, Rachel Surdich, Laura Vecchiet, 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:

Anniversary: Stephen Baxter

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:

4th & 5th NOVEMBER 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald	Jess Barbin	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo
Minister at the Altar	Reymund Rillera	Alexander De Vega	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Michael Muranty © 1 Lissa Carter © 2 Tina Uri ©	Ana Vlatko © 1 Sue Gilmore © 2 Carmen Bonello ©	Kate Fardouly © 1 Eva Narajos © 2 Perla Billedo ©
Eucharistic Minister	Kim McDonald	Catherine Peregrina	Jocelyn Bade
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Wendy Walsh	Cindy Astillo
Music	Mordini Family	Parish Choir	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Michelle Brohier		
Counters	Kevin Sloane		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ricardo Serrado, Michael Muranty		