

# 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

### 4th Sunday of Advent, 21st December 2025 - YEAR A

#### **Gospel;** [Matthew 1:18-24](#)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,* which means "God is with us."  
When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

#### **PRAYERS**

We pray for everyone affected by the senseless tragedy at Bondi, including the selfless heroes and front line workers. Let us continue to offer our care, compassion and prayers, calling on Mary, our Mother and Queen of Peace, to intercede for us.

#### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

If you are a regular reader, eucharistic minister or altar server and would like to help at any Christmas mass, please let Chantal or Father Clifford know.

#### **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

#### **ST BERNADETTE'S BANK DETAILS**

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

#### **Reflection;** 4th Sunday of Advent 2025

The angel in this Sunday's Matthew's Gospel recalls of those dark moments when the people must have wanted to yell out for deliverance. It was during the time when God's people had been taken captive in Babylon. We can see those ancient faces reflected in the plight of contemporary exiles we see in the television news in our living rooms.

We are familiar with the face of the refugee woman as she prepares a tiny meal for her five children living with her in their small tent pitched far from home and security.

Sometimes the faces on the news belong to homeless men and women from our own city streets who sleep in shelters or in the park. When we have seen those exiles on television, we have seen the faces of God's people living in Babylon. The Gospel echoes the wonderful news that Isaiah had for these people in exile. God would send them Emmanuel – that is, "with us, is God," is more of a title than a personal name.

Joseph shows us a profound trust in today's Gospel. God does not appear to Joseph when he is wide awake and at prayer. There is no assurance of a burning bush or parting clouds on the mountain top. There is only a dream.

The dream was enough for Joseph. He had been asking many questions. "What should I do about Mary? What does the law demand? What does my heart tell me?" The dream answered these big questions. As Mary and Joseph journeyed to the first Christmas, they did not know where God would take them; all they knew was that something wonderful had been promised and that they had been beckoned to follow.

So too the Gospel call us to rise and follow God's call. Christmas awakens our deepest longings, longings only God can fulfil. We must not allow our fears to prevent us from opening our hearts to the "great joy" announced to the shepherds by the angel.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

#### **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.

#### **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 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel : God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

24 December

Christmas Eve (children's) 5.30 pm  
8.00 pm

25 December

Midnight mass 12.00 am  
Christmas Day 9.00 am

**Reconciliation** will be available on:

Friday 19th December 9.45-10.45am  
Saturday 20th December 9.45-10.45am  
4.30-5.30pm  
Tuesday 23rd December 9.45-10.45am

### 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/)

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

**Recently Deceased:** Marcello Gatto

**Anniversary:** Jane McDonald

**Deceased:** 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**

### 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.

### PARISH OFFICE

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

### 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)

### 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.