

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 LENT - YEAR B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

Reflection on Mark 9: 2-10

In Jewish thought, the presence of God is regularly connected with the cloud and up the mountain. Top of the mountain was a natural place for encountering God. It was in the cloud that Moses met God. It was in the cloud that God came to the Tabernacle. It was the cloud which filled the temple when it was dedicated after Solomon had built it. And it was the dream of the Jews that when the Messiah came the cloud of God's presence would return to the Temple. The descent of the cloud is a way of saying that the Messiah had come, and any Jew would understand it like that. Jesus himself gave his first sermon on the mountain.

Jesus takes three of his chosen disciples Peter, James, and John to the top of a high mountain. In the coming days, Jesus will take the same three disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. We see the great contrast between the two scenes – the one on the high mountain and the other one which is expected to follow on Mount Calvary. On top of the high mountain our Lord was glorified – his face radiant and his clothes became dazzling white. On the contrary, at Mount Calvary, our Lord's face was disfigured, bloodied, and covered with spit. On top of the high mountain, Moses (Law giver) and Elijah (the Prophet) flanked our Lord. On the contrary, our Lord was on the Cross at Mount Calvary between two thieves. On top of the high mountain, the disciples Peter, James, and John were wrapped in ecstasy; instead in Calvary we see nothing but profound sorrow and fear.

The revelation of God's glory is meant to convince us of his divinity. On top of this high mountain, it is not only the splendour of the glory of God, and not only the testimony of Moses and Elijah, there is also the voice of the Father **"This is my Son,"** who does not take away from me my Divinity, nor does He divide power, nor eternity. "This is my Son," — He is not adopted, not indeed created, but generated from me, no different in nature and made similar unto me. But He is of my very being and was born equal to me. —

Listen to Him – The voice of the Father did not say, "These are my beloved sons." For the Only Son is one thing; adopted sons another. Jesus was singled out in whom the Law and the prophets glorified. Slowly, the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant is taking place. The New Testament was concealed in the Old Testament, and Old Testament is revealed in the New.

The Mass is our mountain-top experience which prepares us for the trials of our day. The Mass is not a transfiguration but a transubstantiation, in which bread and wine are transformed into the glorious Risen Jesus. And in the joy and consolation of Communion we say with Peter, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." And we do not want to leave. But it is not to be. Soon we will hear the words, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord." So, we pick up our cross and leave to face the trials of the day. But having been to the top of the mountain we know that "nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

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: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Responsorial Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34
God did not spare his own Son.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10



Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your generosity towards the Sunday Collections which assist the Clergy and the parish.

May I request those who have pledged to the Weekly Planned Giving Envelopes and are not using them, to kindly consider the Direct Debit Facility and return the unused envelopes. To move to this, you would need to fill out a Blue Card at the back of the church with your credit card details and put it into any of the collection baskets. This would reduce the cost of printing envelopes.

To assist the smooth transactions of the Direct Debit Facility, kindly Inform the Parish if you change your credit card number for any reason.

Some of you use the Tap-n-Go facility even though you have the Box of Planned Giving Envelopes. In that case, the Parish Office is unaware of your giving and can cause a discrepancy with the receipts issued.

Please contact Fr. Clifford or Bev at the Parish office if you have any questions.

Thank you
Fr. Clifford

CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS

on the 70th Wedding Anniversary
of Kevin and Pat Sloane
this Tuesday 27th February.

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2024 LIFTED Launch: 29 February

LIFTED Launch 2024 is here! Join young people from across our Diocese for an evening of faith, live music, formation, and announcements. Learn about ways you can meet, connect and 'walk with' other young people | West HQ Rooty Hill, 29 February 2024, 7pm to 9:30pm. Register www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch

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

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

PARISH WORKING BEE

Inviting parishioners to a working bee on Saturday 2nd March from 7.30am. The work involved is trimming and clearing of trees and bushes and mowing of lawns. Please bring along equipment.

CAR FOR SALE

Anyone interested in purchasing a car, please contact Fr Clifford.

Light to the Nations (LTTN) Easter Youth Pilgrimage: 28 – 31 March

LTTN is an Easter Pilgrimage event held biannually for Catholics (singles and families) aged 16+. Camp under the open skies with up to 1,000+ as we celebrate the Easter Triduum. The event will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville from 28 – 31 March 2024. Visit www.lttn.org.au for more information and register today. Contact rego@ltn.org.au or ring Therese MGL on 0432 228 250.

Projector Operators

We are currently looking for some projector operators, particularly for the 6pm Vigil Mass. If you are interested, please speak to Father Clifford or contact the Parish Office.

Music for Easter Triduum Workshop: 12 March

Join us for another Music Workshop led by Eric Grella to learn more about Music for the Easter Triduum. This event will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown on 12 March from 7-9pm. This workshop is for all who are involved in the music ministry of their parish and anyone interested in diving deeper into the world of liturgical music! RSVP to lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795 by 8 March.

MET The FaithFeed: 15 March

Interested in live music + curious conversations + life & faith stories from those in their 20s, 30s 40s? Sign up for The FaithFeed, Friday 15 March 2024 – Doors open 7PM w/ live music for 7:30PM. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers of the Altar: 9 March

The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' – a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar presented by Chris Ohlsen. It will be held on Saturday 9 March from 9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

To register or for more information, please contact lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or call (02) 8838 3456 by 5 March 2024.

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.

Dean McDonald, Sam Cassar, 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: Fr Kevin Bates SM, David Kitney

Anniversary: Bruce McDonald, Fay Roch

Deceased: Irene Dundas James Giffney, Laura Vecchiet Lino Delulia, Maria Micelotta, Elipidia Morcilla Lauzon, Ailsia & 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:

2nd & 3rd MARCH 2024

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle McDonald Lucie McDonald Flora Madeni	Jess Barbin Alyssa Barbin	Anthony Pilayre Joshua Davison Lachlan Money
Minister at the Altar	Francis Sultana	Alexander De Vega	Michael Webster
Minister of the Word	Ella Martinez © 1 Michael Muranty © 2 Lissa Carter ©	Matthew Kenyon © 1 Lynne Tolhurst © 2 Michele Brohier ©	Volunteer Required © 1 Volunteer Required © 2 Perla Billedo ©
Eucharistic Minister	Anne Walsh	Sue Gilmore	Jocelyn Bade
Welcomer	Lorraine Stirton	Louise Bruni	Rosa Watson
Music	Mordini Family	CDs - Rodrigo Medina	Couples for Christ
Flowers	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT		
Counters	Tom Lara, Epay Lara & Orlando Abarca		
Church Cleaners	Rosa Watson / Bing Money / Ricardo Serrado / Michael Muranty		