

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

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Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park NSW 2147
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(Established 1961)

PARISH BULLETIN

Email: admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
Parish Priest: Fr Clifford D'Souza msfs
Parish Deacon: Deacon Jerome Emmanuel
Parish Secretary: Mrs Bev Baxter (Thursday / Friday)
Sacramental Coordinator: Mrs Madge Miranda (Thursday/Friday)
Assistant Secretary: Chantal Weir (Wednesday)
Office Hours: Wednesday 9am - 3.30pm, Thursday & Friday 9am - 4pm
Principal: Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz Tel: 8869 6400

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship

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.

Sunday 8th December 2024, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Ordinary Time - YEAR C

Reflection, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Ordinary Time, Year C—Advent Candle, PEACE

Second Sunday of Advent- Call to Prayer and Repentance
If Christmas is going to be a deeply religious experience and not just a season of merriment, the season of Advent has got to be taken seriously and not robbed of its meaning.

The days leading up to Christmas are a time of hope and renewal providing us with an opportunity for strengthening and deepening our union with Christ through repentance for which John the Baptist calls us beyond simple confession of wrongdoings. He gives us some practical advice to smooth a passageway for Christ by pointing out obstacle and barriers that need to be removed from our hearts.

Among the valleys to be filled in are the good we meant to do and never got around to doing, our neglect of family and neighbours and those wasted opportunities for helping others, not forgetting the mountains of pride which can only be levelled out by the daily practice of being humble. John is speaking an uncomfortable truth, challenging us about our behaviours which can be found wanting and inviting us to clear the pathways for God and conduct ourselves better and humbly ask Jesus for his light to guide us. Those pockets of silence every day, moments when we are alone are opportunities to turn to God in silent prayer which can sharpen our ability to hear God's word and enjoy the blessings that he wants to pour out upon us.

Advent is a time of waiting for God, calling us home, offering us salvation. On the first Christmas Day, he entered our world and opened the door to peace. Through prayer and repentance, let us ask the Spirit to lead us through that doorway thus to be found watchful and at peace with God and one another.

With Peace in God's Mission

Father Clifford D'Souza msfa

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

Every valley shall be filled

and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Pope's Intention;

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

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.

Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: Year C Baruch 5:1-9
Jerusalem—God will show you splendour

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 125
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Baruch 5:5; 4:36
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

FEAST DAY

There will be Mass at 9.15 am on Monday 9 December in honour of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR

As we make our way through Advent and into the 2025 Jubilee Year, you might be wondering...

“What is a ‘Jubilee Year’ and why is it important?”

Moses established a law that [every fifty years society would get a “reboot,”](#) giving freedom to slaves, granting forgiveness to captives, and restoring families to their rightful inheritance. Although Israel consistently failed to keep this generational “reboot,” they looked to the promised Messiah to fulfill this Year of Jubilee.

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus interprets the words of the prophet Isaiah in relation to the Jubilee as applying to Himself (cf. Lk 4:16-21), thus announcing the appearance of the long-awaited Messiah who would grant forgiveness to captives, set slaves free, and restore families to their inheritance. This “Year of Jubilee” that was mandated by Moses and fulfilled in Jesus is carried on in His Church today.

CRAFT STALL

A big thanks to our wonderful craft group for their generous donation of \$1000 to our Parish Hall. This was raised from their amazing Christmas Stall held last weekend.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

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

For our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Francis Johnson

Anniversary: Fr. Hugh Leonard (1st Parish Priest of St Bernadette’s 1961 - 1979)

Deceased: Loreto Zec, Waddad Hourani-Honeineh el-Samra, Rocco Fania, Carina Magat, Samuel Cassar, Nita Newnham, Vicente Gallegos, Abigail B. DeVega, 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.

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.

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.

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 6:30pm-Exposition & 7:00pm Mass.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.45-10.15am, 5.00 - 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS AND RECONCILIATION TIMES**RECONCILIATION**

Thursday 19 December 9.45-10.15 am
Friday 20 December 9.45-10.15am
Saturday 21 December 9.45-10.15am, 5.00-5.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS

24 December vigil 5.30 pm (Children’s Mass)
8.00 pm
12.00 midnight
25 December 9.00 am

WELCOME We especially welcome to our faith community: Skyla Duggan & Austin Burgess. They will be baptised into our community this Sunday. Congratulations to their parents and families and may you have a joyous and blessed day.

***BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL*
for Catholic Care’s Houses to Homes**

This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help both Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provide homeless mothers and their children with practical and emotional support, as well as a safe haven to call home.

Please give generously to the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal this weekend, at parracatholic.org/appeal to give your gift of a new beginning today.

VINNIES PANTRY

For Christmas, we ask for the following donations, **biscuits, Christmas lollies, nuts, mince pies, chips and pretzels.** This helps St Vincent de Paul with their very special Christmas Hampers

(* Please donate these prior to 8th December*)

Thank you all so much for the great response to items requested each month