

# ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](http://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](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  
School Principal: Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz Tel: 8869 6400

## The Epiphany of the Lord, 4th January 2026 - YEAR A

### Gospel: [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

### POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY:

#### For Prayer With The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

### Reflection; The Epiphany of the Lord

#### **Reflection of the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12**

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revealing or manifestation of God's presence in Jesus. This revelation happens in a brutal world. King Herod epitomises that world. He was a profligate man, willing to do anything to gain power including killing members of his own family. Gospel tells us that Herod was "perturbed" at the news of the birth of "the infant king." Herod smells the threat! What he does not yet realise is that the threat is not going to come by way of earthly power. The real threat to Herod and his violent ways is love. The Gospel text presents a great deal of activity. Journeys are made, meetings are convened, prophetic history is brought into play, emotions range from the worshipful to fearful. The stage is set for two final actions in the text: the worship of "the child" and the magi's flight from Herod and harm. At the centre of the eye of this storm is the child: the still point around which the entire text's actions and reactions revolve. The magi follow the star – the star is a symbol of our need for divine revelation to see the Messiah and King. Without divine revelation, we would miss the Messiah. Often the over commercialism and consumerist orientation of Christmas threaten to blind us to the real meaning of the coming of the Messiah. Because we are almost blinded by the culture, the star is a sign, a wonder, a revelation, a guidepost, a traffic light, a tracking device, and GPS that brings us to the point and place of divine revelation about the Messiah. Once you see the divine revelation, then you do not need the star, because the external power of the star goes internal. Once they saw the child, they had an enflamed heart and incensed memory. Their hearts were enflamed because of the divine revelation, and their memory was illumined because they never would forget what they saw. What does this mean for us? It is our vocation to be the place where Jesus is revealed again and again. The three wise men were able to see what was there at Bethlehem because they had the disposition to 'let that which shows itself be seen from itself in the very way in which it shows itself from itself.' Herod, on the contrary had no such disposition. Where the wise men saw promise, Herod saw threat. Epiphany is to embrace the light of Christ that enables us to realise the presence of God in our midst, the God who is always present.

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](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.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Lord, every nation on earth shall adore you.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

### PARISH OFFICE

Our parish office will be closed from 4.00pm, 19th December and will re open at 9.00am on the 14th January 2026. Happy New Year. We wish you all a safe 2026.

### POST CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Please note; as Fr. Clifford will be on leave until the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, there will be no weekday masses from 26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December, and 2<sup>nd</sup> - 14 January 2026.

The weekend masses are at normal times.

### DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK



A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on 11 February 2026 at St Patrick's Church,

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals.

To register, please visit

[parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/](http://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/)

### 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](http://parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross)

### MASS TIMES AND PARISH LITURGIES

**Saturday Vigil 5.30pm,  
Sunday 8.30am & 10.00am**

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.45—10.15am & 5.00-5.30pm

### 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.

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSE 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course will be returning in February 2026. To avoid disappointment, please send signed enrolment forms to [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) before Friday 23 January.

Please visit [parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course](http://parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course) for more information about this course.

### LENTEN BOOKS

Anyone wanting to order a Lenten book please put your name down at the Piety Stall so we can get an order done as soon as possible

### MUSIC WORKSHOP

All children in Year 4-12 are invited to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am.

To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

### ST BERNADETTE'S BANK DETAILS

**EFT details:** BSB: 067 950 Account number: 00000404

Lalor Park Catholic Church, Reference: Your full name

**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.

**Deceased:** Marcello Gatto, Frank & Elizabeth Calabria & family, Renato Zec, Dolores Feliciano, Audrey Da Luz, Allan Sloane, Bernard Frank, Richard Lopresti, Wallace, Luciana P Pili, Flora Carmelita da la Cruz, Ruth Eyers, 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.