

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au
Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park NSW 2147
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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

4th Sunday of Lent, 15th March 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel: [John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38](#)

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Reflection: 4th Sunday of Lent

Spiritual Blindness

Only a stony-hearted person would remain unmoved at the sight of a blind man, cane in hand, tapping his way across a busy street. Blindness, life's biggest burdens is an endless dark night in solitary confinement. Having clearly stated that the blind man's disability had nothing to do with sin, Jesus mixed a paste, rubbed it on his eyes and restored his sight. His healing was instantaneous and he returned home to experience the world in a distinctively new way. All his life he had recognised people by their voices. Now for the first time, he saw what faces and hands looked like. It may have come as a surprise to him to realise that some in the neighbourhood did not wish him well of his cure. When the Pharisees brow-beat him and tried to force him into denial of his restored sight, he quickly learned that there is more to sight than seeing the light of day. There is a deeper malady, a spiritual blindness which comes from shutting the doors and windows to prevent us seeing Jesus who is the light of the world.

This gospel is for all time and every day. By letting Christ into our lives, we are called to be a beacon of light for others. Lent is an appropriate time to reflect on how we are living our baptismal commitment and to see if Christ really counts and influences our behaviour. If we have substituted the light of Christ with the darkness of hatred and the blindness of jealousy, God is asking us to look at our blind spots. We must be led from darkness into light. It is not an easy journey, and it takes time and requires patience. Despite our blest resolutions, the light of Christ is inclined to grow dim within us. Jesus knows our weaknesses and is willing to help us provided we come to him for healing. Having been called to walk as children of the light we must keep praying: 'Lord, that I may see.'

With peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

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.

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: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22
The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

ST FRANCIS

2026 marks eight centuries since his death and Christians across the world are invited to rediscover and live his message of peace, fraternity, and reconciliation with renewed commitment. Fr. Francesco Piloni, Provincial Minister of the Friars Minor of Umbria, reflected on what this moment means for the saint's hometown. He said, "It does not matter who you run for in life — what matters is who you are able to stop for. Because if you have run so fast and missed the essential relationships, you will find yourself caught in a great restlessness, and you will taste nothing of life."

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.

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.

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.

PARISH CHOIR

You are most welcome to join the Parish Choir. It would be great to have more people singing with us. We sing at the 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Practice is half an hour before Mass. Have a think about it. Elizabeth Kitney Choir Co-ordinator.

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, Catrina McGhee, Melanie Sant, Sarah Davenport, Maria Mihic, Maureen Wood, Dean McDonald, Judy Phillips, Tycho Walsh, Nathan Weaver, Jim Buckley, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Paul Tonisoo.

Deceased: Paloma Escarlan, 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, Owen O'Reilly, Thelma Islip, Lorraine Buckley, Vicente Gallegos, Ailsia & Bruce McDonald. 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.

WELCOME

This weekend, through the sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Alice Naing, Tillie and Freddie Gregson to our parish family. Blessings on each of you, and congratulations to your families. We hope you have a wonderful and blessed day.

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*

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. Anyone interested in being part of The Witness experience is encouraged to register. For vocal auditions, contact our Music Director, Marianne Fernandes, at music@bethewitness.com.au To learn more email info@bethewitness.com.au

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

All women are warmly invited to a special community breakfast celebrating the Feast of St Joseph and honouring the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph, on Saturday 21 March, 8:00am – 10:00am at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills. Cost: \$20 per person (breakfast included). Guest speaker: Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. Bookings essential.

EASTER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are now on sale for our Easter Raffle. 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.***

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.