

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.

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

28 JANUARY 2024



While some of us may respond to this Gospel text by asking, "Are there really such things as demons?" the characters in Mark's story do not focus on demons, or on what they have to say, or how Jesus effectively exorcises them. The characters are amazed by this new teacher whose words carry with them power to make unclean, clean. So, the main theme of interest; Jesus "**spoke with authority.**"

Jesus' authority came from within, unlike the scribes who taught in name of another, often quoting Rabbis' and other scholars. The teachers of the law did not speak with their own authority. Even the prophets rightly attributed their pronouncements to "Thus says the Lord..." But Jesus said simply, "I say to you..."

The people in the synagogue are simply astounded. "Here is teaching that is new and with authority behind it. He gives orders even to unclean spirits – and they obey him." No wonder his name rapidly becomes known all over the countryside. However, Jesus did not use his divine authority in the way we humans tend to use our little sprigs of authority. Jesus was not an authoritarian. For many of us, authority becomes merely a means of enriching ourselves, of getting our own way, of suppressing the truth, and of getting and holding the power to keep doing those things.

There are three important characteristics that separated the authority of Jesus from that of the Scribes (doctors of the law).

Jesus taught with humility, unlike the scribes who considered themselves as supreme.

Closeness to the people – touched the sick, the people with leprosy, had meals with sinners.

Jesus lived what he preached – there was unity, harmony between what Jesus taught and what he did.

Jesus uses his **servant authority** - to serve, not to be served - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:42-45) - entirely different from the way many people would. And that is how Jesus wants us to use whatever authority we might have. Whether our authority is at home, at work, or somewhere else, he wants us to use it to help others, not to make ourselves more important than what we are. We accept his authority because for us believers, acceptance of authority of Jesus follows from our acceptance of him as Lord, the Messiah, the holy one of God. John's Gospel begins with, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY - For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations, to give thanks
to your holy name, and make it our glory to
praise you.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
I will put my words into the prophet's mouth,
and he will tell them all I command.

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear his
voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the
things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
The people in darkness have seen a great light; a
radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon
Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in
your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put
to shame, for I call on you.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum,
and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the
synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching
made a deep impression on them because, unlike the
scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man
possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What
do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you
come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy
One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet!
Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the
man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of
him. The people were so astonished that they started
asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a
teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority
behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and
they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread
everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean
countryside.

Upcoming Feast Days

31st January - St John Bosco, Priest

2nd February - The Presentation of the Lord

3rd February - St Ansgar, Bishop
St Blaise, Bishop, Martyr

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 10 February

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick,
including the Sacrament of the Anointing of
the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday
10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church,
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Blacktown.

All are welcome, including those who may
be sick, and those who care for the sick and
dying and health care professionals. RSVPs
are required by 6th February 2024 to
mary.gale@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 11 February

Join Bishop Vincent for the annual Diocesan
Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita,
Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and
Victims of Modern Slavery and Human
Trafficking. It will be held at St Patrick's
Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Sunday 11 February at 12.30pm, followed
by fellowship, food, and community
entertainment. All are welcome to attend.

Young Adult Faith Formation

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions
recommence on Sunday 4th February 2024 at
The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd
Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is Dr
Mariusz Biliniewicz who will talk about and
lead discussion on the Principles of Catholic
Moral Thinking. All adults 18-35 are
encouraged to come along and enjoy some
faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you
have any questions please call Mark on
0477004687.

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.

Seniors Group

St Bernadette's Seniors are holding 25 years Anniversary on Thursday 22nd February at Vanilla Cream Café, 233 Annangrove Rd, Amaroo Park. For more information, please contact Jan Weaver 0488 962 459, or Pat Bisby 0427 536 297. Non-members are invited to attend.
All welcome.

Bishop Vincent presents a conversation with Monsignor Tomas Halik: 12 February

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on Monday 12 February at 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Registration is free, but places are strictly limited. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/> to register.

****NEW DATE** Music for Lent Workshop: 8 February**

Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on **Thursday 8 February 2024** from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. To RSVP, please contact lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795 by 6 February 2024.

MET FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Tuesday Evenings 13, 20, 27 February

Looking to learn more about the Bible? Wanting expert guidance on interpreting Scripture for life & faith? Interested in the theme of women in the Bible through the Gospel of Matthew? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Scripture short course with Dr Debra Snoddy on Tuesday evenings 13, 20 and 27 February! Registration and more dates and details via <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=faithlife> OR get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new 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!

LENTEN PROGRAM 2024

I would like to encourage you to participate in this year's Lenten Program with weekly Reflections and Prayer

The Wollongong Diocese has prepared the Program 'Pieta'. A Wednesday morning at 10:00 could be a suitable time to meet in the Parish Meeting Room begin on February 14

Please let us know of your interest as soon as possible so that the books can be ordered in time. Please sign your name on the sheet provided in the church. Cost \$8.00.

LENT 2024

Lent commences on Feb 14 with Ash Wednesday Blessing and imposition of Ashes at the 9:15 am and 7:00pm Masses. It is a day of prayer and fasting.

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 or visit our website to enrol: www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry

DAILY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - Mass at 9.15am.

Wednesday - Mass at 7pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - 8.30am - 9.15am

Wednesday - 6.30pm

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 sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

Bruce Flemming, Joe B, Joshua Sessions, Rachel Surdich, Mabel Green, Dean McDonald, Baby Walsh, Gerard Leslie, Mick Toomey, Dennis Tracey, Harry Tracey, 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: Laura Vecchiet, Pia Rozzi

Anniversary: Fay Roch, Dominic Surdich

Deceased: Elipidia Morcilla Lauzon, Abigail B Devega, Paul Martinus, Harold Pereira, Cordelia Pereira, Kenneth Martinus, Peggy Martinus, Paul Jose Egidio Da Silva, Dominica Zec, Denny Reyes-Spichter, Norman Hanson, Ailsia McDonald, Bruce McDonald, Giovanni Velich, 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:

3rd & 4th FEBRUARY 2024

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald Flora Madeni	Jess Barbin Alyssa Barbin	Cate Astillo Zara Astillo Madeline Chakti
Minister at the Altar	Joel Agius	Rey Baterna	Aidan Villadolid
Minister of the Word	Michael Muranty @ 1 Lissa Carter @ 2 Tina Uri @	Matthew Kenyon @ 1 Sue Gilmore @ 2 Lynne Tolhurst @	Joshua Vaz @ 1 Josephine Baracz @ 2 Karina Marafioti @
Eucharistic Minister	Kim McDonald	Catherine Peregrina	Jocelyn Bade
Welcomer	Volunteer Required	Volunteer Required	Cindy Astillo
Music	Mordini Family	CDs - Eva Narajos	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Michele Brohier		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ricardo Serrado / Michael Muranty		