



# THE MASSABIELLE

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH COMMUNITY CASTLE HILL

## ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

367 Old Northern Road  
Castle Hill NSW 2154

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Fernando Montano

#### Assistant Priest

Fr Neil Bulathsinalage

#### Assistant Priest

Fr Ravi Muvvala

#### Pastoral Associate

Mrs Nancy Eberhaut

pa@stbernadette.org.au

#### Admin and Office Support

Ms Laura Burton

admin@stbernadette.org.au

#### Youth Coordinator

Mrs Puspa Winendiah

ym@stbernadette.org.au

#### Groundskeeper

Mr Darren Edwards

### SCHOOL



St Bernadette's Primary

(02)9407 6600

Principal: Bianca Cooke

### WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday

6:45am

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,

6:45am, 9:15am

Saturday and Public Holidays

8:00am

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil

5:00pm

Sunday

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am,

6:00pm

### RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday

8:30am-9:00am,

4:00pm-4:30pm

Or by appointment

18-19 JAN 2025 *2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C*

*Continued from last week*

At the top of the icon, the Holy Spirit is descending upon Jesus as a dove, the Holy Spirit is depicted in a mandorla in this manner, The Father, using His own pre-eternal and consubstantial and subracestial Spirit as His finger, crying out and point from heaven, openly declared and proclaimed to all that the one then being baptized by John in the Jordan was His beloved Son, while at the same time manifesting His unity with Him." (St. Gregory Palamas, Homily 60.15). St. John Chrysostom also emphasizes that the Gospels state the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descends upon us so that we can ascend with Christ and the Spirit to the Father in Heaven. For the first time since the fall of mankind, the Heavens were opened to us.

The angels on the right side are waiting to attend and dress him after the baptism is over. Soon after his baptism and after the Temptations in the Desert, Matthew's Gospel tells us that "angels ministered to him" (Mt 4:11)

St. John the Baptist is portrayed wearing a tunic and cloak or a camel hair garment covering his body, standing, on the shore of the river, at the right of Christ, stepping firmly toward Him. At the same time, he bows showing obedience and reverence toward the One Whom he is not "worthy to untie His Sandals". He holds a scroll in his right hand – a symbol of his preaching- or, he has a prayerful posture. At the same time his gaze is directed upward, as proof that he himself touched Christ, he saw the Holy Spirit descending on Him as a dove (John 1:29-34), he heard the Voice of the Heavenly Father: "This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I am well pleased ." (Matt 3:17), and then he testified about these things to the world.

There is an axe near John the Baptist, which reflects his warning that our lives must bear the fruit of the Spirit or else we will be removed. We cannot get comfortable or spiritually lazy.

Jesus is not submerged in the water, for creation was baptized in Him, not vice versa. Remember that the Greek word Baptism means to dip, to plunge, to immerse, or to submerge.

At the bottom of the icon, at the feet of the Saviour, often, in small dimensions, appear the shapes of two persons – a man and a woman. Both are with the back turned toward Christ and look astonished. The two shapes illustrate texts of the Old Testament and are prefigurations of the Baptism: "The sea beheld and fled; Jordan turned back" (Psalm 113:3).

The male figure – a person immersed in the river watershed holding a vessel from which water is poured out, is an allegoric representation of the Jordan River. This person turns his face from Christ, being overtaken by astonishment, even dread, the reason is given in the liturgical texts of the Eastern Tradition: "I saw naked Him whom none can see and shuddered in fear".

The female figure – a half-clothed woman, with a crown on her head and a sceptre in her hand, rushing while riding on one or two fish – is an allegory of the sea and refers to one of the prefigurations of Baptism: the passing of the Hebrew people through the Red Sea.

These images are both fleeing at the sight of something much bigger and greater than themselves entering the water. As the Psalms say:

Psalm 73:14 – *Thou did establish the sea by Thy might, Thou did break the heads of the dragons in the water.*

Psalm 76:15 – *The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid; the abysses were troubled.*



Peace in Jesus

*Fr. Fernando Montano*

### DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

Donations can be made using the bank details below, the QR code, or via the Tap-and-go machines and cash collection boxes in the church. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



### SUPPORT DONATIONS

#### For EFT to the First Collection - supporting the priests

BSB 067 950  
 Account No 00004265  
 Account Name Diocesan Clergy  
 Reference **6006 Your name**

#### EFT to the Second Collection – for support of the Parish

BSB 067 950  
 Account No 00000032  
 Account Name Castle Hill Catholic Church  
 Reference **Second Collection (Your Name)**

### SACRAMENTS

For Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs for school children please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at [sacraments@stbernadette.org](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org).

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or at [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au) for bookings and further details. Baptisms are held on the 1st, 2nd and 5th (when occurring) Sunday of each month at 12noon.

**Note the church law:** parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth indeed even before it, they are to approach the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867§1]

### NEW TO THE PARISH

We would like to welcome all new parishioners. If you are new to the parish, please collect a registration form from the foyer or the Parish Office and please come and say hello to one of the Clergy or Nancy at mass.

Welcome

## Youth



### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



On Instagram

@st\_bernadettes\_youth  
 @st\_bernadettes\_young\_adults



On Facebook

@St Bernadette's youth Castle Hill  
 @St Bernadette's Young Adults

### JUNIOR YOUTH SENIOR YOUTH

Are now on break for the year. We look forward to seeing you when we return in February 2025.

### YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY (16-35yrs)

Our Young Adults Bible Study are on break for the year. We look forward to seeing you when we return in February 2025.



### YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adults are on break for the year. We look forward to seeing you when we return in February 2025.

### YOUTH LEADERS MEETING

Youth Leadership team 2025 will have the first meeting with the new Youth Chaplain, Fr. Neil Bulathsinhalage on Friday 31st Jan at 6pm in the St. Joseph's room. We also welcome other young people who wish to be involved in Youth Ministry. Please RSVP to Puspa at [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au) by 24th Jan.

## ROSTERS 25-26 JAN 2025

Mass	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
<b>Ministry</b>					
<b>Lectors</b>	Mitch Dielwart Gary Tierney Cheryl Braisby	Dan Mathias Paul D'Cruz Joyan Fife	Mila Mina Karen Lee Hubert Jenneke	Michael Abrahams Danielle Vassallo Raymond Pak	Timothy Leong Anabel Formosa
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Charles D'Emanuele Cynthia D'Emanuele Kris Murgatroyd Sue Pinkerton Ross Pinkerton	Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic	Brian Blacklock Jenny Blacklock Ellen MacMahon Skirma Cervin Rudy Suwandy	Sylvia Rego Venetia Lee Winnie Li Henry Li Nina Irwin	Brandon Leyba Maria Mochnik Don de Leon
<b>Bookshop</b>	Kathleen Abernethy	Catherine Seddon	Christine and Hubert Jenneke	Dorothy Finucane	Remy de Leon
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>1st Collection</b>	<b>2nd Collection</b>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>Church Linen</b>
Sandra Fernando	Tues 28th Jan Marie Woodward Elaine Small	David Solomons Joe Harney Jeslin Cyriac	N/A	Andrea Tomic Krystyna Graczyk Myra Tan Gabrielle Tan Pauline Home	Claire Lagunzad

### CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSED FOR CLEANING

This **Monday 20th January**, the church will be closed from 9am as the carpets are being professionally cleaned. The Parish Office will be closed from 12noon. The church and Office will reopen as per normal Tuesday 21st.

### REKINDLE THE SPARK WORKSHOP SATURDAY 8TH FEB

Join with other married couples looking to rekindle the spark by improving communication and understanding. The day will commence 9:30am at St Bernadette's Castle Hill with morning tea and a wine & cheese afternoon tea provided. Please BYO lunch. The cost for the day is \$30 per couple to cover resources. Please RSVP to Carolyn on 0425 329 609 by Friday 31st January.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Looking for a way to get involved? We have a number of ministries looking for volunteers! Share your time, talents and skills with the parish, and meet new people along the way. We have ministries on weekdays and weekends, for varying ages, skills, and time commitments. For a full list of ministries available and their commitment requirements, please see the noticeboard. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2025

Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, enrolments are now open. This preparation process is suitable for children who are currently in Year 3 (2025) and above, who have received the sacrament of Baptism. For enrolment information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or via email at [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au)



### LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, or Communion to the Sick. To enrol and for more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [nancy@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:nancy@stbernadette.org.au). Registrations close 28th January 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.



### JUBILEE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Parramatta invites young people to join them on its official pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome in July 2025. The Diocesan pilgrimage will take place over 18 days from 19 July to 5 August 2025 and will include a visit to Greece to follow in the footsteps of Saint Paul, before traveling onto the Jubilee of Youth in Rome. For more information visit <https://parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025/>



### Congratulations

Congratulations to Brian and Jenny Blacklock who celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

May God continue to bless them with many more years together.



### FOR SALE

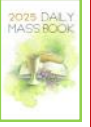


### LECTORS BOOKS-BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Break Open the Word for 2025 books are available for sale at the Parish Office. Cost \$30 each. Cash only.

### DAILY MASS BOOKS

2025 Daily mass books available from the bookshop and the Parish Office. Cost \$25 each. Cash only.



### CATECHISTS WANTED



We are incredibly fortunate to still have the opportunity to go into the local public schools and spread the Word of God with primary school students at a number of public schools in our area. As the number of families in the Hills continues to grow, so does the number of students attending Public Schools.

St Bernadette's currently provide Catechist teachers to 5 local public schools, and we are looking for more teachers to assist in this growing need. All our teachers are provided with the training and support required, as well as the lesson plans and resources used in the classroom.

Our volunteer teachers currently consist of a fantastic team of parents, grandparents and young adults from various backgrounds, careers and experiences. We are looking for volunteers who are available to take a half-hour lesson on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday at one of our local public school. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

## Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

January	This Week
Mon 20th	Church and Office closed for cleaning
Tues 21st	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am
	Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm
Thurs 23rd	Holy Hour 8pm-9pm
January	This Month
Sun 26th Jan	Australia Day
Mon 27th Jan	Australia Day Public Holiday <b>8am mass</b>
Fri 31st Jan	Youth Leaders Meeting 6pm
February	Next Month
Fri 7th Feb	First Friday Mass and Adoration

## Today's Readings

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### **First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5**

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3**

(R) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

### **Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia!**

### **Gospel John 2:1-11**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

### **Communion Antiphon:**

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

### **Readings Next Weekend**

*25-26 January 2025*

*Australia Day*

**First Reading**

**Second reading**

**Gospel**

Is 32:15-18

1 Cor 12:4-11

Mt 5:1-12

### **Feast Days This Week**

<b>20 Jan</b>	Saint Fabian, Saint Sebastian
<b>21 Jan</b>	Saint Agnes
<b>22 Jan</b>	Saint Vincent
<b>24 Jan</b>	Saint Francis de Sales
<b>25 Jan</b>	The Conversion of Saint Paul

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF**

Recently Deceased: Mary Raeside

For the Anniversaries of: Sergio Montano, Lorenza Dalli, Lamberto Torres

### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Minda Robles, Marion Heron, Geoff Roney, Joseph Victor Poon