

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.

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

10 DECEMBER 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist was a prophet- a chosen messenger whose role was to prepare the way for God's entry among his people. The people came into the wilderness to hear him preach repentance and the announcement that the long-awaited day of salvation was about to dawn on them. Through his words he reprimanded the people for their loose lifestyles. The Baptist message was simple: Do penance, reform your lifestyles by prayer and fasting for the kingdom of God is at hand. His voice speaks to us across the ages and urges us to prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts.

Advent is an invitation to conversion and John the Baptist gives us some down-to-earth advice on how to better our lives. He talks about filling in valleys of prejudice, levelling down mountains of pride and straightening out the crooked paths of injustice. We need to ask ourselves as to what areas of our lives need a complete turning around to allow God to come close to us. Advent is a time to make a fresh start. Preparing for God in our hearts is time-consuming and requires a lot of sacrifice. It may mean walking a new path.

The voice of John the Baptist reminds us that we have the task of announcing Christ to others. Through acts of kindness, honesty and faithfulness, our everyday lives are a message telling everyone that Christ is right here with us. Advent is the season that reminds us of a real spiritual homecoming by making the necessary preparations for the arrival of the Saviour into our lives.

With Peace in God's mission
Fr Clifford msfs.

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: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8



The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



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

11th December - St Damasus I, Pope

12th December - Our Lady of Guadalupe

13th December - St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

14th December - St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Christmas Mass Times

Our Christmas Mass Times for 2023 are as follows:

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

Confession Times

- Wednesday 13th December - 6-6:45pm
- Saturday 16th December - 9:45-10:30am, 4:30-5:30pm
- Wednesday 20th December - 6-6:45pm
- Saturday 23rd December - 9:45-10:30am, 4:30-5:30pm

Weekday Mass Times After Christmas

- Tuesday 26th December - No Mass
- Wednesday 27th December - No Mass
- Thursday 28th December through to Saturday 27th January - 8:15am with Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30am.

Please note that the Wednesday Mass is in the morning at 8:15am instead of 7pm.

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.

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. Every Saturday the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the chapel from 4.30 until 5.30pm.

Seniors Meeting

The next Seniors Meeting will be held next Thursday 14th December at 9:45AM in the Hall.
All welcome.

Craft Stall

The Parish Craft Group are holding a Craft Stall after all Masses this weekend, 9th and 10th December. Handmade items made by the craft ladies will be on sale. Bring your cash and do some Christmas shopping!

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/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

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/>

2024 Columban Calendar

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

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. Lectors are 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 receipted. 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.

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.

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 or emailing

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 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 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, Nancy & Joe.

For our deceased brothers and sisters:

Recently deceased: Baby Maximilian Epondulan, Malcolm Speers

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:

16th & 17th DECEMBER 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald	Noah Bonello Charlotte Bonello Patrick Vlatko	Jess Barbin Alyssa Barbin
Minister at the Altar	Zaldy Pamintuan	Mario Spiteri	Michael Webster
Minister of the Word	Bernadette Nolan @ 1 Kim McDonald @ 2 Michael Muranty @	Ana Vlatko @ 1 Lynne Tolhurst @ 2 Carmen Bonello @	Jem Dalay @ 1 Perla Billedo @ 2 Josephine Baracz @
Eucharistic Minister	Bernadette Nolan	Helen Gonzales	Jocelyn Bade
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Wendy Walsh	Rosa Watson
Music	Couples for Christ		Parish Choir
Flowers	Amabel Keelty		
Counters	Kevin Sloane		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Jenny Agius / Sue Gilmore / Saydie Chakty / Margaret Smith		