

# 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

### 1st Sunday of Lent, 22nd February 2026 - YEAR A

#### Gospel; Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply,

"It is written:

*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*"

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.

For it is written:

*He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*"

Jesus answered him,

"Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*"

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,

and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him,

"Get away, Satan!

It is written:

*The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*"

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

#### Reflection; 1st Sunday of Lent

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life. Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit.

There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying Him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of His passion death and

and resurrection will be fulfilled.

**Listening** This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery, our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. Amidst the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*.

We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church." [1]

**Fasting** If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbour.

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Dear friends, **together** let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

Leo PP. XIV

*Extract taken from the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr*

#### 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: Genesis**

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17**

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**CREATIVE DAY RETREAT**

On Saturday 21st March, 10am-3pm in the St Bernadette’s Parish Hall.  
Put aside this Saturday in Lent to share Scripture and prayer with your fellow parishioners. There is an opportunity for reflection around the Stations of the Cross, and times of personal & communal prayer. Participate in this day which provides reflective and enriching insights and discussion on Lent and the Sunday Gospel.  
Morning tea will be provided, please bring your own lunch.  
Please bring family and friends.  
There is a sheet at the back of the church to indicate your attendance.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on **Sunday 1st March** after the 10am Mass for an hour. Inviting you and your families to spend your time in prayer and silence.

**LENT**

So, what are you giving up for Lent? It doesn't matter if you slip up, you can begin again. Remember, God never gives up on you.  
Stations every Friday after 9.15am Mass.  
**Project Compassion Boxes** are now available at the back of the church.

**SENIORS GROUP**

We would like to welcome Jan Speers as our new group treasurer, Thankyou for accepting this role Jan.  
Also, a big thankyou to Pat Bisby, who stood in for our late Treasurer along with her role of Publicity Officer Thankyou ladies !

**TUTORING**

Private Tutoring for Yr 1-Yr 12 students in English, Maths, French, Sciences by a team of tutors. Email Dr Gerry (ex Patrician Brothers College Teacher ) for a free 30 minute meeting, [fsgadolphe@gmail.com](mailto:fsgadolphe@gmail.com)  
Home schooling and learning Disabilities also available.

**POPE’S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY**

*For children with incurable diseases*  
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

**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.

**VINNIES HAMPER DONATION**

*NB – please only donate small containers of these items.*  
For the month of February, you are invited to donate any of the following: Laundry detergent (liquid or powder), dish washing liquid (no tablets), or shampoo / conditioner.  
*Thankyou for your continued generosity.*

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROCESS 2026**

The Sacraments of Initiation Process for 2026 is due to begin in St Bernadette’s Parish, Lalor Park.  
Baptised Catholic children need to be in Year 3 or higher to receive Reconciliation, in Year 4 or higher to receive First Communion and in Year 5 or higher to receive Confirmation. Details of Registration and the Sacramental Process are set out in a package. Parents of children attending Lynwood Park, Lalor Park, Seven Hills West and Kings Langley State Public Schools who wish to register their children in the Sacraments of Initiation Process will receive the package via the SREs. Parents please check your children’s bags. If however they do not receive one, they will need to collect it from the Parish Centre, 14 Wheeler St, Lalor Park, from February 23. The Parish Centre is open 9.00am-3.30pm on Wednesdays and 9.00am-4.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays. Enquiries may be made at the Parish Centre on 9672 4037 and Madge will return your call.  
Thank You,  
Mrs Madge Miranda  
Sacrament Co-ordinator



**FEAST OF ST JOSEPH**

The Filipino Chaplaincy invites you to the Feast of St Joseph Saturday 14 March 2026 Mass at 10.30am at St Patrick’s Church Mary Queen of the Family Parish 51-59 Allawah St. Blacktown. Novena mass for the feast will be celebrated at St Bernadette’s Lalor Park on March 6, at 7.00pm.  
The theme for this year is  
“St Joseph: Guardian of the Holy Family, United in the Mission of Christ.”

**For sick parishioners, relatives and friends:** Rosa Watson, Madeline Weir, 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, Tycho Walsh, Nathan Weaver, Jim Buckley, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Paul Tonissoo, Julie Daly.

**Anniversary:** Francesco Marafioti

**Deceased:** Mary Leeder, Kristina Lewis, Mirella Gentile, Paul Mowbray, Sr Jeane, Dinko Surdich, Julia Loxley, Gerard Courtney, Anselem Jehenthiren, Carla & Marcello Gatto, Abigail de Vega, 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 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, 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.

**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.