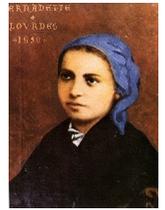




# St Bernadette's Parish

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



First Sunday in Lent

Year B

18<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



### Weekday Masses

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

9.15 am Daily Mass

#### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> St Peter Damian

9.15 am Daily Mass

6.30 pm Novena, Rosary followed by

7.00 pm Mass

#### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> The Chair of St Peter Apostle

9.15 am Daily Mass

#### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> St Polycarp

9.15 am Daily Mass. After Mass 'The Way of the Cross'

### 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 (Samoa)  
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,

This weekend we welcome to our parish Bishop Martin Ashe, Auxiliary Bishop to the Western Region (Melbourne). As he shared with us, his intention was, and still is, the meet parishioners and celebrate the liturgy. It is a great opportunity for us all to know Bishop Martin, and I am sure he is happy to encounter many parishioners, whether at meetings or during the celebration of Mass.



Bishop Martin's visit gives us the opportunity to do some soul searching and reflect upon how the parish has grown since its inception. What characterises our parish, in terms of demographics, participation, hospitality, service, discipleship, worship and more? Are we willing to reach out to others and evangelize? It is surely a time to look ahead and envisage a future parish reality. It is my hope that we will be able and willing to investigate this with an open mind in the coming months and years.

In the meantime, let us celebrate the bishop's visit, and take time to meet and celebrate with faith.

This visit coincides with the beginning of Lent, which is a season of preparation for the celebration the paschal mystery, that is the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We are invited to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and as we do so, we discover that our own journey very often intertwines with His. We walk the same path, sometime with joy and sometimes with sadness and pain. I admire those people who continue to walk with the grace of God, even if their path is difficult due to health, family, work, or other issues. They are always in my prayers.

May this Lenten Season be a time of growth and renewal for us all.

God bless you.

Fr Silvio

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Lent

Reflect, today, upon the amazing truth that both angels and demons are constantly active in your life, seeking to influence you. As you ponder their spiritual role in your life, consider the various ways you can learn more about them. Speak to your guardian angel. Ask for the intercession of the highest of angels. Try to join them in their divine worship. Pray for their protection. Ask them to communicate to you the highest of truths from God. Seek to be attentive to these holy angels so that as you learn to discern their voices, you will be ready to follow the direction they give to you from God.



*My Lord and Creator of All, You created the angelic order for the glorious purpose of love and worship. You also give them the mission of enacting Your holy will and communicating to us on earth. Please help me to be more aware of the deceptions of the fallen angels and the direction of the good angels. Angels of God, pray for me, protect me and guide me into God's perfect will. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### 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 \$4,218.00



## Increase your prayer and reflection life during Lent this year.

One important way of coming closer to Jesus is prayer. For this reason, during the season of Lent, on Friday evenings, at 7:00pm, we will be having a prayer or reflection opportunity.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Stations of the Cross

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Movie Night – “Do You Believe?”

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Prayer around the Cross

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Lenten Mission (in English)

Save the dates. More details will follow.

Everyone is welcome.

Let us make Lent a truly prayerful season.



## We Welcome into our Parish Community

**Nicola An Mary Pham & Steven Binh Eymard Pham**  
children of Hoa & Yen

**Tam Le** daughter of Tony & Ha

**Scarlett Anna Hooker** daughter of Gavin & Laura

**Oskar Jan Zientara** son of Slawomir & Magdalena

## First Sunday of Lent



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

Meet **Ronita** from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet **Leaia** from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet **Memory** from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

### Please donate to Project Compassion.

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.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



## A RESURRECTED LIFE

A prayer and reflection resource for Lent.

You can purchase a copy from the honesty box in foyer for \$8.00.



## EDUCATION IN FAITH

### Our Lenten journey with Jesus begins

Strange as it may seem to us so soon after Advent and Christmas, but this is the first Sunday of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten Pilgrimage with Jesus as we prepare to celebrate Easter. However, we have some way to go with Jesus and each other before we can experience the joy and new life of Easter.

Our gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert. The gospel puts it rather more seriously than Jesus *being led* into the desert! It opens with the words, The Spirit *drove* Jesus into the wilderness (desert) and remained with him for forty days. Why was Jesus led or driven in to the desert?

The desert in Jewish history is very important. When God freed and saved the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years in the desert. They wandered and sometimes got lost as they tried to find their way to the Promised Land. This was not an easy journey for them. At times they lost faith in each other and in God. They forgot the promise that God made with them; *'I will be your God and you will be my people.'* As they made their way through the desert, many would have stopped travelling and settled near the closest oasis or watering hole. Some others would have joined others tribes and religions that they met on along the way.

Famously, when they were at their lowest, they made a statue of a golden calf and began to worship it. They had forgotten where they had come from, what God had done for them and lost sight of where God was leading them.

It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refused to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. Although our gospel for this Sunday is written by St. Mark, the gospel of St. Matthew gives us more information about what might have happened to Jesus. He is tempted with the false gifts of power, prestige and wealth. His power and identity come from God. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey. He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today; *'The time has come, the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'* What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? It is the good news that each of us is created, loved and forgiven by God.

As we begin our own Lenten journey today, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side very step of way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength. He turned to God and asked for help which he received. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey on our own. We need to realise that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone.

Michael Moore OMI

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Saturday 6.30pm:** Fred Xiberras, Scerri Family, Theresa & Tony Zammit Mary Grima, Louis Xuereb, Stellini & Xuereb Families, 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, All Souls

**Sunday 8.30am:** Antonio Stenta, +Theresa & Tony Zammit - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, Lewis & Emanuel Azzopardi, Tarcisio, Gulia, Spiro, Emanuel & Patrick Debrincat, All Souls

**Sunday 11.00am:** Dingli & Hili Families, Sam & Angela Camilleri, Paul Cassar, Ricarte & Leonora Advincula, Baltazar & Efrene Advincula, Aurora & Renato Tolentino, Ricarlina Advincula - 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, All Souls

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

**Anniversary:** Rosemary Xiberras

**Recently Deceased:**

**Funeral:**

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

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading:

Genesis 9:8-15

*A reading from the Book of Genesis*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps 24:4-9

**RESPONSE: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

### Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:18-22

*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

Matthew 4:4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

### Gospel:

Mark 1:12-15

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



**Next Week's Readings: Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10**