



THE MASSABIELLE

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

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

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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

8-9 FEBRUARY 2025 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

Hello Everyone.

Continuing with the lives of saints that I have started for this year, I would like to share with you the lives of two important saints whose memories we will celebrate on the 14th of February. These are Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius.

These great saints were brothers. Cyril was born around 826-869 and Methodius around 815-885. They are well known for their missionary work among the Slavs and are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic. After their deaths, their pupils continued their missionary work among other Slavs. Both brothers are venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church as saints with the title of "equal-to-apostles". In 1880, Pope Leo XIII introduced their feast into the calendar of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. In 1980, the first Slav pope, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patron saints of Europe, together with Benedict of Nursia.

In 1985 Pope St John Paul II wrote an encyclical called "Slavorum Apostoli" (The Apostles of the Slavs) where he gives us a very good biography of both and that I would like to share parts of it with you. The city which saw the birth of the two holy Brothers is the modern Salonika, (in biblical times the place is known as Thessalonica) which in the ninth century was an important center of commercial and political life in the Byzantine Empire and occupied a notable position in the intellectual and social life of that part of the Balkans. Being situated on the frontier of the Slav territories, it also certainly had a Slav name: Solun. Methodius was the elder brother, and his baptismal name was probably Michael. He was born between 815 and 820. His younger brother Constantine, who came to be better known by his religious name Cyril, was born in 827 or 828. Their father was a senior official of the imperial administration. The family's social position made possible for the two Brothers a similar career, which in fact Methodius did take up, reaching the rank of Archon or Prefect in one of the frontier Provinces where many Slavs lived. However, towards the year 840 he interrupted his career and retired to one of the monasteries at the foot of Mount Olympus in Bithynia, then known as the Holy Mountain.

His brother Cyril studied with great success in Byzantium, where he received Holy Orders, after having resolutely refused a brilliant political future. By reason of his exceptional intellectual and religious talents and knowledge, there were entrusted to him, while he was still a young man, delicate ecclesiastical appointments, such as that of Librarian of the Archive attached to the great church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople, and, simultaneously, the prestigious position of Secretary to the Patriarch of that city. However, he very soon made it known that he wished to be relieved of these posts, in order to be able to devote himself to study and the contemplative life, far from the pursuit of ambition. Thus, he retired secretly to a monastery on the Black Sea coast. He was discovered six months later, and was persuaded to accept the task of teaching philosophy in the School of higher learning in Constantinople, where by reason of the excellence of his knowledge he gained the epithet of The Philosopher by which he is still known. Later on he was sent by the emperor and the Patriarch on a mission to the Saracens. On the completion of this task he retired from public life in order to join his elder brother Methodius and share with him the monastic life. But once again, together with Methodius, he was included in a Byzantine delegation sent to the Khazars, acting as a religious and cultural expert. While staying in the Crimea at Kherson, they identified what they believed to be the church in which had been buried Saint Clement, Pope of Rome and martyr, who had been exiled to that distant region. They recovered his relics and took them with them.

The event which was to determine the whole of the rest of their lives was the request made by Prince Rastislav of Greater Moravia to the Emperor Michael III, to send to his peoples "a Bishop and teacher ... able to explain to them the true Christian faith in their own language". They undertook among these peoples that mission to which both of them devoted the rest of their lives, spent amidst journeys, privations, sufferings, hostility and persecution. They took with them the texts of the Sacred Scriptures needed for celebrating the Sacred Liturgy, which they had prepared and translated into the Old Slavonic language and written in a new alphabet, devised by Constantine the Philosopher and perfectly adapted to the sounds of that language.

St Cyril, the younger brother, died in Rome on the 14th of February 869. St Methodius devoted the last years of his life principally to making further translations of the Sacred Scriptures, the liturgical books, the works of the Fathers of the Church and also the collection of ecclesiastical and Byzantine civil laws called the Nomocanon. He died on 6 April 885 in the service of the Church established among the Slav peoples.

St Cyril and Methodius, pray for us!



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.

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 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

WELCOME BACK BBQ CHANGE OF DATE

Due to the Kindy Welcome BBQ, the Youth BBQ on Friday 21st February has been moved to **Friday 28th February 7:00-8:30pm** in the hall. Junior and Senior combined social night. All welcome

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY (16-35yrs)

Our Young Adults Bible Study is held every Wednesday evening 7:30-9:30pm in the St Joseph's Room. This week we will reflect through Lectio Divina on the coming weeks readings.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT 16TH FEBRUARY



Our Young Adults Nights (18-35 Yrs) is on Sunday 16th February 7:00pm-9:00pm in the St Joseph's Room.



Guest Speaker Anne Younis will be sharing with us the value of forgiveness.

Dinner included. Please let us know any dietary requirements by contacting ym@stbernadette.org.au.

ROSTERS 15-16 FEBRUARY 2025

| Ministry \ Mass | Vigil | 7:30am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 6:00pm |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| Lectors | Caroline Dumapit Malisa Barsic Sean Eberhaut | Martine Collins Michelle Monteiro Yvonne Desouza | Brian Blacklock Hansel Fernando | Venetia Lee Hyacinth Jones Leo Stanton | Brandon Leyba Hanna Pillai Michelle Kim |
| Communion Ministers | Beverley Curtis Esther Coleiro Kathleen Abernethy Keith D'Sylva Maureen Fearnside | Monica Rodrigues David Rodrigues Andrea Tomic | Delphine Fernandes John Donnelly Lois Donnelly Winnie Lam Gabrielle Jamison | Teresa Somasundram Margaret Hawkes Dorothy Finucane Hilary Fong Bernadette Boulos | Anabel Formosa Laura Burton Jane Lapidario |
| Bookshop | Elaine Small | Catherine Seddon | Christine and Hubert Jenneke | Josie and Seng Yeoh | Remy de Leon |
| Flowers | 1st Collection | 2nd Collection | Children's Liturgy | Housekeeping | Church Linen |
| Darshi Wettasinghe | Mon 17th Feb Maureen Fearnside Remy de Leon | David Tye Cosimo Miccoli Chris Clancy | Liza Echevaria Natalie Coughlan | Cathy Teh Clarissa De Lima Joanne Myatt Constance Fidel Michelle Gardoni | Belinda Yapp |

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-RECONCILIATION 2025

Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, **Registrations close Thursday 20th February.** 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



FOOD FIESTA 2025

The Pentecost Food Fiesta will be held this year on Sunday 8th June. We will be holding a planning meeting next **Thursday 13th February** at 7:00pm in the Marian Centre for anyone who is interested in being involved. All Welcome. For more information contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 or admin@stbernadette.org.au

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

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

A World Day of Prayer for the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2025 via parracatholic.org/world-day-prayer-feb11

ST BERNADETTE'S NETBALL CLUB 2025 REGISTRATION

Netball registrations for 2025 are now open! Follow the below link to register for the St Bernadette's Netball Club 2025 season in less than 5 minutes. Accepting all players ages 7-12 and women 13+ (all ages and abilities, so mums don't be afraid to register yourself) <https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/org/st-bernadettes-netball-club-castle-hill/e8ec1edf/register>

PLUS every new player will receive a FREE Club training shirt, thanks to our amazing sponsor Blueprint Property Pty Limited Any questions please do not hesitate to contact our club president Anne Younis via her mobile 0404 427 987.



SCHOOL OPEN DAYS



ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW - KINDERGARTEN 2026

We warmly welcome new families to join our school community. register for our upcoming Open Day/School Tours via our school website. If you require any further information, please call 02 9407 6600.

GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Open Day Tuesday 4 March 2025 4:00pm - 7:00pm For more information about our Open Day or current vacancies please contact us on (02) 8853 8200.



MOUNT ST BENEDICT COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Sunday 2 March 10am - 2pm Please note: Families with a daughter in Year 5 should apply now for Year 7, 2027. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4.



OAKHILL COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Sunday 2 March 10am - 2pm please register online for the open day at <https://www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au/open-day-registration>



FAITHLIFE SCRIPTURE SHORT COURSES FOR ADULTS

Are you looking to read the Bible more in 2025 but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Wednesdays, 12, 19, & 26 February. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown - Bishop Bede Heather Centre. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/faithlife> OR email met@parracatholic.org



Upcoming Events

Please see notices for further details.

| February | This Week |
|----------------|---|
| Tues 11th | Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am Reparation Prayer Group 7:00pm |
| Wed 12th | Wednesday Morning Bible study 10am Young Adults Bible Study 7:30pm |
| Thurs 13th | Food Fiesta Meeting 7:00pm Holy Hour 8pm-9pm |
| Sun 16th | Young Adults: Anne Younis "Forgiveness" |
| February | This Month |
| Thurs 20th Feb | Reconciliation Registrations close |
| Sun 23rd Feb | Fundraiser BBQ: Parish Council |
| Fri 28th Feb | Youth BBQ social night |

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out to one another in this way, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.' The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said: 'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1

(R) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything. Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it. I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 5:1-11

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Communion Antiphon:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Readings Next Weekend

15-16 February 2025

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

| First Reading | Second reading | Gospel |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Jer 17:5-8 | 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 | Lk 6:17, 20-26 |

Feast Days This Week

| | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 10 Feb | Saint Scholastica |
| 11 Feb | Our Lady of Lourdes |
| 14 Feb | Saints Cyril and Methodius |

Put out into deep water and pay
out your nets for a catch

Luke 5:3



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF

For the Anniversaries of: Rainier de Leon

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Victoria Rix, Eleanor Ross, Yvonne Hill, Minda Robles, Marion Heron, Geoff Roney, Mark Skogvold