

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

Laudat si Pope Francis—The Mass of Creation. 23rd Sunday in ordinary time, 6th September 2026 - YEAR A

Reflection

"Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?...seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself."

Matthew 6:27 & 33-34

This is advice that we all need to hear. But, as the saying goes, "It's easier said than done."

Worrying can become for some people just a normal part of life. The things we worry about each and every day can include a myriad of concerns. Finances, relationships, work, family, health and many other things in life can be the cause of much worrying, fear, anxiety and even depression. Excessive worrying can truly become a heavy burden if not handled properly.

So what is the proper way to deal with the things you worry about? Trust. Trust in God, in His fidelity, in His all-consuming love for you, and in His providence. He loves you and is concerned about you more than you will ever know. And He is aware of every detail and problem you may face.

If we truly understood the love of God and His infinite wisdom, we would not worry about a thing. We would be able to trust and surrender all to Him every day and we would allow Him to enter and to direct us in hope according to His perfect plan for our lives. But, as mentioned above, this is easier said than done.

Another key factor in overcoming the worries and anxieties of life is to seek the Truth. Knowing the truth frees us and it enables us to see the hand of God at work even in the most difficult of situations. God never abandons us even though it may feel like that at times. If we can seek out His voice, His will, His wisdom and His truth, it will be much easier to place our trust in Him. And when we place our trust in Him, we find peace in our soul and feel the heavy weight of our worry lift away.

Reflect, today, upon that which you worry about the most. It may be an extremely heavy and burdensome fear. Or, it may just be this constant thought in the back of your mind. Whatever the case may be for you, try to identify that which seems to burden you the most and is the greatest source of concern. Then try to seek God's truth as it applies to your situation so that you can then surrender in trust to His perfect plan for your life.

With peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza msfs

**** VINNIES COLLECTION ****

For the month of September, you are invited to bring **a carton of long life milk** to contribute to our donations.

We are grateful for your continued generosity

Gospel

Matthew 6:24-34

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'No one can be the slave of two masters: a person will either hate the first and love the second or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money. 'Therefore, I tell you not to worry about your life, what you should eat, nor about your body, what you should wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, by worrying, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Learn from the flowers of the fields, how they grow; they neither work nor spin, yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grasses of the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more clothe you, who have so little faith? So, do not worry; do not say, "What should we eat? What should we drink? What should we wear?" It is the Gentiles who strive for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Strive first for his kingdom, and righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

FATHERS DAY

Thank You Lord for the gift of our fathers and father figures. Thank You for their sacrifices, their guidance, and the love they put into their families. Bless them always with strength when they are tired, wisdom when they face the difficult decisions, and peace when their life feels heavy. Keep them surrounded with Your protection and fill their hearts with joy. Help them lead with kindness, patience, and faith. May they always feel appreciated, valued, and deeply loved today and every day. **Amen.**

SENIORS GROUP

Our next seniors group meeting is on the 10th September, at 9.45am in the parish hall. Please bring money (\$25) in an envelope, with your name, for the FISH MARKET trip. *All are welcome.*

POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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: Wisdom 13:1-9

If they can weigh up the world, how have they still not found its Master?

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:2-3. 4-5

The heavens declare the glory of God.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

All things were created through him and for him.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

BISHOPS ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

We give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal.
Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Catholic Weekly will no longer be sold at St Bernadettes. You can order a subscription at <https://catholicweekly.com.au.au/subscriptions-to-the-catholic-weekly/> Thank you

HOLY SHROUD EXHIBITION

Be a witness to the Holy Shroud Exhibition at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, from 6-13 September 2026. A special presentation, "The Shroud Puzzle Solved," by author, journalist and Shroud expert Mr William West will be held on Sunday, 6 September at 1:00 pm in Cloister Hall. *All are welcome*

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



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.

PRAYER FOR OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

Jesus, strengthen the faith of our First Holy Communicants. Increase their love and grant them virtues that make them worthy to receive You. May they always feel Your presence in the Eucharist and entrust themselves completely to Your care.

May they always cherish this sacrament, drawing strength and grace from it. Help them to reflect Your light in the world, showing kindness, forgiveness, and love to others. May their hearts always remain open to Your guidance and may they grow in wisdom and faith each day.

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 *Thank you*

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.

Recently deceased: Teresa Maccarone, Mario Rozzi

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, Anselem Jehenthiren, Carla & Marcello Gatto, Abigail de Vega, Frank & Elizabeth Calabria & Family, Owen O'Reilly, Ailsia & Bruce McDonald. Deceased members & beneficiaries 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.