



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



Third Sunday of Easter

Year B

14th 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,

This Tuesday we celebrate the feast of St. Bernadette, patron saint of our parish. Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of a poor miller in the town of Lourdes. She was a simple and virtuous girl and suffered from asthma from an early age. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes.



There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Although Bernadette's initial reports were met with disbelief, her daily visions of "the Lady" attracted great crowds. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Following great scrutiny, the Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862. Since then millions of visitors have travelled to Lourdes, and many have found healing and solace.

Her life was characterised by suffering due to her frequent illness, and the unwarranted attention she received from authorities. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35, at the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers, whom she had joined. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.

Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand—as we all must do from time to time. (www.franciscanmedia.org)

God bless you.

Fr Silvio

Weekday Masses

Monday 15th

7.30pm tối thứ hai hàng tuần có Thánh Lễ và lần chuỗi LCTX

Tuesday 16th

Feast of St Bernadette

9.15 am

Mass - Whole School Attending

12.00 pm

Funeral for Joseph Said - Mass

Wednesday 17th

9.15 am

Mass

6.30 pm

Novena, Rosary followed by

7.00 pm

Mass

Thursday 18th

9.15 am

Mass

Friday 19th

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 2nd Saturday of the Month at 11.00am.



3rd Sunday of Easter

Year B

Reflect, today, upon your own knowledge of Jesus and the transforming power of His Resurrection in your life. Has



God spoken to you within the depths of your soul? Have you perceived this inward knowledge and had your mind opened? Listen attentively to our Lord—not just with your ears but primarily with your spirit. It is there, within you, that you, like the first disciples, will come to know and believe in the life, death and resurrection of Christ so that you can then go forth empowered to proclaim these truths to others.

My revealing Lord, You showed Yourself to Your disciples not only physically but spiritually, revealing Your very essence to them interiorly. Please bestow this gift upon me, dear Lord. May I come to know You and believe in You with all my heart. As I do, please use me as an instrument of Your mercy to others. Jesus, I trust in You.

Last Weekends Thanksgiving \$3,840.35

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 15th 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 or call her on 0438 514 304.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Our Scripture reflection sessions are on Thursday evenings. These sessions are via ZOOM video platform so you do not need to leave the comfort of your own home to attend. If you haven't already attended these sessions, but would like to, please send Amanda an email to brownieab75@gmail.com and she will send you the ZOOM link weekly. These sessions focus on reflecting on the scripture for the following Sunday and they are a chance for you to connect, not only with the Word of God, but also with other Parishioners.



Good Shepherd Sunday 21st April

Next Sunday we celebrate

Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.



DO YOU HAVE A ROOM TO RENT

We have a woman of middle age who works in IT looking for a room to rent.

If you do have a room please contact the Parish Office on 9311 2977 and speak with Fr Silvio or Joyce.

ROOM TO RENT

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.



Fr Rob Galea, Catholic Priest will be attending Resurrection Parish Kings Park on **19 April** from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Fr Rob Galea is an ordained Catholic Priest, currently serving in Sandhurst Diocese. He is an internationally acclaimed author, singer and songwriter. Our Parish is hosting a night of fellowship, formation and inspiration. **THIS IS A FREE EVENT.**

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Transfiguration: Changed and being changed!

It is hard for us to imagine what it must have been like to be in the room where the disciples had gathered and were now listening to the two who had just returned from Emmaus and were telling them about their experience of the risen Jesus. All of them had to have been excited and full of questions.

Then Jesus came and stood in their midst and spoke to them very gently: "Peace be with you." It's obvious that Jesus understood their amazement and confusion. He immediately wants to set their minds at ease: "See my hands and feet; it is I. Touch me; I'm not a ghost." "Have you anything to eat?" And he eats the piece of fish they gave him. We're told the disciples were incredulous with joy.

Then Jesus takes the time to explain to them all the Scriptures - from Moses and the prophets and psalms - that referred to him. All of this was to prepare them for their mission as witnesses to all these things.

Jesus wants to have a similar encounter with each of us in prayer. He wants us to know him as our crucified and risen Lord. He wants us to experience him as our Advocate with the Father – the One who forgives our sins and reconciles us with the Father. He wants to open our minds and hearts to the depths of God's word in the Scriptures – words which invite us into the fullness of the mystery of God's great love and mercy – words which are meant to transform us into his brothers and sisters.

Sometimes we find ourselves tempted to think that there must be one definitive experience of Jesus that will change us forever – an experience like the one in today's Gospel. We search the books of spiritual writers, trying to find that "best" way to make this happen. And we often find ourselves frustrated – and feeling very imperfect: "I must be doing something wrong."

Today's Gospel is instructive. Jesus is the one who chooses the time and way he will reveal himself. The disciples were just there in the room; they did not have to do anything to prepare for Jesus' coming among them. They were just thinking about him, and their minds were filled with questions. Then Jesus is there, telling them: "Peace be with you."

Our expectations for some definitive experience of Jesus may be blinding us to the experience that Jesus wants for us. He knows our desires – and our limitations. He may not want to overwhelm us at a particular moment. He does want us to be there in prayer with an open heart. He will fill us with his love in the way he knows we need it.

May our eagerness for an experience of Jesus in prayer always be tempered with confidence and trust in his loving care for us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Saturday 6.30pm: Rita Bugeja, Camilleri & Cutajar Families, Joe Pulis, Louis Xuereb, Stellini & Xuereb Families - 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, Angelina & Xavier Cascun, Alfred Cascun, Lyn Guiliano, Lourdes Cutajar, Mary Portelli - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, Lewis & Emanuel Azzopardi, Tarcisio, Gulia, Spiro, Emanuel & Patrick Debrincat, All Souls

Sunday 11.00am: - 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: Connie Micallef - Alvin John, Joseph & Carmen Bugeja, Ganna & Joseph Pace, All Souls

Recently Deceased: Marjorie Lorraine Crichton

Anniversary: Connie Micallef (2nd), Xavier Cascun (13th), Lyn Guiliano (2nd)

Funeral: Joseph Said - Tuesday, 16th April - 12.00pm Mass
Cecil Baxter - Our Lady's Church Monash St Sunshine on Tuesday 16th April at 11.00am.

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

Meaning-making Awareness & Reflection This reflective event on **20 April**, offers a sacred space to reflect upon your life using a tree as a metaphor. Between 10am – 2pm, join our facilitator Nicole, a counsellor trained in Narrative Therapy to walk with you through this contemplative space.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meaning-making-awareness-reflection/>

Or email info@heartoflife.melbourne Learn more about Heart of Life: www.heartoflife.melbourne



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LITURGY OF THE WORD - Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading:

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said to the people 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9

RESPONSE: Lord, let your face shine on us.

Second Reading:

1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

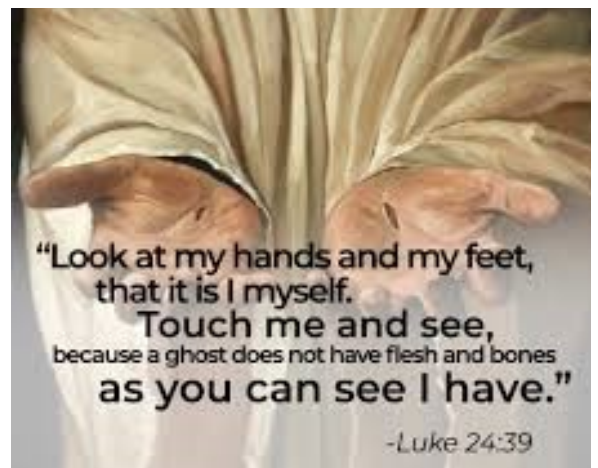
The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Next Week's Readings:

Acts 4:8-12; John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18