



# 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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year B

5<sup>th</sup> May 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                    |



### Weekday Masses

#### Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

**7.30 pm** tối thứ hai hàng tuần có Thánh Lễ và lần chuỗi LCTX  
**10.00 am** Funeral for Michael Buhagiar - Rosary followed by Mass

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

**9.15 am** Mass  
**10.30 am** Funeral for Frank Sammut, Rosary followed by Mass

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Pompei (Prayer for MSSP Vocations)

**9.15 am** Mass  
**6.30 pm** Novena, Rosary followed by  
**7.00 pm** Mass

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> St George Preca

**9.15 am** Mass  
**2.00pm** Funeral Mass for Giuseppina (Rita) Demarchi

#### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> St John of Avila

**9.15 am** Mass (School attending -Mother's Day 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.



### Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The month of May has begun, and with it the cooler weather we were looking forward to, even if we did not have much of a summer this year!

May reminds us of our mothers. We will be celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>, and it will be a great day to remember and acknowledge their presence in our lives. May is also the month of our Mother Mary, mother of Jesus. She is our spiritual mother, always by our side to lead us onto Jesus.



On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May we remember two priests: Joseph DePiro (1877-1933), founder of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (Paulist Fathers), and St. George Preca (1880-1962), founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine (Preca Community). Both priests were aware of the great need felt by people to hear the word of God and had evangelisation close to their heart. They were also close friends, supporting each other in their ministries in Malta. Both DePiro and Preca chose to follow the way of poverty and love for those in need. We will remember them during this week.

This Sunday, Br Can will be professing his final vows of Poverty, Obedience, Chastity and Missionary Service at St. James in Hoppers Crossing. Let us pray that the Lord Jesus, who called him to join our Society and be a missionary, will be ever-present in his life.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, I will be travelling to Malta to participate in the General Chapter of the Paulist Fathers. It will be a moment to take stock, discuss and evaluate the mission of the Paulist Fathers, and to discern the way forward in the light of the theme for this General Chapter: *Salt of Earth, Light of the World*. It will also be a moment to reconnect with other missionaries ministering in other countries. I will then spend a few weeks close to my family. Please keep me in your prayers and know that you are surely in mine.

During the time I will be away, Fr Noel and Fr John will be replacing me at the parish, and Fr Stephen will be coming from the Philippines to support them. Thankyou Fathers for your generous support.

God bless you.  
 Fr Silvio

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Reflect, today, upon the invitation Jesus has offered you to enter into a true friendship with Him. This means that God becomes the centre of your life. It



means that you seek to give yourself, selflessly and without reserve, to Him Who is deserving of all your love. It means you choose worship and obedience to perfection. The reward of such love is that you are able to enter into a bond that is so holy, so pure and so fulfilling that it completes you, enabling you to become who you were meant to be.

*My God and true Friend, You offer me everything in life. You offer me Your perfect love, given fully and without reserve. I pray that I will reciprocate that depth of love and offer to You all that You deserve. I offer You my love, worship and obedience, dear Lord. May this mutual love form a bond that will never end.*

*Jesus, I trust in You.*

Last Weekend's Thanksgiving \$3,341.35



## CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

This weekend is the CatholicCare Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community - those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

**Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.** Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available, donate online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2.00 and above are tax deductible.

## Pentecost and the Holy Spirit in our Lives

Have you ever experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? Have you ever had the opportunity to reflect upon the significance of Pentecost - not only for the disciples of Jesus after he ascended into Heaven, but for each one of us in our daily lives?



On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, in partnership with Michael Azzopardi from the Proclaim Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Parish will be running a Pentecost Retreat Day.

The Retreat Day will take place at St Bernadette's School and will run from 9:30am to 5:00pm. There will be opportunities to reflect with Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, Raniero Cardinal Cantalamessa (video), as well as opportunities to worship with song.

If you would like to join us for this prayerful experience, please contact Amanda on 0438 514 304 or via email at [brownieab75@gmail.com](mailto:brownieab75@gmail.com)

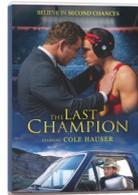
## May Movie– Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

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

Our next Movie night will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm in the **SCHOOL STAFF ROOM.**

**Please enter via small gate on Willey Street**

**The movie for May is called "The Last Champion"**



John Wright was a hometown hero - the powerful star of his high school wrestling team and a promising Olympian. He could have had it all ... but one bad decision destroyed his dreams and forced him to leave under a cloud of scandal that has haunted him ever since.

Twenty years later, John returns to his small town after his mother's death, hoping to save his family home from foreclosure. His icy reception proves that his former friends and neighbours still haven't forgiven him for letting them down. Unexpectedly, John gets the opportunity to turn everything around — by coaching his high school's wrestling team. There he meets Michael, a talented underdog with a troubled homelife who faces a vicious opponent out to destroy him both on and off the mat. Can John become the leader the team and Michael needs, or will he lose himself to the dark demons of his past? The Last Champion is an inspirational family sports drama that will have you believing in second chances. Beautifully photographed in the Pacific Northwest, it's a story about faith, loss and redemption.



## STOP

We have been noticing the increasing damage made to the tops of the church pews from scratching off the varnish. Whoever it is that is doing this please STOP.

## MASS COUNT

We will be counting attendances at each mass throughout the month of May. Starting this weekend.

## MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



Would you like to sponsor a child in the Philippines, Pakistan or Peru who is being cared for by the Missionary Society of St Paul Priests, and help with their wellbeing and education? Or aid in the welfare of women in Pakistan? You can for only \$5 per month.

For more information pick up a brochure from the foyer or call the Parish Office on Monday, Thursday or Friday between 9.30am-3.00pm or email [missions@mssp.org.au](mailto:missions@mssp.org.au).

## EDUCATION IN FAITH

Today's gospel reading records some of Jesus' last words to His closest followers before the crucifixion. His primary message is the same one we heard in the second reading: "love one another." We have already seen that love is more than a feeling. It is self-giving and active. When Jesus calls us to love one another in the Church, He is giving us a high calling that is not easy. How can we do this? Well, we can't on our own. It is only the love of God working in us that makes it possible for us to truly love. Jesus said, "Remain in my love." This is the key. We must be full of Jesus' love to have any love to give to others. How do we remain in His love? By keeping His commandments. We manifest God's love best when we are in right relationship with God. Sin (i.e. breaking the commandments) separates us from God and can prevent, by our own choice, the love of God from effectively working in and through us. But when we obey God's commandments and align our wills with His will, then we can truly love one another. When we let God's love fill us and spill out into others, then it is amazing what God can do through us. The reality is that it is hard to love as God calls us to, but with God all things are possible. Jesus died out of perfect love for us and because of His death we can have life in Him that brings life to others. Let us, therefore, receive the love of God and then selflessly share that love with others.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Saturday 6.30pm:** Mary Gatt, Salvatore Gatt, Camilleri & Cutajar Families, Joe Pulis, Louis Xuereb, Stellini & Xuereb Families, Family Scerri, Alfred & Cettina Bugeja, Nguyen Kinh, John the Baptist-Nguyen Kinh, Maria-Nguyen thi Ho - Joe & Mary Porter, 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:** Rita & Salvu Cini, Evelyn Tuason, Rachel Ching Dayao - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, Lewis & Emanuel Azzopardi, Tarcisio, Gulia, Spiro, Emanuel & Patrick Debrincat, All Souls

**Sunday 11.00am:** Sam & Angela Camilleri, Paul Cassar - 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, Luigi & Adelina Moretto, Ivan Bacak, All Souls

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

**Recently Deceased:** Evelyn Tuason

**Funeral:** Michael Buhagiar - On Monday, 6 May at 10.00am, Rosary followed by Mass  
 Frank Sammut - On Tuesday, 7 May at 10.30am, Rosary followed by Mass  
 Giuseppina (Rita) Demarchi - On Thursday, 9 May at 2.00pm, Funeral Mass

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

**THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES**

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.

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD - Sixth Sunday of Easter

### First Reading:

Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realize', he said, 'is that God does not have favorites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps 97:1-4

**RESPONSE: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

### Second Reading:

1 John 4:7-10

*A reading from the first letter of St John*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

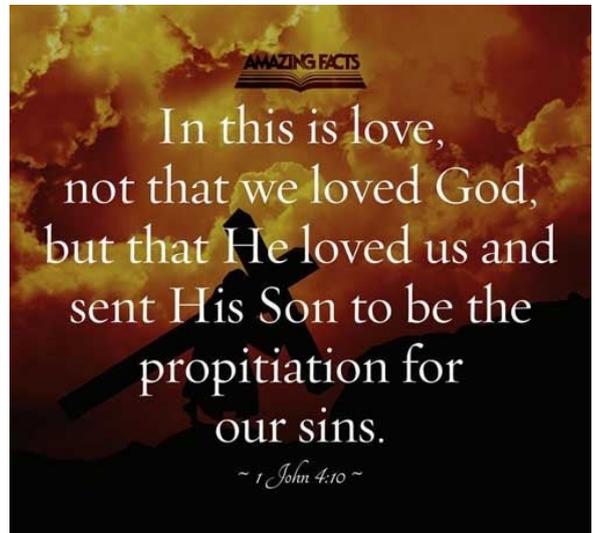
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**John 14-23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**



### Gospel:

John 15:9-17

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

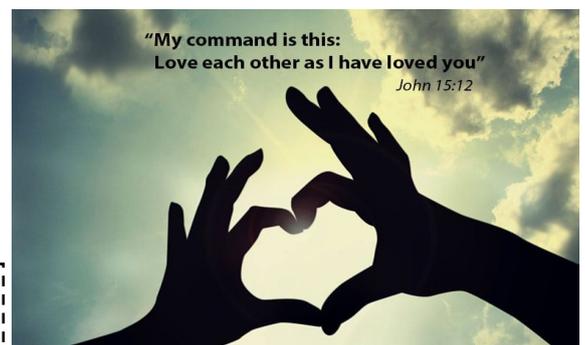
Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



**Next Week's Readings:**

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20