

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary time, 25th January 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death
light has arisen.*

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

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; 3rd Sunday, Year A

Come Follow Me

Ordinary people who are conscious of the conditions of employment would question the wisdom of the two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew, James and John, in leaving their nets and to follow Christ. The invitation is direct and simple, 'Come, follow me' with no hint as to where they are going or what is in store for them.

Nothing is promised. There is no suggestion of hesitation of regret on their part at letting go or leaving their boats behind. Only one thing matters- to follow Christ and become fishers of men. This encounter between Jesus and the apostles takes place during the first moments of his ministry and reflects the humble origins of the church. Ordinary people with no special training are called to the extraordinary task of bringing the knowledge and the love of God to the whole world. God chooses the weak of the world to confront the strong and the simple to confront the wise.

The mission of preaching, teaching and healing which Jesus began in Galilee is now the responsibility of the church. The call of the apostles is still the model of discipleship and in our generation, we have both the privilege and obligation to accept his invitation. The response to the invitation of spreading the Good News of the Kingdom, begins by living the new life we have received at baptism.

There is no such person as an instant Christian because coming to faith is a gradual process and a life-long struggle. To grow in faith and the love of God, we need the constant light of Christ, which gradually illuminates the way ahead. It is the light that grows brighter as we become more familiar with the gospel.

Right now, we stand at a point of opportunity. Christ alone gives us life and hope. The power of God is released upon the world by men and women in every walk of life who put their spiritual welfare of the community before selfishness in everyday things to respond generously to the call of Christ to follow him closely.

With Peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

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 8:23-9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 26:1, 4, 13-14

The Lord is my light and salvation

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10 - 13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus preached the Good news of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

ST FRANCIS DE SALES

St. Francis de Sales, whose feast is celebrated on the 24th of January, was the bishop of Geneva in France. It was through his ardent preaching and catechises that he won back many who had drifted from the Catholic church. He looked after his flock with his gentle nature and kindness. He wrote two books, Introduction to the Devout Life and Treatise on the Love of God, which proved to be Spiritual classics even till today. He also founded the Presentation Sisters who dedicated their lives to serving the poor and the women of their times. His virtue of patience and humility won the hearts of many. A few congregations have taken him as their patron, one among them being the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, the congregation to which I belong. Please keep us, about 1500 priests and brothers, around the globe in your prayers.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSE 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course will be returning in February 2026. To avoid missing enrolment, send signed forms to ofw@parracatholic.org before Friday 23 January. Please visit parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course for more information about this course.

YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS

The special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, will take place from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027. This is on the occasion of the 800th year of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. He stresses "The Year of Saint Francis must not become yet another chapter rich in special spiritual effects, but a silent passage from enthusiasm to deep maturity, from spectacular celebration to imitation in daily life."

MINI CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thankyou to everyone who generously supported our 2025 Christmas raffle. We raised \$235!

Congratulations to our winners -

- First Prize Francis Blue Ticket A22
- Second Prize Chloe Blue Ticket A60
- Third Prize Joe Purple Ticket B18

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: Sr Jeane (Augustinian Recollect Sisters), Dinko Surdich, Julia Loxley, Gerard Courtney, Anselem Jehenthiren

Anniversary: Br. Ambrose Kyne, Br. Anthony Boughton, Mary Ford, Moyna O'Donnell

Deceased: Paul Mowbray, Kristina Lewis, 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.

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 @8.30am
Wednesday 7.00pm (Rosary and exposition @ 6.30pm)

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.

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/

ANNUAL DIOCESAN RED MASS

Fr Robert Riedling, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, cordially invites members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass. Join us on Tuesday 3 February at 7pm, refreshments will be served following the Mass. Please RSVP by Friday 30 January to enquiry@stpatrcathedral.com.au or call (02) 8839 8400.

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>

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