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.

29th Sunday in ordinary time, 18th October 2026 - YEAR A

Reflection

Give to God what belongs to God

In an attempt to trick Him into taking sides either with the Government or not, Jesus upon examining the tax coin remarks: 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Ceasar and to God what belongs to God'. He challenges his listeners to take their responsibility to God as seriously as their obligations to the state. While God and the Government each have a claim over us, neither allegiance should cancel out the other. Allegiance to the rulers in the sense, being and doing what is expected of us such as paying of taxes and having a civic sense for the good of all and to praise, worship and thank God as our allegiance to Him. The gospel reminds us that we are members of God's kingdom and citizens of the country in which we live, with obligations to both. Tensions can arise between our loyalty to God and our duty to our country especially when political questions touch upon faith and morality. Religion and politics do mix and overlap, so crucial issues of conscience occasionally emerge. A good Christian, by keeping his thoughts on heaven while having his feet firmly planted on earth, can love God and country and be faithful to both.

As Christians we are called to spread the good news in different ways, on many levels. Every person must show a proper interest in the well-being of our society. Living in an imperfect world highlights the need for Christians in public life to express their allegiance to God in social and religious affairs. The most important goal for all of us is to work out our salvation. It takes a lifelong effort to give to God what is his due. By remaining steadfast in our faith, at home and in public life, we show that our everlasting reward can never be fully achieved in this world. All worldly power and authority must be sought in God and be served and obeyed.

With peace in God's mission

Father Clifford D'Souza

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.
They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man
and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion,
for you do not regard a person's status.
Tell us, then, what is your opinion:
Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"
Knowing their malice, Jesus said,
"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin that pays the census tax."
Then they handed him the Roman coin.
He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"
They replied, "Caesar's."
At that he said to them,
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God."



Dear Lord, thank you for guiding our Pope, Leo XIV, safely though his surgery. Please keep him in your love as he now recovers. Give him the strength of peace in mind and comfort in your spirit. Bless and guide his medical team and care givers as they treat him on his road to full health and wellbeing. Surround him with the prayers of the faithful. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

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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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GALA Please keep the date free for our parish Christmas Gala. Saturday 5th December 2026 at 6.30pm in the parish hall. There will be a sale of raffle tickets in the weeks before. More details to follow.



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 45:1, 4-6**
I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 95:1, 3-5, 7-10**
Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading: **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**
We are mindful of your faith, hope and love.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

WELCOME

We welcome to our parish family Lily and Oliver Astley as they are Baptised into our church this weekend. Blessings on you both, and congratulations to your family.

** VINNIES COLLECTION **

Christmas is fast approaching!
During 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*

CRAFT GROUP

Our parish craft group meets on Wednesday at 10am, in the St Joseph's Centre on Wheeler St. They are currently preparing for our Christmas stall in December. Come along and get crafty, make new friends and join them for morning tea. *Everyone is welcome.*

MORNING TEA

Please join us for morning tea after both the 8.30am and 10am mass next weekend (25th October) … please bring a plate to share.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY- ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED IN MISSION

"I remember celebrating World Mission Sunday when I was a boy in the United States," Pope Leo

Reflecting on this year's theme, '*One in Christ, united in mission'*, the Holy Father says that through Baptism all the faithful become one Body in Christ. Jesus, he says, calls them to work as one family to bring everyone into a communion of faith.
He then renews the appeal from his Message for World Mission Sunday:

"Let us all commit to contributing to the great mission of evangelisation — which is always a work of love — according to our own vocation and the gifts we have received. Your prayers and practical support, particularly on World Mission Sunday, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need."

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.

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**

2026 LIFTED Live in the Forecourt: 24 October

All are welcome to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Saturday, 24 October for LIFTED Live in the Forecourt 2026. Join hundreds of young people and families for a Youth Mass at 6pm followed by festivities in the forecourt. Encounter the variety of talent and passion of Western Sydney and Blue Mountains, with live performances, inflatable games, small businesses, adoration and more. Register by visiting parracatholic.org/lifted-live

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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*

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

For sick parishioners, relatives and friends: Michael Matly, John el-Samra, 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, 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; Colleen Jemsen, Estefania Velasquez

Anniversary: Dolores Feliciano

Deceased: Abigail de Vega, Eileen Noyeaux, 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.