

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park NSW 2147
Tel: 9672 4037
Parish Church: 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park NSW 2147



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.

PARISH BULLETIN

(Established 1961)

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
School Principal: Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz Tel: 8869 6400

2nd Sunday of Advent, 7th December 2025 - YEAR A

Gospel; [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you are available for any of our other Christmas masses (8.00pm, midnight, 9.00am) please email the parish office: admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au (our regular readers, welcomers, eucharistic ministers, Altar servers and acolytes) Thankyou.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Reflection; 2nd Sunday of Advent 2025

John the Baptist - A Prophet of Hope

For all the world, John the Baptist looked the part of a first century hippie with his long hair, rough coat and open sandals. The crowds flocked to hear him preach in stern uncompromising language as he fearlessly denounced evil wherever he found it. His words were clear cut in their simplicity. He came with a definite mission - to announce to the people that God's kingdom was at the doorstep and if they wanted to enter it their present approach to life needed to be changed.

John challenged people to reform their lives, to repent of their sins and undergo a baptism of purification in the Jordan. He told a group of Pharisees and Sadducees that being a descendant of Abraham would count for nothing if good deeds were not evident in their lives. As a preacher, teacher and prophet John pointed beyond himself and was a signpost to the coming of Christ into the world. The call of John to repentance is an urgent invitation for us to prepare a way for the Lord to come into our hearts. Our faith reminds us that we have a responsibility to make present the values of Christ wherever we are. To settle for less is to treat Christ as if he were a passing guest.

Each Advent is an opportunity for us to come closer to Christ and deepen our relationship with him in prayer and repentance. His power is at work in our lives when we make peace with a family member we have rejected, the relatives we don't speak to, the neighbours we have fallen out with, the poor we have no time for. Breaking down these barriers will open the way for Christ to come to us and be born in our hearts.

With peace in God's mission
Fr Clifford D'Souza msfs

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new sets of envelopes for the next 7 months are available for pickup at the back of the church. Please **ONLY** use these now

CHRISTMAS MASSES

We invite all children who would like to be part of our Christmas mass (5.30pm Christmas eve) to complete a form and return it to the Parish office, or Father Clifford.

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: Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 14:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mass will be celebrated on Monday 8th December at 9.15am, for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

RAFFLE

Tickets are now available for our end of year raffle. \$2 each / 3 for \$5. proceeds will go to our church. Please see the piety stall. Prizes include, boxes of wine and a coffee machine.

PIETY STALL

We have Daily Bible Diaries for 2026 as well as Rosaries from Lourdes available for sale in the Piety Stall. They can be the perfect Christmas gift for your loved ones.

MT SCHOENSTATT ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ at the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mt Schoenstatt Family Hall, 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa on Saturday 13 December from 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.45pm dressed as angels or shepherds Sr. M. Rita for more details: 0493 026 628 srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

BLACKTOWN PARISH PRESENTS 'THE WITNESS'

The community of Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, are bringing to life the musical "The Witness" – telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. They are currently looking for a variety of roles to be filled for the production, including director, choreographer, singers and dancers. To learn more, or express your interest, please visit <https://www.privyr.com/form/5W7hISmG#the-witness-musical-cast-crew>

SAFEGUARDING

Did you know?

The Diocese of Parramatta's Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding outlines our commitment to being a community of safeguarding that actively promotes the dignity and rights of children and of all other persons, particularly those who may be at risk.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Elizabeth Calabria, Vince Lopresti, Betty Clark, Kendal McDonald, Adi Santoso, Kylie Baffico, Jodie McClellan, 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, Nathan Weaver, Jim Buckley, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Paul Tonissoo, Julie Daly.

Anniversary: John Ford Jnr, Doris Davison, Sr Julia Lourey S.M. , Kevin Cremen

Deceased: Dolores Feliciano, Audrey Da Luz, Allan Sloane, Bernard Frank, Richard Lopresti, Wallace, Luciana P Pili, Flora Carmelita da la Cruz, Ruth Eysers, Owen O'Reilly, Mary Theew, Alma Valdez, E & M Zabeth, Jenny Williams, M. Kiniawi, M & A Sabbagh, Therese & Jannette Zabeth, Glenn Mowbray, Mary Collings, Alan Burgess, Senza Bon, Peter & Tina Muriniti, Lorraine Buckley, Thelma Islip, Vicente Gallegos, Alois Mihic, Abigail de Vega, Francis Vassallo, Anka-Pero Pejasinovic, Nirvana 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. 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 5.30pm,
Sunday 8.30am & 10.00am**

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday @ 9.15am
(Rosary and Exposition before mass @ 8.30am)
Wednesday 7.00pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.45—10.15am & 5.00-5.30pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8.30-9.15am
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.

THANKYOU

Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Christmas Appeal supports Catholic Care's counsellors to continue bringing comfort and hope when it's needed most. Your kindness provides professional counselling, tailored care plans and the training that equips our team to serve with wisdom and compassion. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal Thankyou .

MIGRANT JUBILEE CROSS

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, the Diocese of Parramatta will come alive with celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who have enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross

Pilgrimage to Vietnam and China

Fr Timothy is planning on co-hosting a Pilgrimage to Vietnam and China from 7th to 27th April 2026. He will be travelling with Fr Vinh Dong from the Diocese of Perth. For those who are interested, please contact Fr Timothy for further details. Final numbers will be needed before Christmas. The cost of the trip is \$5,700 Twin share and \$750 pextra for single supplement. Everything is included eg Airfare, accommodation, visa, except travel insurance.