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.

27th Sunday in ordinary time, 4th October 2026 - YEAR A

Reflection

The concept of Israel rejecting God lies at the heart of this Sunday's Gospel parable. In the story, the vineyard represents the nation of Israel, and its owner is God. The cultivators symbolise Israel's religious leaders, who were entrusted with the spiritual welfare of the nation. The servants sent successively represent the prophets whom God sent, only to be repeatedly rejected and killed. Finally, the son who arrives last is none other than Jesus himself.

This same pattern of rejection takes many forms today. Most visibly, it appears in those who simply deny the existence of God. Though they witness the beauty and order of creation, and acknowledge the power and splendour of the universe, they fail to recognise the perfectly designed "vineyard" they inhabit. Instead, they attribute creation to random chance and unregulated circumstances. Ultimately, we reject God whenever we deny His work as the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Another form of rejecting God is the rejection of certain groups of people based on human prejudice. History and modern times prove that human beings are capable of inflicting terrible atrocities on those they define as less valuable or less human than themselves. This brutality remains a contemporary reality. In our nation, systemic discrimination against Aboriginal people persists. In parts of India, the Dalit—historically labelled "untouchables"—are still marginalized as inferior.

After asking what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants, Jesus quotes Psalm 118: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." By linking the Son in the parable to the Stone in the psalm, Jesus reveals His identity: He is both the murdered heir and the discarded foundation. This confrontation offers two sobering points for reflection:

- **The Danger of Misguided Leadership:** The "builders"—the religious leaders—were meant to build up God's people, yet they rejected His ultimate building block.
Reflection: Where in our own lives or communities are we tempted to reject God's truth to protect our own authority?
- **The Certainty of Judgment:** Jesus warns that *"Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed"*. The stone we try to discard eventually becomes our judge.
Reflection: Are we building our lives upon this cornerstone, or are we stumbling over it?

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel

Gospel *Matthew 21:33-43*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
"Hear another parable.
There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.
Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned.
Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.
Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking,
'They will respect my son.'
But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,
'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'
They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"
They answered him,
"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."
Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:
The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?
Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

HELPERS; Would you like to help in your parish? CD's, choirs, church welcomers and power point operators.
Please see Father Clifford, or Chantal in the parish office.



POPE'S INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

For mental health ministry
Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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 5:1-7**
The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the house of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 79:9, 12-16, 19-20**
The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Second Reading: **Philippians 4:6-9**
Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

** 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. The Wednesday mass (7.00pm) will now be at 9.15am.
The rest of the weekday mass times remain unchanged.

RECONCILIATION

Parents of Children who are baptised and are in Year 3 or higher, who wish to present their children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to collect the Registration Pack from the Parish Office on Thursdays or Fridays 9:00am -4:00pm (if they haven't already received one).
The preparation begins with a ***PARENTS ONLY*** meeting on Thursday October 29. Madge Miranda Sacrament Coordinator

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CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE FRONT COVER FOR CHRISTMAS 2026

You are invited to design the front cover of the *Catholic Outlook Magazine*'s Christmas and Summer 2026 edition! People of all ages from across the Diocese of Parramatta are welcome to submit their artwork for consideration. Let's make this Advent and Christmas season a canvas of faith and joy – together. Submit your entry by **Friday 6 November 2026** – with a short description of your artwork – via **parracatholic.org/artcomp**

SENIORS GROUP

Our next seniors group meeting is on the 8th October at 9.45am in the Parish hall. All are welcome.

CRAFT GROUP

Our parish craft group meets on Wednesday at 10am, in the St Joseph's Centre on Wheeler St. Come along and get crafty, make new friends as well. *All are welcome.*

WYD27 SONGWRITING COMPETITION, Submissions close 16 December

Young people of the Diocese of Parramatta, your original song is wanted, to inspire our pilgrims on their journey to World Youth Day! Open to individuals or groups aged 16–35.
All musical genres welcome. Find out more and submit your song via our WYD27 website: parrawyd.org

MASS TIMES AND PARISH LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm,
Sunday 8.30am & 10.00am

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9.15am
Rosary and exposition @8.30am
Tuesday 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.

** VINNIES COLLECTION **

Christmas is fast approaching, so for October, you are invited to donate 1 of the following; soft drink, chips, nuts pretzels, Christmas lollies or pancake mix.

We *are grateful for your continued generosity*

ST PEDRO ANNUAL FEAST DAY

On behalf of the St Pedro Calungsod Devotees, St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill and the Filipino Chaplaincy of the Diocese of Parramatta we warmly invite you, your family, and parish community to join us in celebrating the 15th Annual Feast Day of St Pedro Calungsod on Saturday, 17 October 2026, 10:30am, St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill. As part of our spiritual preparation, Novena Masses will be held from 8 to 16 October 2026 at 7:00 PM, hosted by different parishes throughout our Diocese. Novena at St Bernadette's on October 8 at 7pm..
Please find fiesta and novena details on our noticeboard.

THE STIGMATA OF ST FRANCIS

That desire to follow Christ eventually brought Francis to **Mount La Verna in Tuscany**.
In 1224, Francis withdrew there for prayer and solitude. It was at La Verna that he received one of the most extraordinary mystical gifts associated with his life: **the stigmata**.
Stigmata are wounds corresponding to those suffered by Christ during the Crucifixion. In Catholic tradition, they are understood as an exceptional mystical sign of participation in Christ's suffering.
St. Francis is traditionally regarded as the first person in Christian history known to have received them.
Long before receiving the wounds of Christ on his own body, Francis had drawn close to the wounds
In this sense, the stigmata were not isolated from the rest of Francis' life.
They were the culmination of a journey that began when he learned to recognize Christ in the suffering of another person.

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; Eileen Noyeaux **Anniversary:** Val Stevens, Carina Magat, Aurora Borgonia, Alejandro Borgonia

Deceased: Abigail de Vega, Bev McCaffrey, 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, 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.