

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

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



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.

24th Sunday in ordinary time, 14th September 2026 - YEAR A

Reflection

Forgiveness: A Matter of the Heart

To the question of, 'how often must I forgive my brother?' Jesus' reply to Peter invites us to have a check on our basic attitudes to be put into practice. Apart from the commandment to love one another, there is no obligation which Christ taught more forcefully than that of showing forgiveness. In the daily reality of our lives, forgiveness is more often talked about than put into practice because it is difficult and demanding and it takes a great deal out of us. Within families small incidents get blown out of proportion, become major flashpoints and rifts develop. Among neighbours, children playing, animals straying and rights-of-way; these issues can cause unholy wars. In any community, differences brought about by thoughtless words, selfish actions and jealousy inevitably provokes clashes. As a family or clan or a nation we prefer to nurse old scores rather than reach out the hand of reconciliation. The irony of neighbours being hostile and unrepentant for so many years over a boundary hedge can be buried a short distance from one another. There is no need of a fence between them now! In the light of eternity and the shortness of our span of life, harbouring old grudges is pointless. The great cry of forgiveness which comes from the heart was first echoed on the hill of Calvary. What Jesus proclaimed in words from the cross, he lived out in deeds. His purpose was to win forgiveness for all people. The forgiveness that we offer others is the necessary condition which makes it possible for us to receive God's mercy and meaningfully pray: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. Our failure to offer pardon is that we have forgotten God's goodness or have never fully appreciated the unconditional forgiveness we have received from him.

Real pain is felt in the slight hurts and petty envies which tempt us to be vindictive and strike back in a harsh manner. What is required is limitless forgiving and glossing over faults and keep on loving even in the face of insults. If we are to be true channels of the Lord's grace, then Christ must be the standard by which we measure and shape our conduct.

With peace in God's mission



Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.'

Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount.

He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.'

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant!

I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

**** 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

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: Sirach 27:30—28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 9-12

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

Blessings on our Communicants today as they receive you Jesus, for the first time. May their journey not end today, but begin, and continue to drive them forward to you with love. May they know your love and entrust themselves to you always.

Thankyou to everyone who has prayed, loved and supported our children on their journey.



BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – HONOUR A LIFE-TIME OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

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. 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.*

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – NEPAL FLOODS APPEAL

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families. Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.

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*

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.

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*

St Gabriel's School proudly presents From Little Things, an original and uplifting musical about resilience, belonging and the power of community.

Our students have been working hard since the beginning of the year to bring this production to life, and they are very excited to have the opportunity to perform on stage. We welcome the wider community to come along, support our students and share in this special occasion.

23rd and 24th September 6:30pm – 8:00pm. St Gabriel's School, 190 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill, **Tickets:** \$15/person

Purchase tickets online: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1599205>

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Maria Power, Members of Zabath 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.

Deceased: Joseph Bartolo, Teresa Maccarone, Mario Rozzi, John Buck, Shubert S. Baluyot, Fulvio Luis Pineda, Tristan Sampang, Julito Soniano, Betty Clark, Father Emile Zabath, 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.