

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

21st Sunday in ordinary time, 23rd August 2026 - YEAR A

Reflection

Who is Jesus to Me?

The question put by Jesus to Peter: 'Who do you say that I am?' resulted in an inspiring declaration of faith. This acknowledgement of the identity of Jesus did not just pop up instantly. One could hardly describe Peter as a stable person because at times he was brave while on other occasions such as at the garden of Gethsemane and in Pilate's courtyard, he displayed complete cowardice. Yet, Jesus appointed him a leader of the Christian community. The choice of Peter as head of the church is an example of the power of God at work - using the weak things of this world to confound the strong. Before his encounter with Christ, Peter's life had little meaning.

There is a very human aspect to Peter's life story to which we can easily relate. His weakness and moments of betrayal are commonplace in our own lives. However, his deep-seated trust in the person of Christ more than compensates for any failure as will a similar trust on our part. As followers of Christ this question: 'Who do you say that I am?' confronts us daily and calls us to judge ourselves as to how we are living our lives, working at our relationships. What is the point in saying the word of the Lord is our light and our strength if we do not live accordingly?

One thing is certain - a neutral stance to Christ's vision of life is not possible, because to follow him is to live and act decisively for Christ.

With peace in God's mission,

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

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.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply,

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;

and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal for the Clergy Support Foundation will run across four weekends, from 29/30 August to 19/20 September 2026.

This Appeal supports our retired and unwell priests of our Diocese, our spiritual fathers, who have devoted their lives to serving God and His people.

PIETY STORE

The Piety Store will be closed Saturday nights until September.

The Catholic Weekly will be located near the entrance to the church 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 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 137:1-3, 6, 8

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

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.

PARISH / SCHOOL MASS

On Sunday 30 August, along with the parish community, we welcome the Kindi, Year 1 & Year 2 classes along with their parents to the 10am mass.
Please bring a plate to share with a cuppa after mass.

**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

Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist

The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, whose body and blood we share.
In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (John 6:54). This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died.
At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ.

To discover more, visit eucharist28.org

**PRAYER FOR OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS**

Lord, we thank You for the gift of our dedicated parents, teachers and SREs for their patience, wisdom, and the love they pour into preparing these young hearts for their First Holy Communion. Bless them for the encouragement they have given, the countless hours they spend sharing the story of Your Son, and for the example of faith they live each and every day.
Please fill their hearts with the same grace and light they have helped nurture in their students.

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

**** 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

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Maria Power, 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 Tonissoo.

Anniversary: Eilen Thornton, Robert Willemsen, Raymond Thomas, Neil Aleyne.

Deceased: John Buck, Shubert S. Baluyot, Fulvio Luis Pineda, Tristan Sampang, Julito Soniano, Betty Clark, Father Emile Zabeth, Richard Lopresti, Dedi Maisetti, Kendal McDonald, Francis Sergi, Peter & Tina Muriniti Clara Sohn, William (Bill) Gregory, Kristina Lewis, Paul Mowbray, Sr Jeane, Gerard Courtney, Anselm 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.