

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

5th Sunday of Lent, 22nd March 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel; John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill."
When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."
Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."
Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."
Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."
He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"
They said to him, "Sir, come and see."
And Jesus wept.
So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."
But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."
Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."
And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Reflection; 5th Sunday of Lent

Rising to Eternal Life

Those who have stood at the grave of parents or beloved ones know all too well the pain and hurt Martha and Mary felt at the loss of their brother. 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died', echoes the resentment many feel against God on occasion of an untimely death.
Deep mourning and the pain of separation force us to question the goodness of God, the nature of hereafter and the meaning of life. However, we must not allow the darkness of its shadow to cloud all our days because death for a Christian is not an end but a passage into a new life promised to those who believe in the central truth of Christ's resurrection.
The 'raising of Lazarus from the dead' tells us that God is stronger than death and he will bring all who are his friends into eternal life. Real death is not physical death but spiritual death which is the destruction of the loving purpose for which God made us. Part of our trouble may come from being caught up in the ways of the world and so enticed by its passing pleasures that we refuse to come out of our tombs and be free.
We refuse to listen to the voice of Christ calling us to himself and wanting to make his home in us.
The story of Lazarus tells us that dying to sin we are born to eternal life. These last few days of Lent are about joining ourselves to the passion and death of Christ by deepening our response to his way of life, prayer, penance acts of charity and personal conversion. United with Christ in his death is a sure guarantee of sharing in his resurrection.

With peace in God's Blessing

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

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, 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.

TAKE YOUR KIDS TO CHURCH

Take your kids to church.
Even if they wiggle in the seat.
Even if they whisper too loud.
Even if you feel like everyone is looking at you.
Bring them anyway.
Because church isn't about perfectly behaved kids.
It's about raising kids who know where to run when life gets heavy.
It's about teaching them that when they're scared... they can pray.
When they're hurting... they can turn to God.
When they feel lost... they know where to go.
And if you haven't gone in a long time... that's okay.
If it's been years... that's okay too.
If you've never taken them before... that's okay.
You can start now.
Your kids don't need a perfect parent leading them.
They just need a parent who's willing.
Let them see you worship.
Let them see you pray.
Let them see you trust God even when you don't have all the answers.
Because one Sunday can turn into a habit.
And a habit can turn into a foundation.
And that foundation might be the very thing that carries them through the hardest moments of their lives one day.
So, if you've been feeling that little tug in your heart lately...
This might be your sign.
Take your kids to church.
God will meet you there.

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.

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 Tonissoo.

Recently Deceased: William (Bill) Gregory, Anne Donovan

Anniversary: Br Fabian Adkins OFM

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.

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.

HOLY WEEK EASTER MASS TIMES

- Holy Thursday 7.30pm
- Good Friday (Stations of the Cross) 9.30am
- (Commemoration of the Lords passion) 3.00pm
- Easter Vigil 5.30pm
- Easter Sunday 8.30am & 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

- Saturday 28th March 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- Tuesday 31st March 9.45am - 10.45am
- Thursday 2nd April 9.45am - 10.45am
- Friday 3rd April 10.0am - 11.30am

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.

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 Home schooling and learning disabilities also available. fsgadolphe@gmail.com

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

VINNIES HAMPER DONATION

NB – This is the final weekend for collection, so they can be distributed at Easter. You are invited to donate any of the following: Drinking chocolate or Easter eggs.
Thankyou for your continued generosity