

# ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH LALOR PARK

Web Page: [www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](http://www.stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)  
Parish Centre: 14 Wheeler Street, Lalor Park NSW 2147  
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## PARISH BULLETIN

(Established 1961)

Email: [admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](mailto: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.

### 25th Sunday in ordinary time, 20th September 2026 - YEAR A

#### Reflection

Australians deeply value a 'fair go.' We believe everyone deserves equal treatment and the same opportunities. When someone is denied that basic fairness, we get frustrated. Conversely, we struggle to accept it when someone is perceived to be getting more than their fair share.

This parable captures a familiar scene in ancient Palestine, where the late September grape harvest was a frantic race against the impending rains. Because a sudden storm could ruin the entire crop, every worker was welcome, even for just an hour. Listening to this Gospel, we naturally share the grumbles of those who laboured all day in the scorching sun, finding it unfair that they received the same pay as those hired at the eleventh hour. However, if we focus too much on this apparent injustice, we miss the entire point of the story.

The vineyard represents the kingdom of God. Those who worked all day symbolize the Pharisees and traditional religious authorities, while the eleventh-hour labourers represent sinners and the Gentiles. Jewish scholar C.G. Montefiore calls this parable one of the greatest, noting that it contains a truth at the very heart of Christianity. In one sense, it serves as a warning to the disciples. It is as if Jesus told them that although they received the privilege of entering the faith early, they must not claim a special status or honour over later believers. All people, regardless of when they arrive, are equally precious to God. As N.T. Wright, the former Bishop of Durham, observes, people active in church circles can easily assume they belong to "God's inner circle." In reality, Wright notes, God reaches out to those the world ignores, welcoming them on the same terms and surprising everyone with His generous grace.

The key to understanding this story lies in the question: "Are you envious because I am generous?" That is the real issue. The employer does not fail to give a fair wage; rather, he gives far *more* than what is fair. This is exactly how God acts—treating us better than we deserve, even when we find that grace difficult to accept. Ultimately, this story is not about justice, but about radical generosity. We cannot fully comprehend His generosity, but one thing is certain: God's ways are not our ways. The good news of the parable is that both the first and the last get to work in the owner's vineyard. And both the first and the last get a reward for their work, the reward of grace.

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

#### Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16a

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.'

So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them,

'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.'

He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,

'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.'

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,

'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.'

He said to one of them in reply,

'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go.'

What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?'

Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

#### **\*\* 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](mailto: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 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

The Lord is near to all who call him.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:20-24, 27

For me to live is Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

### OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS



May today for our communicants be the start of a loving friendship with you Jesus. Growing closer to you, may your peace and guidance help them to be more loving and caring.

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

### ST CARLO ACUTIS, FIRST CLASS RELIC

The First-Class Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis will be at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 28 to 30 September.

Come and pray before the Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis and experience the Vatican International Exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. The Major Pilgrim Relic will be housed in the Chapel for personal prayer and veneration throughout the visit. All welcome.



### CATHOLIC MISSION

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. On behalf of the Church in Malawi, Catholic Mission would like to thank our parishioners for their generosity which is giving children access to education, nourishment, and the opportunity to build a hopeful future. Together we raised **\$1945**.

### SRE CATECHIST RECRUITMENT

Have you thought about sharing your love of God with Catholic students in public schools in our Parish? These students deserve the opportunity to encounter Jesus through scripture classes in their public school. It takes only 30 minutes lesson preparation and 30 minutes teaching the lesson. CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) provides the resources and training to give you the support and skills to share your faith with children who want to know Jesus, in the local public schools in the proximity of our Parish.



Next weekend, there will be SRE Catechist Recruitment Masses. Please contact Connie Cassar, the Parish Co-Ordinator – 0410 346 484 Parish website - [admin@stbernadettes.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadettes.org.au) You are welcome to call in at the Parish Office, or phone 9672 4037 to register your interest.

### 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.

### WELCOME

We welcome Eunice to our faith family this weekend. Eunice will be Baptised into our community on Sunday. Blessings and congratulations to her family, we wish you a joyous day.

### CHANGE IN WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

*Please note;* beginning 6 October, the Tuesday morning mass (9.15am) will change to be celebrated at 6.30pm with novena devotions, followed by mass at 7pm and the Wednesday mass (7.00pm) will now be at 9.15am instead. *The rest of the weekday mass times remain unchanged.*

### BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – HONOUR A LIFETIME OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

This is the last weekend of the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal. Your generosity and love ensure they receive the care, comfort and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal).

*Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.*

### EUCHARIST28; WALKING WITH CHRIST

The journey to Eucharist28 has begun! In the years leading up to this moment and beyond, the prayer of Eucharist28 is that across Australia, Eucharistic renewal will continue to flourish, and Eucharistic processions and pilgrimages will become a commonplace way for all to walk with Christ in their lives. To discover more, visit [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)

### HELPERS

Would you like to help in our parish? CD's (5.30pm), choirs, church welcomers and power point operators. Please see Father Clifford, or Chantal in the parish office.

**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:** Bev McCaffrey

**Anniversary:** Giuseppe Patruno

**Deceased:** Joseph Bartolo, Teresa Maccarone, Mario Rozzi, John Buck, Shubert S. Baluyot, Fulvio Luis Pineda, Tristan Sampang, Julito Soniano, Betty Clark, Richard Lopresti, Dedi Maisetti, Kendal McDonald, Francis Sergi, 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

### 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.