

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.

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

4 FEBRUARY 2024

Comforter of the Afflicted

The grim pictures on social media of war, famine and children dying of starvation can shake the faith even of a saint. Our hearts would be of stone if we were not moved by a friend's accidental passing away or a little child struck with a life threatening illness. There is no understanding why good people are asked to suffer and carry such heavy crosses. People are forced to the conclusion that it is a punishment from God or that there is no God at all.

The Book of Job is an attempt to come to grips with the problem of human suffering. Job a good-living religious man is put to the test by God. He is stripped of his wife, family and all his possessions, and is finally struck down with illness. He is so overcome that he feels there is nothing to live for but misery. Job does not have an answer to catastrophe that he is experiencing. The truth is that there is no easy answer. Illness and death can be the most trying and important times of our life. Often, we neglect God until we are struck down in such a crisis. The challenge is to rise above our despair and to trust in him looking for his healing grace. There is no point in thinking what we might do if our circumstances were different.

When Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, he gives no reason as to why people suffer but he showed us the importance of turning suffering into joy. By identifying himself with the sick and the dying even to dying on the cross, Jesus clearly revealed that suffering is part of God's mysterious plan. We are invited to unite our trials and suffering with Christ to enjoy his victory. Whatever happens, all things will work together for those who love God and share in the passion of Christ. The gospel does not guarantee us freedom from suffering but gives us the assurance that God is with us however great our suffering may be.

With Peace in God's mission
Fr Clifford msfs

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY - For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7
I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon
Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Upcoming Feast Days

5th February - St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

6th February - St Paul Miki and his Companions, Martyrs

8th February - St Jerome Emilian, St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

10th February - St Scholastica

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.

Vinnies Pantry Happy New Year to All!

During the month of February you are asked to donate 1 of the following: **School Snacks (PLEASE NO STATIONERY ITEMS)** or **SMALL JAR of Coffee or 1 Packet of Breakfast Cereal**. Thank you.

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.

Seniors Meeting

Our A.G.M. Meeting will be held next Thursday 8th February at 9:45AM in the hall. Members wishing to go to Anniversary Lunch need to bring \$35.00 for cost. Other details will be announced at meeting. All welcome.

****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 Brisbane Diocese has prepared a Lenten Program. 10am on a Wednesday morning could be a suitable time to meet in the Parish Meeting Room starting 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 as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and/or 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.

Jim Buckley, Garth Warne, 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: Pia Rozzi

Anniversary: Fr. Tim Crowley, Bruce McDonald, Fay Roch

Deceased: Maria Micelotta, Elipidia Morcilla Lauzon, Abigail B Devega, Paul Martinus, Harold Pereira, Cordelia Pereira, Kenneth Martinus, Peggy Martinus, Paul Jose Egidio Da Silva, Ailsia 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:

10th & 11th FEBRUARY 2024

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Rachel Vaz Bianca Whittaker	Noah Bonello Charlotte Bonello Patrick Vlatko	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Lachlan Money
Minister at the Altar	Francis Sultana	Mario Spiteri	Michael Webster
Minister of the Word	David Smyth @ 1 Bernadette Nolan @ 2 Ella Martinez @	Michele Brohier @ 1 Carmen Bonello @ 2 Ana Vlatko @	Jem Dalay @ 1 Jem Dalay @ 2 Eva Narajos @
Eucharistic Minister	Bev Baxter	Sue Gilmore	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Lorraine Stirton	Louise Bruni	Rosa Watson
Music	CDs - Rodrigo Medina	St Pedro Calungsod Choir	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Vicky Sant		
Counters	Kevin Sloane		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Couples for Christ / Nick Soon		