

## 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 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.

## 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

**3 DECEMBER 2023**

Reflection on Mark 13: 33-37 (First Sunday of Advent – Liturgical Year B)

The Gospel passage for the first Sunday of Advent seems to have been following the advice of Sam Goldwyn, legendary Hollywood film producer who once said: “We want a story that starts out with an earthquake and works its way up to a climax”. Certainly, from the very first word, there can be no doubt that there is much at stake in this season, and in the very beginning of the story we are given of its ending.

It can be strange, at first, to begin our anticipation of the birth of Jesus by being exhorted to wait for his coming again. After all, this talk of Jesus’ return seems out of sequence because, in the context of the liturgical year, we are still awaiting his birth. In one important respect, however, it is entirely fitting, because it places us squarely with those who awaited the birth of the Messiah. Neither those who awaited the first coming of the Messiah, nor those who await his return, know when he will appear.

In other respects, our contemporary anticipation of the coming of God’s Promised One at Christmas is quite different from the experience of those who awaited the Messiah. After all, we know whom we are waiting for. We know the day he will arrive. It is circled in red in our calendars. We have Advent calendars and Advent candles to help us count down to the promised day.

By contrast, of course, those who lived before the birth of Jesus did not know the day or the hour of his arrival, so they needed to live in a continual state of watchfulness. The birth of the Messiah could only be celebrated as a surprise party that could take place on any day, at any moment. By anticipating the return of the Son of Man, at the beginning of Advent, we wait in the same way those who lived before Jesus was born waited, not knowing the day or the hour when the Messiah would appear. We also join them in hearing the same exhortation to be watchful and to keep awake.

This is a different kind of waiting. A child who stands on a street corner waiting for the bus to arrive will experience one kind of waiting, a passive waiting. The same child on the same corner hearing the sound of a parade that is just out of sight will also wait, but it will be a different kind of waiting, full of expectation, a waiting on tiptoe, and an active waiting. It is clear that Jesus does not intend for us to predict when he will return. Rather, he is urging us to live as if his return were just around the corner. So there is no time to nod off in a waiting room. Rather, we are to be more like a waiter who is continually busy in serving others and so has no time to sit down and count the tips.

Advent calls us to “stay awake” and not sleep through the opportunities life gives us to discover God in the love of others. Advent urges us to “watch,” to pay attention to the signs of God’s unmistakable presence in our lives.

With Peace in God’s mission

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

### POPE’S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER - For persons with disabilities.

We pray that people living with disabilities maybe at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I life up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**  
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

## GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



### Process of Sacramental Initiation

Fr Clifford with the Sacramental Team would like to thank the Parishioners for their prayerful support of the 25 children of our parish who for the first time experienced the love and forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We would in particular like to acknowledge and thank the parents for their interested and active participation in the faith sharing sessions.

## 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

3rd December - St Francis Xavier, Priest

4th December - St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6th December - St Nicholas, Bishop

7th December - St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8th December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9th December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

## Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and 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/>

## Christmas Mass Times

Our Christmas Mass Times for 2023 are as follows:

- Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)  
6pm - Children's Mass  
8:30pm - Youth-led Mass  
11:30pm - Christmas Carols  
Midnight Mass
- Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)  
9am Mass

### 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](mailto: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.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> November the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the chapel from 4.30 until 5.30pm.

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## Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit

[www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

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## 60<sup>th</sup> Year of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Commemorative Mass: 4 December

Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes to 0460 037 795 or Hannah Portelli [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

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## Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15 October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

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## 2024 Columban Calendar

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

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## MINISTERS OF THE WORD ( READERS )

Please note that there are two copies of 'Break Open the Word' in the church sacristy for your reference and reading . It is encouraged to have a read before mass begins.

## CATHOLIC FOUNDATION BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Bishop's Christmas Appeal and our 15 Catholic Care chaplains who give hope, comfort, and faith to those experiencing traumatic times. Your generosity is the foundation of our chaplains' compassionate work, bringing light to the lives of people in hospitals and prisons, who feel isolated and distressed.

For those who haven't had a chance to support our chaplains, please complete the giving envelope and place your Christmas gift in the box at the back of the Church. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and will be received. Your support will help our chaplains provide a listening ear, companionship, and vital spiritual support to people in their darkest days. Thank you for your compassion.

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## 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](mailto:joel.agius@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au) Pamphlets with further information are also available at the back of the Church.

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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**
- **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](mailto:liturgy@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.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.

## Diocesan Food Drives

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by the 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](http://parracatholic.org/fooddrive) or emailing

[james.atanasious@parracatholic.org](mailto:james.atanasious@parracatholic.org)

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES IN 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare.

Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

## MASS TIMES AND PARISH LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm,  
Sunday 8.30am & 10.00am

### 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 Flemming, 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:** Baby Maximilian Epondulan, John Inskip, Maureen Patrick

### 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:

9th & 10th DECEMBER 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Rachel Vaz Bianca Whittaker	Noah Bonello Charlotte Bonello	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Madeline Chakti
Minister at the Altar	Francis Sultana	Alexander De Vega	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	David Smyth @ 1 Tina Uri @ 2 Ella Martinez @	Matthew Kenyon @ 1 Alex De Vega @ 2 Sue Gilmore @	Thelma Islip @ 1 Kate Fardouly @ 2 Eva Narajos @
Eucharistic Minister	Ella Martinez	Catherine Peregrina	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Lorraine Stirton	Louise Bruni	Cindy Astillo
Music	CDs - Rodrigo Medina	St Pedro Calungsod Choir	Parish Choir
Flowers	Vicky Sant		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Couples for Christ / Nick Soon		