

# ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)  
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## PARISH BULLETIN

Email: [admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](mailto: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.

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 13th April 2025 - YEAR C

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40



### Reflection, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

We begin the Holy Week this Sunday, which commemorates the week in which Christ died, and we ask Jesus to allow us a share in his suffering, death, and Resurrection.

Today's **first reading** (Isaiah 50: 4-7) is the third Servant Song. Jesus saw aspects of his own life and mission foreshadowed in the Servant Songs, and the Church refers to them in this time of solemn meditation on the climax of Jesus' life. Like Isaiah's servant, Jesus too has set his face like flint. Today he enters Jerusalem. God's faithful servant has set his face "like flint," to do what needed to be done for us. Because of Jesus' fidelity we have the grace to live faithful lives of service. We are willing to face challenges in a new setting, even though we have faced the same ones so many times before.

The **Second Reading** (Philippians 2: 6-11) is an ancient Christian hymn representing an early Christian understanding of who Jesus is, and of how his mission saves us from sin and death. Let us reflect on the passage. Why did our Lord empty himself of His divinity? That is what Paul tells he did. He was in the form of God, but he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped, clutched, and held onto. He was in the form of God, but he did not clutch at his divinity, but emptied himself, poured himself out, entered into the realm of sin and death.

Why would God do that? It is hard for us to imagine this exchange. If you live in paradise, would you voluntarily leave where you are and come down into the mud, blood, and refuse of a world full of wickedness? C S Lewis says, it is as if God has exchanged his divine form to become a slug. Why would God do that? Why the human form? Why the slave's death on the Cross?

The death of Christ was the gift of God to us when we were utterly helpless and unable to do anything for ourselves. Why were we helpless? Because we were in bondage to the power of sin. He took our place; He paid the price; He exchanged our destiny for his, so that we would be released from that dreadful bondage forever. As we listen to the **Gospel Passion narrative** (Lk 22: 14-23: 56), we are challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the story like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience and condemned Jesus to death on the cross, Herod who ridiculed Jesus and the leaders of the people who preserved their positions by getting rid of Jesus. The reading reminds us that Jesus died for our sins. What is the cross Jesus calls us to take up as we follow?

For Dietrich Bonhoeffer, it was to take up the suffering of others. For Saint Mother Teresa, it was her mission to serve the poor and marginalised, which she saw as embodying Jesus' suffering and love. From the cross come two prayers: a prayer of forgiveness ("Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing"), and a prayer of relinquishment ("Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.") These are the two most important prayers we can offer when crosses come.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

### 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



### 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](mailto: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. John 12:1, 12-13; Psalm 23:9-10**

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7**

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 21:8-9,17-20,23-24**

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11** He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high..

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us, even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

**Communion Antiphon: Matthew 26:42**

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

### VINNIES APRIL COLLECTION

You are invited to donate 1 of the following; 1 kilo packet of sugar, 1 carton of long life milk (any), or 1 bottle of pasta sauce of your choice for St Vincent de Paul. *Thankyou for your generous donations.*

### SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Please note that the vigil mass time has now changed to **5.30pm** instead of 6pm as of the **5<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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

### 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](mailto:fsgadolphe@gmail.com). (We also tutor students with Learning Disabilities and on homeschooling too).

### FEDERAL ELECTIONS

The Bishop's Conference have put out key issues for Catholics to reflect on before casting their vote:

- The dignity and value of every human being
  - Fairness, justice and the common good
  - Religious freedom and conscience rights
- Responsible stewardship of God's creation  
For more details visit this link:

[bit.ly/ElectionStatement2025](http://bit.ly/ElectionStatement2025)

### 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

### For sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

Pope Francis, Adam Calabria, 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

**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.