

## 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.

**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**17 DECEMBER 2023**

### Christian Joy

The joy of Advent shines forth with an inspiring message of hope and encouragement urging us to rejoice and be happy because the Lord is near. What is more, it tells us the joy of being Christian and our vocation is to radiate this joy. All too often, Christianity has been associated with sadness invited by Christ to carry our daily crosses. Yet at the end when Jesus concluded his ministry and is about to leave, he says: 'These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you and your joy be complete,' (Jn: 15:11).

We were created for happiness. Our purpose is to spend our lives searching and striving to attain it. We tend to seek in wrong places and we mistakenly equate joy with pleasure and look for it in material things. For all the money in the world cannot purchase happiness. Christian joy is something deeper and richer than a smile and laughter upon a happy face. It comes with awareness that God is with us and the peace it creates, no one can take it from us. Friendship with God is the source of Christian joy.

At Christmas, when God came down in the person of Jesus, he filled the world with glad tidings of joy. His life was geared towards God the Father in joy, prayer and thanksgiving. As followers, our joy cannot be complete unless we show generosity to the unfortunate. The happiest people are those who are doing most for others. They know from experience that it is in giving that we receive. The day will arrive when they will be greeted with the words: 'Well done good and faithful servant, come and join in your master's happiness.'

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:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
I exult for joy in the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God.

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness.

When the Jews sent Priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

## A PRAYER

### My Heart Your Manger

Like the stable in which you lay,  
my hear is simple, frail as hay.  
But if within me you would stay,  
Make my heart your manger I pray.  
Make my world your Bethlehem,  
centrepiced with heaven's Son.  
Make this night a shepherd's sky,  
quicken bight with holy dawn.  
Rush the air with cherub's wings.  
Brush this earth. Let angels sing.  
A glimpse of your face. A taste of your grace.  
Be born in this place.  
I pray.  
Amen

### Upcoming Feast Days

21st December - St Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

23rd December - St John of Kanty, Priest

### 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 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. There will be NO Mass on Mondays.

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

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### THANK YOU

A big 'Thank You' to the ladies from the Craft Group and to the parishioners who supported them during the school Market Day and last weekend at Church. You raised \$1000. Congratulations ! It will go a long way to support missions in Mumbai (India) towards building decent homes.

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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. Lectors are encouraged to have a read before mass begins.

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### 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.

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### GOD'S WORD DAILY RELECTIONS 2024

This book is available in the piety Stall at a cost of \$20 each. A perfect Christmas gift for your loved ones

## 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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## NEW Diocesan website launched

The new [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

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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, Nancy & Joe.

### For our deceased brothers and sisters:

**Recently deceased:** Jose Egidio Da Silva, Baby Maximilian Epondulan

**Anniversary:** Malcolm Speers

**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:

23rd & 24th DECEMBER 2023

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle/Lucie McDonald Bianca Whittaker		Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Lachlan Money
Minister at the Altar	Reymund Rillera	Fernando Gallegos	Joe Formosa
Minister of the Word	Raia Uri ® 1 Jessie Pranadjaja ® 2 Joel Agius ®	Sue Gilmore ® 1 Michele Brohier ® 2 Matthew Kenyon ®	Jenny Agius ® 1 Thelma Islip ® 2 Karina Marafioti ®
Eucharistic Minister	Jessica Anderson	Catherine Peregrina	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Agius Family	Jan Weaver	Volunteer Required
Music	Magnificat Choir	CDs - Rodrigo Medina	Parish Choir
Flowers	Myrna Baterna		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Dennis & Helen Gonzales / Ria Rillera / Chloe Stevens		