



# St Bernadette's Parish

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

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



## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

4<sup>th</sup> February 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



## EDUCATION IN FAITH

'Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.' That's our Psalm response for today. When we pick up the book of Psalms we come face to face with the human condition: beauty and joy, heartache and hate, stress, and peace, praise and even, yes, murderous thoughts. Everything is there. We are not alone in our bleaker thoughts. Countless have been brokenhearted before us.

Knowing this doesn't make it any easier, not really. But when we see today's Gospel we can see hope. Christ made his ministerial life into a powerful show of love, of empathy. If any text shows how much we are loved by him, it is today's Gospel. He went from here to there healing those who were sick. And, when he retreated because he was tired, his disciples searched for him. And when they found him he replied: 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' He was selfless. We know that from his death on the Cross. But we know it from his ministry, too. Selfless and full of love to those who were hurting.

We don't need a limb hacking off or boils all over our bodies to be candidates for Jesus's healing. Many of us need healing from heartbreak, in one of the countless forms that might take. Many of us will relate to what Job has to say in the first reading:

'Lying in bed I wonder, "When will it be day?"  
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.'

So, remember that Christ wants so very much to heal us. It is his dear wish. Healing can take various forms. Sometimes it is a miraculous, inexplicable wiping clean of the slate. Other times it is a coming to terms with grief or trauma, a reunderstanding of something that once floored our spirit. It can take time. It can be a process.

When we are in those dark times, let us find a quiet place and enter into encounter with God, thanking him for life even when it hurts, giving ourselves to him even when we can barely function properly. We ask for his grace, that we may be healed, and that God may become the peace and the joy of our lives. After all, we are loved by him! Amen.

## Weekday Masses

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> St Agatha**  
**7.30pm** tối thứ hai hàng tuần có Thánh Lễ và lần chuỗi LCTX

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> St Paul Miki & Companions**  
**9.15 am** Daily Mass  
**1.00 pm** Funeral for Maria Grace Iannaccio - Rosary followed by Funeral Mass

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**9.15 am** Daily Mass  
**6.30 pm** Novena, Rosary followed by  
**7.00 pm** Mass

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> St Jerome, Emillani & St Josephine Bakhita**  
**9.15 am** Daily Mass  
**11.00 pm** Funeral for Josephine Xerri - Rosary followed by Funeral Mass

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**9.15 am** Daily 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.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year B

Reflect, today, upon the people in today's Gospel who were so enthralled by Jesus that they continually sought Him out.



Consider their excitement, their hope and their genuine joy at their discovery of the Messiah. As you think about them, consider whether you share in their excitement about Jesus. If that excitement is lacking, recommit yourself to seeking out our Lord. And where you see that excitement present, rejoice and give glory to God.

*Most glorious Lord, Your love and mercy are truly amazing. Please help me to continually see this in my life and to continually become enthralled by Your presence in my life. May I run to You always, giving You my full attention and love. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Last Weekends Thanksgiving \$3,011.85

## Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Today we continue to examine Fiducia Supplicans.

**Why do we give a blessing?** Blessings help us to acknowledge God's presence in all the events of life and remind us that we are invited to seek God, to love him, and to serve him faithfully. For this reason, blessings are said over people, objects of worship and devotion, sacred images, places where people live, work and encounter pain, the fruits of the earth and human toil, and all created realities that refer to the Creator, praising and blessing him by their beauty. (FS #8).



We may pray for a blessing that **descends** from God to people. It is God's gift. When we praise or glorify God, our blessing **ascends** to Him. Other blessings **extend towards others**, as happens when a mother blesses her children. Jesus himself blessed the children, the bread, and the apostles.

From a **strictly liturgical point of view**, a blessing requires that what is blessed agrees with the will of God. We know God's will in creation and as revealed by Jesus Christ. For this reason, we cannot bless a union that presumes to be a marriage but in fact is not.

However, *a blessing cannot be seen only from this point of view*. (FS #12). We cannot lose sight of **pastoral love**, says Pope Francis, as that would make of us "judges who only deny, reject and exclude".

God wants his Church to bless and gives her the power to do so. When we bless, we bring about inclusion, we build solidarity, and enhance peace. We also convey a message of care, comfort, and encouragement. It is an expression of God's merciful embrace and the Church's motherhood. We share God's feelings towards our sisters and brothers (FS #19). This is a more **pastoral viewpoint of blessing**.

*(To be continued...)*

God bless you.

Fr Silvio

## A RESURRECTED LIFE

A prayer and reflection resource for Lent. Starting on Ash Wednesday 14th February. You can purchase a copy from the Piety Stall for \$8.00.



## February Movie Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

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

Our next Movie night will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of February at 7pm in the **SCHOOL STAFF ROOM**. Please enter via small gate on Willey Street.

**The movie for February is called "Until Forever"**

Based on the heroic true story of Michael and Michelle Boyum, "Until Forever" is a charming, honest and deeply moving film that clearly communicates the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

**for rent**

## DO YOU HAVE A BUNGALOW TO RENT

Please contact Leo on 0402 236 760



## GARAGE SALE

COME ALONG AND JOIN US



At St Bernadette's Community

Centre, Cooke Avenue, Sunshine North

**Saturday & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February from 9 am to 2.00 pm**

HEAPS OF BARGAIN...INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD GOODS, PLANTS, BOOKS AND LOTS MORE. **PLEASE NO DONATION THIS TIME**

## 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.



## ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2024

For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes.

The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant.

## St. Bernadette Parish Visitation Bishop Martin Ashe Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Draft programme (some events / timings may change)

### FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> Feb: Focus – School and Parish Leadership

- 9.00am Bishop Martin arrives.
- 9.15am Celebrate mass, School Children in attendance
- 10.00am Visit to St. Bernadette School.
- 2.00pm Meeting with Parish Staff.
- 6.00pm Meeting with Pastoral Parish Council, Leadership team, Finance Committee.
- 7.00pm Dinner

### SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> Feb: Focus - Parish Community

- 9.30am Parish ministries meeting.
- 10.30am Morning Tea with everyone
- 11.00am Parish Forum (no clergy). Opportunity for Parishioners to speak with the bishop about priorities, goals, and challenges.
- 2.30pm Visit St. Bernadette nursing home and elderly parishioner.
- 5.30pm Meeting with Young parishioners.
- 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass (First Sunday of Lent).
- 8.00pm Meet the neo-catechumenal community.

### SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> Feb: Celebration of Masses across the community

- 8.30am Sunday Mass
- 9.30am Parish Morning Tea
- 9.45am Meet and greet Polish priest and community.
- 11.00am Sunday Mass
- 12.30pm Meet and greet Vietnamese priest and community.
- 1.00pm Lunch and break
- 7.00pm Sunday Mass
- 8.15pm Depart

**A suggestion from Fr Noel: Take some time to listen to an inspirational woman on YouTube - Joni Eareckson Tada's story.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Saturday 6.30pm:** Salvatore Gatt, Mary Gatt, Paul & Rita Bugeja, Camilleri & Cutajar Families, Joe Pulis, Louis Xuereb, Stellini & Xuereb families, Scerri Family - 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, All Souls

**Sunday 8.30am:** Emanuel Xiberras, Oreste Farrugia, Giuzeppa Xerri & Spiro Zahra, Anna - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, All Souls

**Sunday 11.00am:** Joseph Cassar, John Vassallo, Rosario Manariti, Flavio Camorani, Sam & Angela Camilleri, Paul Cassar - 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, Joseph Vella, Bernard & Carmela Pace, Firmino & Maria Moretto, Gregory & Joe Pace, Emmanuel Piscopo & Family, All Souls

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

**Anniversary:** Joseph Cassar (2<sup>nd</sup>), Flavio Camorani (20<sup>th</sup>)

**Recently Deceased:** Alexandro Costa, Carmel Muscat

**Funeral:** Maria Grace Iannaccio - Tuesday 6th February at 1.00pm. Rosary followed by Funeral Mass.  
Josephine Xerri - Thursday 8th February at 11.00am. Rosary followed by Funeral Mass.  
Maria Lucifora - Thursday 15th February at 10.30am. Rosary followed by Funeral Mass.

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

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading:

**Job 7:1-4, 6-7**

*A reading from the Prophet Job*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Ps 146:1-6**

**RESPONSE: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

### Second Reading:

**1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Matthew 8:17**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel:

**Mark 1:29-39**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



**Next Week's Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1; Mark 1:40-45**