

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

20th Sunday in ordinary time, 16th August 2026 - YEAR A

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out,
"Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!
My daughter is tormented by a demon."
But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her.
Jesus' disciples came and asked him,
"Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."
He said in reply,
"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me."
He said in reply,
"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."
She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."
Then Jesus said to her in reply,
"O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish."
And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia. **Applications close October 31st, 2026.** Please send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

**** VINNIES COLLECTION ****

For the month of August, you are invited to bring **any gift suitable for Fathers Day**, to contribute to our donations. *We are grateful for your continued generosity*
The last day for these donations will be 29th/30th August

POPE'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST

For evangelization 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.

Reflection

God's Mercy For All

At the heart of the gospel passage is a lively exchange between Jesus and a Canaanite woman of great faith, who suffers so much from the illness of her daughter who is possessed by a devil. With the sure hope that Jesus can cure her, she comes forward, kneels at his feet and implores Jesus to take pity on her. At first Jesus seems reluctant to have anything to do with her and keeps her at arm's length, but the woman persists, refusing to take no for an answer. In her humility, she claims no rights but pleads further reminding him that even the dogs can feed from the scraps that fall from the master's table. Her prayer of faith wins through and in the end, she gets what she so desperately needs.

This is one of the rare occasions when we find Jesus in conversation with a woman who belongs to a nation hostile to the Jewish people. Nevertheless, Jesus does not regard this as an obstacle. He puts her faith to the test and grants her request because she has shown more trust in him than his own people. This encounter between Christ and the Canaanite woman indicates that God has no favourites and nobody is excluded from his company. His message is not an exclusive property of the Jewish people. The Good News is to be shared among all peoples and nationalities. His whole mission is to break down barriers and to remove walls of division and prejudice between Jews and Gentile.

This gospel confronts us with our own tendency to cause conflict by promoting exclusiveness based on our political, social and religious outlook. God does not discriminate but welcomes all who believe in him, who ask for his mercy and seek to do his will. We are challenged in our thinking and beliefs to welcome everyone into our church communities. The good news is that everyone can call upon God in their need and receive his mercy because, unlike us, he has time for everybody.

With peace in God's mission,

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

The Piety Store will be closed Saturday nights until September. The Catholic Weekly will be located on the back cupboard in the Church. *Thank you*

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: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6, 8

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick. 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

TLC LAND BLESSING

The Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta and other religious leaders will be participating in the Multifaith Dedication Blessing Ceremony of Land acquired by TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE INC. The Blessing will be held on Sunday 23 August 2026 at the corner of Portico Parade & Valeria Street Toongabbie. Guests arrive from 10.30am for a 11.15am start. Lunch will be served after the ceremony. Kindly register using the QR code to ensure seating and catering. <https://events.humanitix.com/justice-margaret-beazley-centre>

DEFIBRILLATOR

Please note: we have a defibrillator at the back of the church, for use in case of emergencies.

Thank you to the Local Government 'Safe Places for Faith

Communities' grants for allowing us to purchase this for our church.

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Members of Zabeth Family, Dereck Mulligan, Maura Mulligan, , 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, Nathan Weaver, Jom & Andrew Cadman, Paul Tonissou.

Anniversary: Carol Sprogis, Vilbina D'Souza, Evelyn and Youssef Brais.

Recently Deceased: John Buck.

Deceased: Shubert S. Baluyot, Fulvio Luis Pineda, Tristan Sampang, Julito Soniano, Betty Clark, Father Emile Zabeth, Mother Mary, Richard Lopresti, Dedi Maisetti, Kendal McDonald, Francis Sergi, Peter & Tina Muriniti Clara Sohn, William (Bill) Gregory, Kristina Lewis, Paul Mowbray, Sr Jeane, Gerard Courtney, Anselem Jehenthiren, Carla & Marcello Gatto, Abigail de Vega, Frank & Elizabeth Calabria & Family, Owen O'Reilly, 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**

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.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT MT SCHOENSTATT, MULGOA

Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. Sunday 13th September, please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start. The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3pm. Beginning with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program.

An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm. To RSVP and for more information visit:

www.schoenstatt.org.au

PRAYER FOR OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

Lord Jesus, prepare their hearts for this sacred moment. Make their spirit pure and their intentions sincere. Help them receive You with love, reverence, and deep gratitude. Remove every distraction and fill them with faith. As we all welcome You into our hearts, let Your presence transform us and strengthen our relationship with You. Amen

VATICAN CORRESPONDENT GERARD O'CONNELL AND ELISABETTA PIQUE

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites you 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