

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.

22nd Sunday in ordinary time, 31st August 2025 - YEAR C

Gospel: Luke 14:1,7-14

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honour at the table.

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honour. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table.

For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Then he said to the host who invited him,

"When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbour's, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

THANKYOU

My dear parishioners,

I sincerely thank you all for your heartfelt messages of sympathy and condolences and prayers for the soul of Vilbina D'souza, my sister-in-law and for our family. Her sudden passing away has left us in deep sorrow. I appreciate your prayers during this very difficult time for all of us specially her two daughters, Chrystal and Chelsea.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST:

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Reflection; 22nd Sunday in Ordinary time

The main theme in the Gospel is centred on the 'virtue of Humility.' In the Mediterranean world the three main boundary markers were *authority, gender status, and respect* and together they define 'Honour,' which is essentially a claim to worth that is socially acknowledged. Honour serves as a social rating that entitles a person to interact in specific ways with his or her equals, and peers according to prescribed cultural cues of the society.

Within this social matrix, Jesus has been invited to the house of a leading Pharisee for a meal, and his words and actions are closely watched, which seem to suggest that the invitation is layered with hostile motives. Why? Because Jesus mingles with sinners and tax collectors, and the Pharisees have often accused him as a friend of tax collectors and sinners and are now looking for an opportunity to trap and build charges against Jesus. Jesus observes how the guests choose their places of honour and begins to teach two important lessons by way of a parable of a wedding banquet. The guests who are invited are from across a ranked social system, in which everyone is highly conscious of their social status. No guests would like to be humiliated; on the contrary every guest would like to be respected and honoured. Within this setting if someone chooses a prominent seat and the host comes around and requests that person to vacate that seat for a person in higher social order, it will be a humiliation in the presence of all the guests who are gathered for the meal. Jesus through this parable is challenging the underlying societal values of vying for places of honour.

It is in being humble that our love becomes real, devoted, and ardent. If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. Jesus asks us to show humility in our daily life. Pride destroys fellowship, and humility paves the way to enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' second teaching is directed to the host, exhorting the host to invite the poor, the crippled and the blind instead of inviting brothers, friends, relatives or rich neighbours, for the poor, the crippled and the blind will not be able to reciprocate in kind. Sharing a meal with a friend or acquaintance today is no more than a social aspect of consuming food. But if we peer through the lens of the first century Greco Roman world, table fellowship assumed a different dimension intertwined with social etiquette, and cultural norms played a pivotal role. Jesus was challenging the status quo, and it is timely we ask ourselves how we would respond when a stranger knocks at our doorstep - how we do we welcome a stranger in multiple social encounters - at home, in the place of worship, at work, and at various social gatherings. How do we respond to the needs of the poor and the marginalised in our multicultural society? We need to go beyond the ingrained prejudices of our social structures to realise the vision of God's Kingdom. Jesus promises that God will repay such hospitality at the "resurrection of the righteous."

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

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.

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67:4-7, 10-11

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

You have to come to Mt Zion and to the city of the living God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, except through me. Alleluia!

THE BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

To help support our senior priests as they continue to serve. This Father's Day (6th/7th), as we thank the father figures in our lives, let's also honour our spiritual fathers — the priests who nurture our faith. Even after stepping back from administration, they continue to serve in faithful ways: offering sacraments, celebrating masses, hearing confessions, assisting at services, and serving as chaplains in aged care. Your generosity helps ensure our ageing priests receive the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal

MARIAN AND ROME JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

I will be leading a 19-day pilgrimage to Europe visiting and praying with fellow pilgrims, 8 of which are from our parish. Hence, I will be on leave from the 1st Sept until the 10 Oct. I will also be visiting home, ie Mumbai (India) During this period, please note there will be no weekday masses including Saturday mornings, instead Communion services will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays. The church will be open for adoration and Communion services on Tuesdays and Fridays only. I thank Deacon Jerome and Joe Formosa for kindly consenting to conduct the service. I also thank Fr. Bob Anderson and Fr. Chris Dixon who will be celebrating the weekend masses.

I will remember you and pray for your intentions at the shrines and in Rome. In case of any emergency, please contact the parishes of Seven Hills and Blacktown. United in prayer, Fr Clifford

VINNIES COLLECTION

During September you are invited to donate any packet of pet food (of your choice).

Thank you for your continued generous donations.

ST BERNADETTE'S BANK DETAILS

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

MASS TIMES AND PARISH LITURGIES

**Saturday Vigil 5.30pm,
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

Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8.30am—9.15am
Wednesday 6.30pm
(Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette)

BAPTISMS

At 11.30am on Sunday (by appointment only).
A Preparation Evening will be held before the Baptism for parents and godparents at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

MARRIAGES & FUNERALS

By Appointment—Please contact Parish Office for details.

PRAYER FOR OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES

We thank You for the gift of community in the Body of Christ. Please guide our children on their faith journey, strengthening their bonds and deepening their love for one another. May they walk together in unity, sharing Your light and grace. Help them to reflect Your love in all they do. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR PILGRIMS

Please keep in your prayers, Father Clifford and his group of pilgrims as they set off on a wonderful journey. May God bless their journey, deepen their faith, and guide their steps as they trace the footsteps of the early Church and some of our saints. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and protect them throughout this transformative experience.

2026 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

You are invited to place your order for the 2026 Columban calendar. Each calendar is \$10. Please order at the piety stall.

VOLUNTEERS COMMUNICATORS NETWORK

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in *Catholic Outlook*, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Mary Theu, Adi Santoso, Owen O'Reilly, Kylie Baffico, Jodie McClellan, Bernard Wallace, Adam Calabria, 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, Rachel Surdich, Tycho Walsh, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Nathan Weaver, Paul Tonissoo, Julie Daly, Jim Buckley.

Deceased: Vilbina D'Souza, Raquel Morales, Alma Valdez, Father Chris Riley, E & M Zabeth, Jenny Williams, M. Kiniawi, M & A Sabbagh, Therese & Jannette Zabeth, Glenn Mowbray, Fr David Catterall, Mary Collings, Michael McQuade, Senza Bon, Father Tim Hogan, Maria Thi Nguyen, The Most Holy Father Pope Francis, John Leonard Duncan, Alan Burgess, Claire Dobbie, Gwen Gunderson, Craig Tonissoo, Ortheo Manketi, Tina Saketano, Dennis Jodson, Frank & Elizabeth Calabria, Peter & Tina Muriniti, Friar Fabian Adkins O.F.M, Lorraine Buckley, Thelma Islip, Rocco Fania, Samuel Cassar, Nita Newnham, Vicente Gallegos, Abigail B. DeVega, Francis Vassallo, Anka-Pero Pejasinovic, Alois Mihic, Nirvana Zec, Mira Zec, Lino Delulia, Ailsia & Bruce McDonald, Joan & Stanley Bartle, Garrick Family, Dabbous 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.

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.