

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
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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



(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.

The Presentation of the Lord, 2nd February 2025, Ordinary Time - YEAR C

Reflection,

The *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* is a combined feast, commemorating the Jewish practice of the purification of the mother after childbirth and the presentation of the child to God in the Temple and his buying back (redemption) from God. But there was no need for this child to be purified. No need for Mary to be purified either." According to Leviticus 12:2-8, a woman who bore a child was unclean for forty days following the birth of a son or eighty days following the birth of a daughter. Although Mary, the most holy of women, ever-Virgin, was exempt from these precepts of the Law, because of her miraculous conception, she chose to submit herself to the Law just like any other Jewish mother. Karl Barth wonderfully wrote that, when Jesus was baptized, he needed to be washed of sin – NOT *his* sin, but *our* sin: "No one who came to the Jordan was as laden and afflicted as He." No one ever came to the temple for purification as laden with sin – not his, or his mother's but ours – Jesus took on the collective burden of human sin to offer redemption for all people.

Ernest Gordon, author of *Miracle on the River Kwai*, recounted this true story which illustrates this point: the Japanese officer demanded to know which prisoner had stolen or hidden a shovel used to construct the infamous Burma railway during World War II, failing which he would begin killing all of the prisoners. At the end of three minutes, when no one admitted guilt, one man stepped forward. Upon returning Becoming more enraged by the moment, the officer demanded that the missing shovel be produced, or he would begin killing all of the prisoners. At the end of three minutes, no one admitted guilt. Then one man stepped forward, and he was beaten to death. When they got back to the camp, they found all the shovels. He had taken the burden upon himself, the accusation of theft upon himself as if he was guilty in order to save the others. That is what our blessed Lord did on the Cross. That prisoner presented and offered himself completely for the wellbeing of others as Jesus was presented to God his Heavenly Father in the Temple of Jerusalem for the salvation of the world.

Although we were presented to God on the day of our Baptism, we present ourselves and our dear ones on the altar before God our Father through our Saviour Jesus Christ at every Holy Mass. Hence, we need to live our daily lives with the awareness both that we are dedicated people consecrated to God and that we are obliged to lead holy lives.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

Gospel: Luke 2:22-32

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord,

Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,

and to offer the sacrifice of

a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,

in accordance with the dictate in the law of the

Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

FaithLIFE SCRIPTURE SHORT COURSES FOR ADULTS

Are you looking to read the Bible more in 2025 but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Wednesdays, 12, 19, & 26 February. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown - Bishop Bede Heather Centre.

RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/faithlife> OR email met@parracatholic.org

Pope's Intention;

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

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: Cf. Psalm 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the end of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:7-10

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

He had to be made like us in all things

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

This is the light of revelations to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia

Communion Antiphon: Luke 2:30-31

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

ANOINTING MASS

There will be a Mass of Anointing for the World Day of the Sick. Mass will be at 11am, on the 11th February 2025 at Mary Queen of Peace Family Parish, Blacktown

VINNIES PANTRY

During the month of February, you are invited to donate 1 packet of nappies. They can be unisex, girls or boys, in sizes 4, 5 or 6. Alternatively, you can donate 1 packet of baby wipes. Thankyou for your generosity.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities:
8 February

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 8 February at St Thomas Aquinas, Springwood for Cycle 2 (Renewal Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout February and May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training.

For more information, please email:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

Palmira Rourke, Lucia Vecchiet, 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 Tonisoo, Julie Daly, Jim Buckley

Anniversary: Father Timothy Crowley, Former Parish Priest of St Bernadette's

For our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Janice Jones, Ellen Crone, Amalia Pereira, Francis Johnson, 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, 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 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

11.30am, by appointment only (Sundays).

A Preparation Evening -7.30pm in the Parish Centre, on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By Appointment - Please contact the Parish Office for details

World Day of the Sick- A Message from Pope Francis

The pontiff pointed to presence, gift, and sharing as profound paths of providential companionship during times of trial. Suffering can become "an occasion for a transformative encounter"

He also addressed all those "who are ill or who care for the suffering," telling them: "Your journey together is a sign for everyone: 'a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope.'" The pope wrote from personal experience, having faced several health challenges in recent years, including knee problems requiring a wheelchair, respiratory infections, and, most recently, a fall.

"In times of illness, we sense our human frailty on the physical, psychological, and spiritual levels, yet we also experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering." God's first way of being close is through presence, noting that suffering "becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life." Francis emphasizing that hope comes primarily from the Lord as "a gift to be received and cultivated."

The pope said that the third dimension of divine closeness manifests through sharing, particularly in health care settings where mutual enrichment often occurs between patients, medical staff, and family members.

The pope had a special word of gratitude to health care workers and those who care for the sick, calling their shared journey "a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope." He entrusted all who are ill to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, and asked for prayers for himself.