

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
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.

5th Sunday in Lent, 6th April 2025 - YEAR C

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Pope's Intention for April:

For the use of the new technologies
Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Reflection, 5th Sunday in Lent

Forgiveness – The Heart of God

Adultery always makes for public comment and scandal headlines. It's one of those sins which raises moral indignation because it threatens acceptable standards of behaviour. When it is known, tongues in the community inevitably start wagging. Jesus encounters a woman who is caught in the act of adultery and dragged before him while asking him to pass judgement and approve of her death by stoning. Compassion never enters the hearts of the accusers.

He gives them time to let forgiveness enter their heart by tracing some idle lines with his finger in the dust. Jesus goes to the heart of the problem by challenging them with the words, 'Let anyone without sin cast the first stone'. Seeing the crowd drift away, Jesus forgives her sinful action and restores her to peace and friendship with God.

The good news is that what Jesus does for her, he is willing to do for us and bind up our broken lives and restore people to a loving relationship with Him. This story is not an isolated event, but an example of the inexhaustible mercy and compassion shown by Jesus to sinners. When we express sorrow for our sins, Christ also overlooks our faults. The lesson is not that sin is unimportant but that God in his goodness extends pardon to the sinner.

By offering forgiveness and compassion to this publicly humiliated woman, Jesus calls us to be a forgiving people, dedicated to reconciliation. It's so easy to criticise and condemn others, looking down on the alcoholic and the shop-lifter, yet when our own faults are revealed, we need the welcoming and merciful hands and words of God. We should all be overjoyed that on the last day God will be our judge and not our neighbour.

With peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

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 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength .

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 125

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14 5

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: Cf. John 11:26

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Please note that the vigil mass time will change to **5.30pm** instead of 6pm beginning on the **5th of April.**

WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING / SECOND COLLECTION

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your weekly contributions to the Second collection which looks after the maintenance of our parish. Some of you are on the weekly planned giving with a designated number on your envelope.

May I kindly encourage and request you to consider other options such as Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), credit card, cash or Tap n Go facilities that are available. This will eliminate the cost of printing envelopes.

Please note, you may continue to have a set of the weekly planned giving envelopes if you so wish, from June 2025.

Please let the parish office know if you are opting out of the envelope giving and considering other options. Any queries, please contact Bev at the office. Thank you.

Fr. Clifford

EFT details: BSB 067 950 Account number: 00000404
Lalor Park Catholic Church Reference: Your full name

WELCOME we especially welcome to our faith community: Mayline, Joel & Louisa Tuia who will be baptised this weekend. Congratulations to the children and their family. May you have a joyous and blessed day.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

Pope Francis, Owen O'Reilly, John el-Samra, Bill Calabria, Sal Russo, Palmira Rourke, Lucia Vecchiet, Consuelo Fonseca, David Smythe, Catrina McGhee, Melanie Sant, Sarah Davenport, Maria Mihic, Maureen Wood, Dean McDonald, Judy Phillips, Wendy Hord, Rachel Surdich, Tycho Walsh, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Nathan Weaver, Paul Tonissoo, Julie Daly, Jim Buckley

Recently Deceased: John Nethery.

Deceased: Frank & Elizabeth Calabria, Peter & Tina Muriniti, Friar Fabian Adkins O.F.M., Lorraine Buckley, Clemente Rillera, Thelma Islip, Deacon Rodrigo (Rudy) Rupac, Johnson Francis, 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.

HOLY WEEK

EASTER MASS & RECONCILIATION TIMES

Holy Thursday 7.30PM

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross 9.30AM
Passion of the Lord 3.00PM

Holy Saturday (vigil) 6.00PM
Easter Sunday 8.30AM / 10.00AM

RECONCILIATION

15th April (Tuesday) 9.45am -10.30am
18th April (Friday) 10.30am -11.30am

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Parents who wish to present their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Communion or Reconciliation and have collected their Registration Forms may now drop off the same, duly filled in, at the Parish Office or into the Parish Office Letter box. If you know any Parents who might wish to present their children for Reconciliation, please make them aware of the registration form which they need to pick up at the Parish Office between 9:00am and 4:00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays. Thank you to all the Parents who have submitted their forms. God bless Madge Miranda - Sacrament Coordinator.

TUTORING

Private Tutoring for Yr 1-Yr 12 students in English, Maths, French, Sciences by a team of tutors. Email Dr Gerry (ex Patrician Brothers College Teacher) for a free 30 minute meeting, fsgadolphe@gmail.com. (We also tutor students with Learning Disabilities and on homeschooling too).

SENIORS MEETING

The Seniors Group meeting will be on Thursday April 10th in the parish hall, at 9.45am.

LENT

Stations of the Cross will be at 8.30am, each Friday in Lent.