

ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

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

19th Sunday in ordinary time, 9th August 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

When it was evening he was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea.

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

Reflection

Mt 14: 22-33 *Jesus Walks on the Water*

It is common to think that faith makes life easy. But this is not so; life is filled with twists and turns. Faith does not shield us from the hard knocks of life and death. We see this in the life of the early Christians. They too were people of faith. Nevertheless, when they encountered persecution, they thought that the Lord had abandoned them, and their faith began to wilt. However, they discovered that even though the Lord was not with them physically, he was with them and could still help them. Hence their faith revived, and they were able to face their trials and dangers.

St. John of the Cross, on being informed by the cook in his monastery that there was no food for the following day, answered, "Leave for God the care of providing food. Tomorrow is far enough off; He is able to take care of us." The next morning there was still no food- until a wealthy benefactor came to the door. He explained that he had dreamed the previous night that the monks might be in need and had brought enough food to sustain them just in case that was so.

Anne is a young mother with three children. Suddenly her husband leaves her for another woman. She feels hurt and betrayed, lonely and angry. Then she hears the voice of Christ inviting her to trust. Will she have the courage to walk on those trouble waters, relying only on the word of Christ?

At times, everyone is faced with very trying circumstances. At those times it is as if the Lord is asking us to 'walk on water.' But at the same time God stretches out his hand to uphold us. At those times we can draw courage from the example of Peter. Peter represents the typical disciple who is caught between faith and doubt.

One day we will have to leave the earthly 'boat' that has carried us through the stormy waters of this world and set out across the dark waters of death. If at difficult moments during life we have opted for Christ, then at death it will come naturally to us to reach out and take his hand, so that he may haul us onto the shores of eternity. Know that Jesus is full of compassion and will reach out to us in our weakness just as He did to Peter. Let Him grab our hand and strengthen our lack of faith out of His abundance of love and mercy.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

**** VINNIES COLLECTION ****

For the month of August, you are invited to bring a small gift suitable for Fathers Day to contribute to our donations.

We are grateful for your continued generosity.



POPE'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST

For evangelisation in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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 Kings 19:9, 11-13
Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84:9-14
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5
I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH

ALL VOLUNTEERS

All clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to complete mandatory Safeguarding Training and have current up to date certifications.

The below Safeguarding Online Training Modules can be accessed and completed via

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/courses>

IF YOU ARE NEW TO MINISTRY:

Complete Safeguarding Training Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle 1).

IF YOU COMPLETED CYCLE 1 MODULES TWO YEARS

AGO:

Complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2).

IF YOU RENEWED YOUR CYCLE 2 MODULES 4 & 5 TWO YEARS AGO:

Complete Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Please register directly for safeguarding training and locations by going to

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please contact:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Please email a copy of your certificates ASAP to the

Parish office via email: admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

VATICAN CORRESPONDENTS GERARD O'CONNELL AND ELISABETTA PIQUE

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world's most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider's account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. Wednesday 26 August, 6:00–8:00pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. All are welcome.

Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique.

HELPERS

Want to volunteer? — please see Father Clifford or Chantal in the parish office.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Members of Zabeth Family, Dereck Mulligan, Maura Mulligan, Shubert S. Baluyot, Luisa Lenore, Franchette Ayson, Bienvenido Legaspi Jr, Rosa Watson, Elizabeth Calabria, Vince Lopresti, 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.

Deceased: Abigail de Vega, Fulvio Luis Pineda, Tristan Sampang, Julito Soniano Ailsia & Bruce McDonald, Fr. Lorenzo Loria OP, Salvatore Loria, Betty Clark, Father Emile Zabeth, Mother Mary, Members of the Dabbous, Jawish, Michael, Kinani Families, Mary & Attalla Sabbath, Sr. Myree Harris rsj, Richard Lopresti, Dedi Maisetti, Orelha Dias, Thomas Griffith, Kendal McDonald, 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, Frank & Elizabeth Calabria & Family, Owen O'Reilly, Thelma Islip, Lorraine Buckley, Vicente Gallegos. 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**

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.

**** SOLEMNITY MASS ****

The 15th August is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this is a Holy Day of obligation. There will be a Solemnity Mass at 9.15am, followed by a morning tea. Please bring a plate to share.

SENIORS GROUP

Our next seniors group meeting will be on Thursday the 13th August. 9.45am in the hall. All are welcome.

'BE THE WITNESS' musical 10–13 September

Arrives soon at Riverside Theatres Parramatta. Presented by Mary Queen of the Family Parish, with a full cast and chorus now in place and rehearsals already in play, excitement is building. Gather your parish and book bethewitness.com.au

~ FREE TO FLOURISH ~

A new book by Fr. Stephen C. Onyekwere

A book that is a warm invitation to hope, healing, and lasting change. Written with the heart of a pastor and the insight of a counsellor, it walks gently alongside anyone carrying wounds, weariness, or regret, not with shame or condemnation, but with understanding, compassion, and the promise of a fresh start. Whatever season you find yourself in, it is an encouragement to take one honest step toward the life God dreams for you.

Get your copy at a subsidised cost of \$20

Available at the Piety Shop – St Patrick's Catholic Church, Blacktown, and online via Books.by and the Table Talk website: www.tabletalkwithfrstephen.com.au

