

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 of Easter 19th April 2026 - YEAR A

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!

How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying,

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

Reflection;

Third Sunday of Easter

Jesus Christ, Superstar is the name of a play that attempts to tell the story of Christ in modern words and modern settings. It asks many questions that young people are asking today, like the one passage: "Jesus Christ, Superstar, are you who they say you are?" But it leaves the question hanging in the air.

The biggest fault of Jesus Christ Superstar is that it leaves out the resurrection of Christ. It takes us to His death and leaves Him there - dead. The play leaves out the whole purpose and triumph of Our Lord's life - His resurrection, which proves that He is truly God and that we will truly rise with Him. To us Catholics, Jesus is not only a Superstar. He is our Super Saviour.

The same mistake was made by the two disciples on the way to Emmaus in this Sunday's Gospel; they closed the book before they read the last chapter. They left Jerusalem before they found out the true and triumphant events of that first Easter. Their distress is ours in many ways and their sadness sounds familiar to our ears. How many times have we walked the road to Emmaus with downcast face occasioned by quarrels at home, difficulties at work or the loneliness of being rejected?

The troubles and worries of life can so crowd our minds that we lose our sense of direction and are brought to the point of despair. We walk away before the resurrection. Doubters question the first Easter. Some leave it out of their thinking, their living. They are discouraged, disappointed, disillusioned about something or other in the Catholic Church, and they start walking away. The saddest point is that they walk away from the very thing that will help them out of confusion, their discouragement. They walk away from Holy Mass, the surest cure for all their troubles. All the time we forget that Jesus is walking with us at our side ready and anxious to help us if only we would turn to him for guidance, in these moments of quiet desperation.

What took place at Emmaus takes place on the altar every time Holy Mass is celebrated. Here is where we will meet Christ. Like the two disciples we will be happy. Our hearts will burn within us. We will not be closing the book before the last chapter of the story of Christ, as did the author of *Superstar*, as do those who fail to make the resurrection a vital part of their thinking and living. As we share in the breaking of bread at this Holy Mass, we can pray to have our eyes open so that we can see beyond the sufferings of human being, to the joy that is all around us and ahead of us.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

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: Acts 2:14, 22-23
It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 15:1-2 ,5, 7-11
Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21
The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us; make our hearts burn with love when you

POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 25th April at 9.15am followed by morning tea. Please bring a plate to share.

VINNIES COLLECTION

For the month of April, you are invited to bring a suitable small Mothers' Day gift to contribute to our donations.
We are grateful for your continued generosity.

POST EASTER WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Fr Clifford will be on leave after Easter, hence there will be **no weekday** Masses. Weekday Masses will resume Tuesday 28th April.

COMMISSIONING MASS OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers and ministers at the altar are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This will take place at 7:30pm on 12 May 2026, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm. To register the number of guests and ministers attending please register by Thursday, 7th May. For more information, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795

VISITING PRIESTS

During Father Cliffords absences, Father John Golding will celebrate Mass on the 18th April, and Father Chris Dixon will celebrate Mass on the 19th April.

VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to volunteer in our church; projector operator (during mass, very easy / training provided), cleaning, gardening? Please see Father Clifford, or Chantal in the parish office.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Shubert S. Baluyot, Luisa Lenore, Franchette Ayson, Bienvenido Legaspi Jr, Rosa Watson, Madeline Weir, Elizabeth Calabria, Vince Lopresti, Betty Clark, 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: Kendal McDonald

Deceased: Francis Sergi, Gabriel Policarpio, Peter & Tina Muriniti Clara Sohn, William (Bill) Gregory, George Kitney, Anne Donovan, 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**

NO WEEKDAY MASSES until 28th APRIL

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSE 2026

Would you like to become a liturgical minister in our church? The next course will be in September, and is now accepting enrolments. Please complete a form (at the back of the church), and hand in to parish office, or Father Clifford.

MINISTRY OF CARE

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place each Wednesday in June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Please register via parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This is Saturday 29th August 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day. The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18th August 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

TUTORING

Private Tutoring for Yr 1-Yr 12 students in English, Maths, French & Sciences by a team of tutors. Email Dr Gerry for a free 30 minute meeting. Home schooling and learning disabilities also available. Please contact fsgadolphe@gmail.com