

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park NSW 2147
Tel: 9672 4037

Parish Church: 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park NSW 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: Chantal Weir (Wednesday)
Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-3.30pm, 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.

21st Sunday, Ordinary Time - YEAR B August 25th 2024

Reflection 21st Sunday

The Power of God's Language

Language plays an important part in our lives. When we speak or do certain things the message has to be understood. The declaration of Jesus that he was the living Bread come down from heaven and the source of eternal life, proved too much for some of his followers. They could not believe in such a claim and started to drift away. This was intolerable language, and they were no longer prepared to walk with him. Neither surprised nor disappointed at their reaction, Jesus did not take back anything he had said nor try to make his teaching more acceptable. It resulted in parting of the ways. His close followers were asked if they too were to go away. It was a moment of making a choice of being for or against Jesus, of standing up and being counted. What Christ was demanding of them was not understanding, but faith in himself. Peter spoke for everyone: 'Lord, where shall we go? You have the message of eternal life and we believe.'

What happens then, still happens. This is the drastic choice that all who meet Jesus must face. Whether they will follow him without conditions or not, nobody is forced because Jesus respects our freedom. Our baptismal promises put these questions to us. It is not a matter of accepting that certain beliefs are true but it involves a personal commitment at the level of the heart and of the mind to live by the values of Christ. It is so easy for us to compromise and pick and choose from Christ's teachings what suits us. God does not always correspond to our idea of him or to what we would like him to be. Christ invites us to surrender and entrust ourselves to him.

Most of us have doubts and face difficulties about our faith but, like Peter, we would be lost without it. At Mass Christ once again invites us to be his faithful followers and to share his work in the community. So, let us repeat Peter's response from the depths of our hearts: 'Lord where else will we go? We believe you have the message of eternal life.'

Rev Father Clifford D'Souza msfs



Pope's Intention for August;

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost

Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
 Save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Your words Lord, are spirit and life:
 You have the words of everlasting life.
 Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 103: 13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
 You bring forth bread from the earth
 And wine to cheer the heart.

GOSPEL John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said,
 "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"
 Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about
 this,
 he said to them, "Does this shock you?
 What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending
 to where he was before?
 It is the spirit that gives life,
 while the flesh is of no avail.
 The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.
 But there are some of you who do not believe."
 Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not
 believe
 and the one who would betray him.
 And he said,
 "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to
 me
 unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this,
 many of his disciples returned to their former way of life
 and no longer accompanied him.
 Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to
 leave?"
 Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we
 go?
 You have the words of eternal life.
 We have come to believe
 and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

*** VINNIES PANTRY ***

During the month of August you are invited to donate
 the following: **PAIR OF MEN'S SOCKS, OR
 MEN'S TOILETRY ITEMS**

This enables St Vincent de Paul with their
 assistance to the needy.

**We thank you for your continuing support and
 generosity.**

WELCOME

We especially welcome to our faith community
 Liam Saldanha. He will be baptised this Sunday.
 Congratulations to his parents and family.
 May you have a a joyous and blessed day.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God,
 We thank you for the gift of our children,
 Who bring so much love and light to our lives.
 We thank you for this opportunity
 To think about how to help them grow in faith.
 May we support one another as we journey
 towards our children's First Holy Communion.
 We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord
 Amen

**COUPLES FOR CHRIST**

Couples for Christ Australia is a Catholic, parish-based
 family life renewal ministry. Composed of Christian
 couples who have committed themselves to the Lord and
 to one another, so that they may grow together and fulfil
 their primary vocation of raising their families under the
 Lordship of Jesus Christ and in the service of God's
 Kingdom.

A Christian Life Program will be starting on 25th
 August and running over 7 Sundays. The program is
 broken into 3 modules: Basic Truths of Christianity, The
 Authentic Christian Life and Living a Spirit-Filled
 Christian Life. There are no fees or costs
 involved for the participants. The only investment
 required is your time, your openness and participation.

You are invited to an Orientation and Session 1 on
 Sunday 25th August 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Parish
 Hall St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park

For more information please take a brochure from the
 back of the church, see the notice board or
 contact : Beato & Rose 0403 471 393, Mike & Connie
 0476 269 504.

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.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

27th Aug St Monica
28th Aug St Augustine
29th Aug The Passion of St John the Baptist

BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL supporting our retired priests

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice.

Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Fathers' Day Appeal at
parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account

The Diocese of Parramatta upholds equity and takes into account diverse needs through:

- Its Commitment to an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness, and solidarity for all People.
- Supporting refugees and asylum seekers.
- The Safeguarding Council – Members are from diverse circumstances and backgrounds.
- Provision of financial assistance to those experiencing hardship
- Training for staff and volunteers on Elder Abuse Awareness, vulnerable adults and children, and domestic and family violence.
- Advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees, and asylum seekers.
- Recruitment practices which include principles of equity and diversity.
- Equal opportunities for staff, volunteers, gender equality, race, age, religion, marital/family status, sexual orientation, or disability

For more information on Diocesan Safeguarding go to <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding> or phone 8838 3429.

BECOME A CATECHIST, SRE

SREs are Parish Volunteers who:
Teach and share faith with children of their parish who attend government schools.
Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people.
Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people.
Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved.

In this parish, Special Religious Educators, SREs, (previously Catechists) go into state primary schools. New volunteer SREs will be given support, training, teaching materials and will begin as a classroom helper.

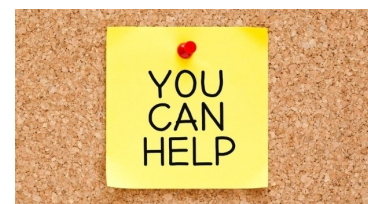
To register your interest, or make further enquiries, call or visit the Parish Office on 9672 4037 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

PILGRIMAGE

Fr Ananda Maddineni would like to invite you for a 16-day pilgrimage, departing on 28th of October 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Rocamadour, Nevers, Paris, Medjugorje, Zagreb, for an all-inclusive price of \$8390+tips(30+pilgrims). The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides.
For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

VOLUNTEERS

Are you able to spare some time to help? We are in need of more volunteers to help clean our church on Saturday mornings. You will only be rostered on one Saturday per month.
On the 31st August we need someone to come in and clean the church. Please let Father Clifford know if you can help (this day, or ongoing), or contact the parish office.



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.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE ON 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare.

Visit www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation 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 marriage@parracatholic.org or call Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church

On Saturday 10 August, the Diocese of Parramatta launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church. Our pastoral plan represents the culmination of our Synod journey, where we have come together to listen, discern, and envision a path forward for our diocese over the past 16 months.

To download a copy of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, visit parracatholic.org/synodality

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
5.00 - 5.30pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8.30am - 9.15am
Wednesday 6.30pm

BAPTISMS

At 11.30am by appointment only (Sundays).
A Preparation Evening will be held before the Baptism for parents and godparents.
This will be 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By Appointment - Please contact the Parish Office for details.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

David Smythe, Melanie Sant, Sarah Davenport, Maria Mihic, Maureen Wood, Dean McDonald, Judy Phillips, Thelma Islip, Jim Buckley, Wendy Hord, Sam Cassar, Rachel Surdich, Mabel Green, Tycho Walsh, Angie Delara, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Nathan Weaver, Paul Tonissoo, Julie Daly,

For our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Bishop Kevin Manning.

Deceased: Vicente Gallegos, Francis Vassallo, Anka-Pero Pejasinovic, Alois Mihic, Nirvana Zec, Mira Zec, Laura Vecchiet, Lino Delulia, Maria Micelotta, Elipidia Morcilla Lauzon, Ailsia & Bruce McDonald, Joan & Stanley Bartle, Garrick Family.
Deceased members & benefactors of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Anniversary: Carol Sprogis, David Walsh, Lilian and Antonio LaFuente, Margaret Walsh, William Gunderson, John Keen, Marcia Keen, Ivan Zec, Emily Zec, George Muranty,

We pray for all those from St Bernadette's who are sick, or have died.
May all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace and rise in glory.



ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 31st Aug/1st Sept, 2024

Ministry	6.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Altar Servers	Arielle Lucie Flora	Jess Alyssa Harrison	Cate Zara Madeline
Minister at the Altar	Francis Sultana	Joe Formosa	Fernando Gallegos
Minister of the Word	Michael Hord® 1 Wendy Hord® 2 Kim McDonald®	Ana Vlatko® 1 Carmen Bonello® 2 Alex de Vega®	Josephine Baracz® 1 Eva Narajos® 2 Jem Dalay®
Eucharistic Minister	Volunteer required	Catherine Peregina	Sarah Key
Welcomer	Lorraine	Volunteer Required	Cindy Astillo
Music	Mordini Family	CD's Judith Pineda	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Michelle Brohier		
Counters	Tom, Epay, Orlando		
Projector Operator			
Church Cleaners	Volunteers required		

