



ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH BULLETIN

1 Cox Crescent, Dundas Valley

PO Box 248, OATLANDS NSW 2117

Tel: 9871 4414

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year B: 27 December 2020

From the Padre:



The Devil hates families and he is always working to cause strife in them and to break them up. He tried through Herod to kill the child Jesus, happily destroying as many children as he could along the way. He works today to convince many that “*terminating a pregnancy*” is not only acceptable, but even a good thing to do. He works at destroying family life through pornography and concupiscence, through greed, materialism and selfishness, through pride and unforgiving arrogance. Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love one another. He never taught us that this would be a breeze. Sometimes it is very difficult, but all things worthwhile require a greater effort. Love requires the greatest effort and sacrifice of all. Mary and Joseph made every sacrifice for the Child Jesus, and always worked to do what was right before God and the commands of their faith. In these days of confusion and uncertainty, we need to put God first above all else and to stay close to Him, and especially to stay close to Jesus, Mary and Joseph through prayer and love. They understand us and desire to help all who call on them.



READINGS FOR MASS:

Entrance Procession

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir.

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1-6, 8-9

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! R.

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. R.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. R.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. R.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

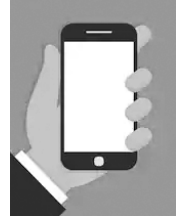
NOTICES:

❖ Mass Times New Year:

New Year's Eve: Mass 11.00pm

New Year's Day" Mass 9.30am

- ❖ **Mobile Phones:** We ask the faithful not to use mobile phones in Church at all. The problem is that they have a light shining from them which can distract others; there is also the risk of messages and phone calls coming through during Mass which again distracts the user and those around them, even if they are on silent. At Mass we are supposed to be focussed on our Lord and on the prayers offered. It seems unhealthy if people cannot put them away for one hour to give themselves completely to our Lord.



- ❖ **The Piety Store** in the church foyer has been re-stocked with beautiful items in time for Christmas or any occasion. Statues, candles, crucifix, rosaries, books, Christmas cards & man more devotional items.
- ❖ **Sunday School (Commencing Term 1 2021)**
The Parish is preparing to offer Sunday School lessons for school-aged children in Term 1, 2021. The program will focus on Scripture and Catechism. Lessons will be held in St Bernadette's Primary School, starting at 11am on Sundays during term and finish no later than midday. If you are interested in availing of catechism classes for your children, please let the parish office know.
- ❖ **Bishop's Christmas Appeal:** Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and CatholicCare thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal.
- ❖ **Reader's Roster for 2021** is available for collection on the small table near the Grotto.
- ❖ **Parish Office** will close on Wednesday 23rd December 2020 and will reopen Tuesday 2nd February 2021. For Emergencies: please leave a message on the answering machine.

YOUTH NOTICES:

- ❖ **Thank you** to all the parents, youth & families who helped with food, transport & organising throughout the year. May God Bless You!
- ❖ **Catholic Central:** Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/3195895270470713/> for further information and to RSVP.



- ❖ Parishioners please be reminded you have free access to the Parish's subscription to **'Formed'** an online media platform at www.formed.org Through this subscription you will have access to thousands of great Catholic content such as movies, video presentations, audio books, talks and eBooks. This is very useful for families with young kids and parents learning and teaching the Faith. Simply go to 'Sign Up' select 'Sign up as a parishioner' and search for your Parish name and location. You will then be prompted to insert your name and email address.

The Friars wish to thank all of our many parishioners for their great generosity and hard work. We are very grateful to you and pray for you every day.

Parish Priest: Father Christopher Sarah FSF
Assistant Priest: Father Ruben Martello FSF
Assistant Priest: Father Benedict Mackenzie FSF
Parish Secretary: Joanne Habib
Parish Office: 9871 4414
Sacramental Coordinator: Frances Zore
Website: www.friarsofstfrancis.org
Email: neversdv@bigpond.com

Contributions to Planned Giving:

(Please quote in the reference either your INITIAL & SURNAME or ENVELOPE NUMBER)

Name: St Bernadette's Catholic Parish
BSB: 067 950
Account: 00000271

ROSTER FOR MINISTRIES: 2-3 Jan 2021

	Sat Vigil 6pm	Sun 8am	Sun 9.30am
Readers:	G McAdam	B Chigwidden	E Nott
Altar Servers:	Rick Atie Samara Cliff Reshan Weerakkody William Ha Sarah Ha	Flitcroft Family Damian Chigwidden Joshua Locke Olivia Elias	Boudib Family Natalie Higgins Xavier Redolfi Lance Rivera Louis Rivera
Acolytes:	Motha John Bosco	Peter Thomas	Gerard Redolfi
Flower donor:	Mr Stephen Rossi Julian Cheering M & A Sullivan		
Altar Gowns:	Maggie Elias		
Floral Arrangers:	Holy Family: Ted, Elisa & Dominica		
Altar Society:	G 5: Fri/Sat 1-2/01/2021 @ 8.00am: Ces Reyes, Leonie Guthrie, Marita Cudmore		
Cleaners:	G 4: Saturday 2/01/2021 @ 9.00am: D Tudehope, J Nipperess, L Chehade, M Billingsley, F Fitzgerald, D Greenfield, J Doueihy		

Let us pray for all our sick relatives, friends and parishioners, especially:
 Ellie Eagan; Rima Sammour; Grace Wheatley; Jen Hogan; Lois Grant; Kathy Krahe; Emily Carter; Jan Joyce; Cosimo Arcorace; Isobel Espiritu; Oliver; and all of our sick parishioners and loved ones.

Let us pray for our deceased loved ones, especially:
 Frieda Piesch; Eileen O'Connor; Clotilde Nasri Canaan; Warwick Johns; Charlie & Rita Saliba; Cermelo Mifsud; Daniel Aramayo; Rena Davidson; Margaret Bonnet; Shan High Chau; Virhinia Chiu; William & Christmas Gardiner; Roly, Nohad & Wahib Maroun; Barbara Matthews; The Holy Souls in Purgatory; ***May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.***

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
 defend us in the battle; be our protection against the malice and snares of the Devil.
 May God restrain him, we humbly pray, and You, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the
 divine power cast into Hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who roam through the
 world seeking the ruin of souls.
 Amen.*

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: have mercy on us. (3 times)
 Immaculate Heart of Mary: pray for us*

	<p><u>McAuley Hawach</u> Lawyers</p>
<p>Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney, Enduring Guardians, Personal Injury, Commercial Disputes, Estate Litigation, Family Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced • Speak English, Arabic & Italian • Team of lawyers
<p>11 Fennell Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 PO Box 2371 Parramatta NSW 1750 Australia P: (02) 9633 1826 F: (02) 9687 8114 M: 0413 853 331</p> <p>stevemcauley@mcauleyhawach.com.au www.mcauleyhawach.com.au</p>	

Benidion Financial Services	
<p>Alfred Boudib <small>BEC, CERT IV Finance and Mortgage Broking</small></p> <p>Credit Representative Authorised Mortgage Consultant</p> <p>E: alfred.benidion@ampfp.com.au</p>	<p>Suite1, Level 1, 235 Pitt St, Merrylands, NSW, 2160.</p> <p>M: 0411759975 T: 9897 7400</p>
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<p>Richard Khoury - Director Sales / Leasing / Property Management</p> <p>Suite 5, 241-245 Pennant Hills Road Carlingford NSW 2118 M 0432 221 550 E richard@starrpartners.com.au starrpartners.com.au</p>