

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

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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.

4th Sunday in Lent, 30th March 2025 - YEAR C

Reflection, 4th Sunday in Lent

Lent – A period of home-coming.

The gospel of the loving father and his two self-centred sons is one of the best loved stories told by Jesus. The younger son after squandering his share of the inheritance which he demanded from his father, returns home, hoping to be forgiven.

The elder son cannot come to terms with the easy pardon and refuses to join in the celebrations. The star of the show is the father who welcomes his son without a word of reproach. It tells us about the graciousness of God- his warmth with sinners and the length of his merciful arm.

His love for us remains strong and constant.

Lent is a time for growing in an appreciation of the beautiful and comforting truth that every person has a place in the heart of God.

This story (Lk 15:11-32) is drawn from real life situations and if we are honest we can see shades of the elder and younger in ourselves. We have been wandering, disobedient and selfish children who hold grudges and are unwilling to forgive one another. We have forgotten our ever-loving Father who even after our most stupid mistakes and tragic sins is always ready to welcome us with open arms.

The gospel tells us what coming home to God is really like.

With peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

Pope's Intention for March:

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Gospel: Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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. Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the Passover.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:2-7

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Luke 15:32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

LENT

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

VINNIES COLLECTION

During the month of April 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.*

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

HOLY WEEK

EASTER MASS & RECONCILIATIONTIMES

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

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

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

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, fgadolphe@gmail.com. (We also tutor students with Learning Disabilities and on homeschooling too).

LIVE IN CARER OPPORTUNITY

Our beautiful 96y.o. father lives at home. He is of Anglo-Indian descent, speaks English and is still mobile. We are looking for a special person to help home care for him in either a FT or PT capacity. He lives in The Hills area and has family support next door. This would suit a nursing student or someone that is good with people. For more information, please contact Jason on jason@jjmail.me or 0414987206

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 6th April 2025 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is **Rev Dr Paschal Corby OFM Conv** who will talk about and lead discussion on **St Anthony of Padua**. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends.

Pope Francis, Father Ed Kenny, 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 Tonisoo, Julie Daly, Jim Buckley

Anniversary: Rey Astillo, Joseph Azar, Angelo & Agnes

Deceased: 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.