



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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

28th January 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



4th Sunday

Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual journey toward holiness. If you do see serious sin in your life, know that God wants to profoundly free you and draw you through a major



conversion. If you do not see serious sin in your life and if you already strive daily to become holy, then rejoice if your spiritual consolations and communications from God are much more subtle and, at times, undetectable. Keep working at perfection and rejoice that you are on the correct path.

Lord of all holiness, please continue to draw me into the life of perfection. Help me to grow in every virtue and to continually be aware of every gift of grace I am given. Please help me, especially, to be attentive to every small and subtle grace and to respond to those graces with a truly open and grateful heart.

Jesus, I trust in You!

Weekday Masses

Monday 29th

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

Tuesday 30th

9.15 am Daily Mass

Wednesday 31st St John Bosco

9.15 am Daily Mass

6.30 pm Novena, Rosary followed by

7.00 pm Mass

Thursday 1st St Brigid

9.15 am Daily Mass

Friday 2nd

Presentation of the Lord

9.15 am Daily Mass

Weekend Masses

Saturday - 6.30pm Vigil Mass,

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.



Last Weekends Thanksgiving \$3,065.95

Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

25th January, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Paulist charism

Today, **25th of January**, we celebrate the feast of the **Conversion of Saint Paul**. We contemplate its profound significance in our spiritual journey.

Saint Paul, a pivotal figure in Christianity and a beacon for missionaries, embodies the transformative power of a personal encounter with Christ. Founder Joseph DePiro selected Paul's Damascus Road experience as an icon guiding our discipleship and missionary pursuits. Emphasizing the gradual growth and formation in Paul's journey, we recognize the importance of encountering Christ personally and enduring the necessary trials for spiritual transformation. Paul's letters illuminate the nature of the relationship we are called to foster with the Lord, influencing our humble service and commitment to becoming all things for all people.

On this occasion, we encourage our lay members to renew their commitment to the missionary charism, embodying both discipleship and apostleship within the Church.

We pray for open hearts in the spirit of Paul, seeking the face of Christ and building a supportive community in Christ.

I greet you from the Philippines where I am visiting our brothers and sisters here on the occasion of the 25th anniversary from the foundation of this mission.

Blessings

Fr Mark Grima mssp
Superior General



Dear Friends and Parishioners,

On the 18th of December 2023, a Declaration on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, named *Fiducia Supplicans* was published by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican. This Declaration caused quite a stir, as some thought that it signalled a reversal in Catholic teaching regarding marriage and same-sex relationships. Some parishioners have asked me about this, and I promised to write about it in the church bulletin. Since it was close to Christmas, I put it on the back burner.

You may read the Declaration (of about 10 pages) from www.vatican.va. It is very clear that there is no reversal of teaching regarding marriage, but there is a broader and better understanding of the concept of blessing.

The Declaration **remains firm on the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage**. It does not allow any type of liturgical rite or blessing like the liturgical rite of marriage, because that could create confusion. However, *it offers a specific and innovative contribution to the pastoral meaning of blessings*.

As a result, *one can understand and respond positively to the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage*.

Pope Francis reiterates Catholic teaching, stating that a marriage is always an "exclusive, stable, and indissoluble union between a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children". He adds that *something that is not marriage cannot be recognised as marriage*" (*Fiducia Supplicans* para 4). In a few words, a blessing is permitted and even encouraged, but it cannot be seen as a marriage.

(To be continued next week...)

God Bless You

Fr Silvio



Bishop Martin Ashe hails from Ireland, and was born in 1953 in Kinsale, Co. Cork. He studied at All Hallows (Dublin), and was ordained in 1978

On 31 July 2021, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Melbourne by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.

Bishop Ashe is Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region.

He will be visiting our parish during the weekend of the 16th to 18th February 2024.



PIETY STALL - NEWS

We have lovely new items for sale. Come have a look.

Helpers are still needed to open the Piety stall on Saturday 6.30pm and Sunday 8.30am masses. Just for 15 minutes before mass and 15 minutes after mass. If you would like to help and be on the roster, please write your name, contact number and your preferred mass time on the blue sheet in the piety stall.



GARAGE SALE

COME ALONG AND JOIN US

At St Bernadette's Community Centre,
Cooke Avenue, Sunshine North
**Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th February from
9 am to 2.00 pm**

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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 9th February

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

Our next Movie night will be on Friday 9th 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"



"Until Forever" is a film about the
strength of love in the midst of
fear, the endurance of hope in
the midst of loss, and the reality
of faith in the midst of doubt.

Michael and Michelle's
relationship is filled with love and
laughter and bonded with strong
faith. However, the young
couple's dream of a future
together is interrupted when

Michael is diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia.
Now they are confronted with circumstances that will
test the boundaries of their commitment.
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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy takes place every 1st, 3rd and 5th
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.

MINISTERS ROSTERS

New Rosters are available in the Sacristy for
Readers & Eucharist Ministers.
Please note: the rosters will no longer be included in
the bulletin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Saturday 6.30pm: Frank Muscat, Emanuel Spiteri, 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 Galea & Family, Carmelo, Rita & Damien Grech, Xuereb Family, Grech Family & Special Intentions, Sam Xiberras, All Souls

Sunday 8.30am: Emanuel Spiteri, Frank Muscat, Philip Zahra, Anna Azzopardi, Oreste Farrugia - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, All Souls

Sunday 11.00am: Emanuel Spiteri, Rosario Manariti, Frank Muscat, John Vassallo, Clementina Leong - 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, All Souls

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

Anniversary: Emanuel Spiteri (4th)

Recently Deceased: Alexandro Costa, Carmel Muscat

Funeral:

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

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."' "

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9

RESPONSE: If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark



Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week's Readings: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23; Mark 1:29-39