

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 mofs
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 of Lent, 8th March 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel; John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" — For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans — Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. 'I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.'" Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him,

"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Reflection; 3rd Sunday of Lent

Thirsting for the Living Water

A very human picture is painted of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Requesting for a drink, Jesus came to realize that her problem was not the lack of water but an inner thirst that no earthly water could satisfy. Jesus led her to look at her deeply troubled life and helped her to unburden her soul. Without a note of condemnation, he gave her hope and offered her nothing less than the living waters of friendship and the Spirit of God which leads to eternal life.

God pours out into our hearts his saving love enabling us to find life and peace. Thirst stands for absence of God in our lives - that unsatisfied longing within every human heart. St. Augustine talks about 'Our hearts being restless until they find their rest in God.' The only remedy to satisfy the human spirit is a relationship with Jesus who provides a mysterious type of water producing a well-spring of life within us. Jesus won the Samaritan woman by gently leading her out of herself and raising her mind and heart to higher things.

When we were baptised, we received the saving water of life for the first time. It was a mere beginning which planted us, seed-like in the garden of God. As life goes on, we need to be constantly in touch with this fountain of living water which Jesus gave us - otherwise we wither and the miracle of growth in godliness does not take place. Today Jesus asks us to have a look at how we are living out our baptism. His spirit is always at hand to refresh our thirsting spirits to lead us in our search for the unending, the unchanging and the eternal.

With peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza mofs



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: Exodus 17:3-7

Give us water to drink..

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



LENT

What have you given up for Lent? It doesn't matter if you slip up, you can always begin again. Remember, God never gives up on you. *Stations of the Cross* will be each Friday after the 9.15am Mass.

Project Compassion Boxes are now available at the back of the church.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

The Filipino Chaplaincy invites you to the feast of St Joseph on Saturday 14 March 2026 Mass at 10.30am at St Patrick's Church Mary Queen of the Family Parish 51-59 Allawah St. Blacktown. The theme for this year is "St Joseph: Guardian of the Holy Family, United in the Mission of Christ."

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 Teacher) for a free 30 minute meeting fsgadolphe@gmail.com Home schooling and learning disabilities also available.

SENIORS MEETING

Our next seniors group meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th March at 9.45am in the parish hall. All are welcome

SHALOM

Evangelisation: This weekend, we will hear from a team from Shalom World on access to Lenten portals; Lenten Programs (for all): <https://shalomworld.org/lent> Lenten Kit for Kids (Ages 6-12): <https://shalomworld.org/lenten-kit> Passion reflections, retreats, sacred stories and prayerful music. Family-friendly spiritual content, no registration required, completely free, accessible on phone, computer and TV.

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.

Redently deceased: Paloma Escarlan (Father John-Paul's mother)

Deceased: Calogero Occhuito 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 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, 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 & 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.

WELCOME

This weekend, through the sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Quinn Coleman and Seth Weerasekara to our parish family. Blessings on you both, and congratulations to your families. We hope you have a wonderful and blessed day.

CREATIVE DAY RETREAT

Will be held 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 and 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 your family and friends. There is a sheet at the back of the church to indicate your attendance. Merrilyn Hancock from the Mission Enhancement Team will be facilitating this retreat.

VINNIES HAMPER DONATION

NB – Please bring by 22nd March, so they can be distributed at Easter.

For the month of March, you are invited to donate any of the following: Drinking chocolate or Easter eggs. *Thankyou for your continued generosity*

EASTER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will go on sale this Saturday 28th February. Tickets are \$5.00 each, available from the piety stall. Our amazing prizes include; wine, chocolates, Easter eggs, Easter buns and pantry fillers. ***All proceeds will go towards the repair of our church roof.***

MORNING TEA next Sunday after 8.30am & 10am Mass. Please bring a small plate of food to share.