



# St Bernadette's Parish

Under the Pastoral Care of The Paulist Missionaries  
59B Westmoreland Road, North Sunshine

Parish Office / Presbytery 9311 2977 - School 9311 8872 - Augustinian Sisters 9312 3953  
Parish Email: sunshinenorth@cam.org.au - Parish website: stbernadettesparish.com.au



## Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Year B

7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Parish Staff

Fr Silvio Bezzina mssp	Parish Priest
Miss Amanda Browne	Pastoral Worker
Mrs Joyce Cutajar	Parish Secretary (Mon, Thurs & Fri)
Mrs Bev Tessari	Office (Tuesday)
Miss Josie Desira	Office (Wednesday)
Mr Brendan Gill	School Principal



### Dear Parishioners and Friends,

During this week we are celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. For the people who were physically close to him, that eventful day started off with the discovery of an empty tomb. It made the pain of the passion, crucifixion, and death even greater. They felt the frustration and pain of not even being allowed to grieve over a dead body. Death seemed to be everywhere, and no amount of anger, sadness and weeping was going to make the darkness go away. It was Jesus himself who shone a light, and thus overcame the darkness. His apparitions brought them joy. It was a different sort of joy. It was the joy of the resurrection, when God brings life out of death, out of nothingness. Somewhat like the joy of parents when their baby is born. Only much greater. Jesus brings us that joy. Let us dwell with this joy during this Easter season.



It was a joy to see a packed church for the celebrations of Passion Week, and especially the three days of the Paschal Triduum. Preparations, both physical and spiritual, geared us up, and we celebrated with simplicity, reverence and meaning.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parish staff and volunteers for all the generous work done. You were instrumental in making these celebrations so meaningful. Everyone could see that you were fully in it and helped make the church ambience and the liturgy so beautiful. Such beauty brings a smile on faces, and a spiritual and emotional openness to God in the hearts of the whole congregation.

Thank you and a Happy Easter to all.

Fr Silvio

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



Children's Liturgy takes place every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the 11am Mass. It is an opportunity for children to explore the gospel reading of the day in a more child friendly way so that they understand it's message more clearly.

Last Weekends Thanksgiving \$4,745.60

### Weekday Masses

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>** The Annunciation of the Lord  
7.30pm tối thứ hai hàng tuần có Thánh Lễ và lần chuỗi LCTX

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
9.15 am Mass

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>**  
9.15 am Mass

6.30 pm Novena, Rosary followed by  
7.00 pm Mass

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** St Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr  
9.15 am Mass  
11.00am Funeral for Christine Ghanime - Rosary followed by Mass

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**  
9.15 am Mass

### Weekend Masses

Saturday - 6.30pm and  
8.00pm Neo-Catechumenal (Pioneers Hall)  
Sunday - 8.30am, 9.45am (Polish) 11.00 am,  
12.30pm (Vietnamese) and 7.00pm.  
2nd Sunday of the Month 2.00pm (Samoan)  
except in November and at Easter time.

### Reconciliation

Wednesday Evening - 6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Saturday - 11.00am to 12 noon (at the Presbytery)  
and 6.00pm to 6.30pm.

### Baptisms

By Appointment Only.  
Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month at 11.00am.



### Divine Mercy Sunday Year B

Reflect, today, upon The Divine Mercy.

As you do, humble yourself through prayer by admitting to God and to yourself that His Mercy is beyond what you will ever comprehend. Do this in prayer. Reading about God's Mercy is important, but it will only be through prayer that we begin our contemplation. And it will only be through this contemplation that we will begin to live the central purpose of our lives.



*Glorious Divine Mercy, pour down upon me; open my mind to Your depth and breadth. Help me to begin to contemplate You in Your fullness so that I can begin my eternity with You now.*

*My loving Savior, You have revealed so much about Your Mercy. May I not only learn about this Gift but also receive it into my life. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## ALPHA Series

The Alpha series provides an opportunity for individuals to explore their faith in a different way. It reinforces the power of God's unconditional mercy and love and by sharing their journey with others, participants have the opportunity to deepen their faith and love for Jesus.



Our Alpha Series starts on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. The session will start with Dinner at 6:30pm. Sessions will take place in the school staffroom – please enter via the side gate on Willey Street.

If you think that you would be interested in being a part of this series, please email Amanda at [brownieab75@gmail.com](mailto:brownieab75@gmail.com) or call her on 0438 514 304.



## PROJECT COMPASSION

Please return your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes by the 14th of April.



You can read the Augustinian Sisters latest bulletin on their website.

[https://www.asjmoz.org/mission-news-feb\\_mar2024.html](https://www.asjmoz.org/mission-news-feb_mar2024.html)

## THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

We thank for your generous contributions to St Bernadette's Thanksgiving Program. If you would like to join the Thanksgiving Program, simply fill in a Census and Pledge Card form.

You can obtain this from the Sacristy.



## April Movie – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Come along for an evening of faith, fun and friendship.**

Our next Movie night will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of April at 7pm in the **SCHOOL STAFF ROOM**. Please enter via small gate on Willey Street.

**The movie for April is called "Jackson's Run"**



Jackson Stone is a reckless and troubled teen who rejects faith and the church as he blames God for everything bad in his life. At home, his seemingly uncaring parents ignore him, at school he's an outcast, and his only friend, Gunner, continues to pull him deeper and deeper into the abyss of trouble on the streets. Jackson struggles to come to terms with his fear of death, and his own mortality as he fights a life threatening illness. After a brush with the law, Jackson is sentenced to community service and placed under the watchful eye of Russell Tecumseh, a tough, streetwise pastor who operates a local homeless shelter. While at the shelter, Jackson forges an unlikely friendship with Nathan, a destitute homeless veteran, and as their friendship something neither have truly experienced - friendship. As Jackson progresses towards faith, he begins to transform from a street hoodlum to a responsible young man, but his fragile faith is rocked when Nathan reveals a shocking secret from his past. Jackson suddenly finds himself at a crossroads, and now must choose between what's easy and what's right as his own destiny hangs in the balance. Jackson's Run is a family friendly, faith-based, "Rites-of-Passage" story that explores life, death, suffering, and God's purpose in it.

## EDUCATION IN FAITH

### Doubting Thomas Believes....

I wonder would it be right to suggest that after Judas who betrayed Jesus, Thomas is perhaps the least liked apostle and follower of Jesus. After all he had been with Jesus for three years during his public ministry. He heard Jesus speak and teach.

He had seen and experienced some of Jesus' most power miracles. He had prayed and eaten with Jesus on numerous occasions. And yet, Thomas still doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. I do feel sorry for him. He is forever known as the one who would not or could not believe. He wanted and needed concrete evidence that Jesus had indeed risen and was alive. After his resurrection, Jesus continues to appear to his friends and followers. Through appearing to the men and women who were his friends and followers, he encourages and strengthens them; he calms their fears. When he appears to them, he says,

Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Thomas is not with them when Jesus appears. The others tell him that Jesus had appeared to them and spoke to them. But he does not believe and he is not convinced and so 'Doubting Thomas' is born.'

I think we have to be careful about over criticising Thomas for his apparent lack of faith. Perhaps we should admire and applaud him for his honesty and conviction. He is honest with himself and others. He desperately wants to meet and experience the risen Jesus for himself.

He is not the only one who doubted that Jesus had risen. When Mary Magdalene told the others that she had met the Risen Lord, none of them believed her. In fact, most if not all the followers of Jesus doubted.

When Jesus does appear again, he asks Thomas to touch and put his finger into his wounds. Then he can have the proof he needs to believe. But the gospel doesn't say that Thomas did this. Instead it tells us that he cried out loudly, 'My Lord and my God.' This is the prayer of someone who believes, not someone who doubts.

None of us go through life without struggles and doubts. There are times when we are at our weakest, whether physically, emotionally our spirituality. Difficult as it can be, we have to believe and trust that Jesus is with us just as was with Thomas. Jesus is always with us, especially when we feel we are most alone and doubting. When we are struggling to believe, it can help to realise that we are not in control and neither are we on our own. It can be a time of growth for us as we reach out and ask God to help us with our doubts and whatever we are struggling with.

When have these doubts, may we have the faith and courage of Thomas. Like him, may we say with courage and conviction, My Lord and my God.

**Michael Moore OM**

## THANK YOU

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, *for all future generations.*

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Saturday 6.30pm:** Souls of Vicente & Philomena, Nguyen Cong Thanh, Scerri Family, Mary Gatt, Salvatore Gatt, Camilleri & Cutajar Families, Joe Pulis - Joe & Mary Porter, Porter, Fleri, Falzon and Micallef families, Louis & Theresa Galea, Michael Angelo & Rita Gatt, Bernard & Carmela Pace, Firmino & Maria Moretto, Alvin John, Joseph & Carmen Bugeja, Ganna & Joseph Pace, Gregory & Joe Pace, Victor, Carmelo & Maria Galea & Family, Carmelo, Rita, Loreto & Damien Grech, Xuereb Family, Grech Family & Special Intentions, Sam Xiberras, Carmelo Mercieca & Grech Family, Lewis & Emanuel Azzopardi, Tarcisio, Gulia, Spiro, Emanuel & Patrick Debrincat, Angelo & Maria Camilleri, Julie Camilleri, Guzeppi & Zarenu Farrugia, All Souls

**Sunday 8.30am:** Augustina Irons, Chris Said - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, Lewis & Emanuel Azzopardi, Tarcisio, Gulia, Spiro, Emanuel & Patrick Debrincat, All Souls

**Sunday 11.00am:** Doris Hili, Josephine, Dominic, Frances Borg, Nick Attard. Golina & Frank Cini, Michael, Saminu, Wenzu, Hoe & Maria Cini, Pace Family - Rosario Manariti, Spiteri & Mercieca Families, Pauline Debrincat, Tony Micallef, Paul Cutajar, Joseph Grech, John & Nina Sultana, Rita Trost, Catherine Wicker, Josephine Borg, Antonia Lawrence & Joe Sultana & Family, Bernard & Carmela Pace, Firmino & Maria Moretto, Gregory & Joe Pace, Emmanuel Piscopo & Family, Fred Xiberras, Joseph Vella, John & Geswalda Borg, James & Gladys Pinto, All Souls

**Sunday 7.00pm:** - Alvin John, Joseph & Carmen Bugeja, Ganna & Joseph Pace, All Souls

**Recently Deceased:** Nguyen Cong Thanh

**Anniversary:** Doris Hili (5<sup>th</sup>)

**Funeral:** Christine Ghanime - Thursday 11th April at 11.00am - Rosary followed by Mass

**Sick:** Elli Riikonen, Bertti Riikonen, Clementina Leong, Kim Borg, Theresa Vella

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD - Second Sunday of Easter

### First Reading:

Acts 4:32-35

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-240

**RESPONSE:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

### Second Reading:

1 John 5:1-6

*A reading from the first letter of St John*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

John 20:29

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel:

John 20:19-31

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Next Week's Readings: Acts 3:13-15; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48