

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

The Baptism of the Lord, 11th January 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"
Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."
Then he allowed him.
After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Reflection; The Baptism of the Lord

Reflection of the Gospel of Matthew 3:13-4:17 The Baptism of Jesus

The feast of the baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season and puts us at the threshold of the "Ordinary Time" of the Year. John the Baptist found it incongruous to baptise Jesus and, as we read in the Gospel, tried to prevent it. Why was this? It was because John's baptism was a summons to repentance. It was for sinners who were conscious of their sinfulness. The early Christians were certain that Jesus was no sinner. He did not stand in need of repentance. What relevance could John's baptism have for him, and why did he submit himself to it?

It was a symbolic act. Jesus wanted to show solidarity with the people he had come to help. For this reason, it was important that he was baptised, and baptised publicly. In this way he was identifying with sinners. When Jesus stepped into the waters of Jordan, he was in effect saying to them, "I am on your side." On the day of his baptism, Jesus joined the ranks of sinners. The Father approved of what he was doing and set his seal on it by sending the Holy Spirit to anoint him with the oil of compassion for his mission. He would not keep himself apart from sinners. He would not wait for them to come to him. He would seek them out and go among them. He joined them where they were.

Though completely sinless, Jesus took our sinful condition on himself. Pope Benedict puts it this way, "Jesus loaded the burden of all humanity's guilt upon his shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners. His inaugural gesture is an anticipation of the cross." What that means is that every single one of us has become, by Baptism, an individual cell in that very special Body which Christ has chosen to fashion for Himself. It is Body in which He perpetuates Himself in the world, the Body in which He lives and works among women and men.

This feast is a powerful reminder of the vocation to which we are called. It recalls our own baptism in consecrated waters which cleansed our souls from the state of sin and was the beginning of our relationship with God. This sacrament is the planting of the seed of Christian life which grows and bears fruit as we develop our relationship with God and with one another.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

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>

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.

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 42:1-4, 6-7
Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10
The Lord will bless his people with peace

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38
God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. 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.
We wish you all a happy and safe 2026.

POST CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

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

The weekend masses are at normal times.

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/OURuFAeThA>

VOLUNTEER 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

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.



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.

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.

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

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 before Friday 23 January.

Please visit parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course for more information about this course.

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/