



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



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

17th March 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,

Today we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Lent, and we realise that Holy Week is only a week away. We continue to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the paschal triduum... the passion, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is important for us to remember, and to contemplate all that Jesus went through for the sake of God's love for us. Last Sunday we heard Jesus say to Nicodemus: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (Jn 3:16)*. God loved the world... not just believers and nice people, but also those far away from Him, including those who persecuted him, and continue to persecute fellow human beings and bring suffering upon themselves and others. Such is the greatness of our God.



Our response... *We love, because God loved us first (1 Jn 4:19)*. How can I not love my neighbour when I remember how much God loves me? Surely, it does not mean that I agree with, or I applaud my neighbour in whatever they say or do. It just means I need to continue to love them because God loves me, and He loves them too.

This week you are all invited for our Lenten Mission, from Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd March, at 7:00-8:00pm, in church. We will pray, listen, watch, and enjoy some time for silent reflection and blessing. Let this be our final preparation before we enter Holy Week. See you.

God bless you.

Fr Silvio

Last Weekends Thanksgiving \$3,749.90

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of Church flowers for Easter, please place your donation in an envelope with the words "Easter Flowers" on the front and give to Father or the Parish Office.

Thank you for your generosity.



Weekday Masses

Monday 18th St Patrick, Bishop

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

Tuesday 19th St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.15 am Daily Mass

7.00 pm Lenten Mission

Wednesday 20th

9.15 am Daily Mass

6.30 pm Novena, Rosary followed by

7.00 pm Lenten Mission

Thursday 21st

9.15 am Daily Mass

7.00 pm Lenten Mission

Friday 22nd

9.15 am Daily Mass followed by 'The Way of the Cross'

7.00 pm Lenten Mission (including 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 (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 2nd Saturday of the Month at 11.00am.

5th Sunday of Lent

Reflect, today, upon the ways in which God is calling you to the cross. As you do, don't allow fear to deter you.



Instead, look at every pending suffering as an opportunity to glorify God in your life. See your crosses with gratitude and joy and allow this new perspective to give you the strength you need to fulfill the mission given to you by the Father in Heaven.

Most glorious Father, Your will is perfect. You called Your Son to the suffering of the Cross. Through that act of perfect love, the suffering Your Son endured gave You perfect glory. Lord Jesus, please give me Your courage as I face my own sufferings in life and help me to imitate Your perfect obedience to the Father's will in all things so that I, too, may give Him glory. Jesus, I trust in You.



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 22nd March – Lenten Mission including Mass (in English)

Friday 29th March - Good Friday

Save the dates. More details will follow.
Everyone is welcome.
Let us make Lent a truly prayerful season.



Altar Server meeting for Easter

There will be a meeting on Saturday the 23rd of March at 10am in the Church for altar servers who are interested in serving for our Easter Triduum this year. If you would like to Altar serve during these special days and cannot attend the meeting, please let Amanda know on 0438 514 304.

Lenten Mission - Jesus and friends!



Previously known as the Maltese Mission (*Ezercizzi tar-Randan*), this year's Lenten Mission will be delivered in English.

As we approach the celebration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, we become more aware of the fact that we are not as close to Him as we would like to be. There is so much that pulls us away. Wouldn't it be nice to encounter Him face to face as some people did? Their encounter with Jesus had a profound effect on their lives. They surely have something to share with us! Save the dates and time.

Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd March 2024

At 7:00pm (finishing by 8:00pm)

THE VEILING OF CROSSES FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF LENT



The custom of veiling the cross and crucifix during the last two weeks of Lent comes from the former liturgical calendar in which the Passion was read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (hence called "Passion Sunday") as well as on Palm Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, and Good Friday. For this reason the period following the Fifth Sunday of Lent was called Passiontide.

The veiling of the crucifix and cross alerts us to a special time. The last 2 weeks of Lent are supposed to be times of intense preparation for the Lord's Passover. It is a forceful reminder for us to get ready. These last 2 weeks of Lent are a reminder of Jesus' final days and so we need to be aware of our Lenten journey and how it has changed our hearts.



Proclaimers of the word and Eucharistic Ministers for the Easter Triduum.

If you would like to either Read or be a Eucharistic Minister during our Easter Triduum celebrations, please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Amanda will contact you in regards to which ministry you have been allocated. Thank you.



NEEDED - OLIVE BRANCHES

Do your Olive Trees need pruning, now is the time to do it!!! We would appreciate anyone who can donate olive branches for our Palm Sunday celebrations. Kindly cut them to approximately 30cm (12inch) in length if possible. Please drop them off at the Presbytery by **Thursday 21st March**.
Thanking You.

Washing of the Feet – Holy Thursday



If you would like to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please add your phone number also so that Amanda can make contact with you. Thank you

ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSHINE NORTH

9311 8872

ENROL NOW

ENROLMENTS FOR PREP 2025 ARE NOW OPEN.
IF YOUR CHILD TURNS 5 BY APRIL 30TH 2025, THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO START SCHOOL NEXT YEAR.
DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE OR COLLECT ONE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.



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.



We are planning to run another ALPHA course this year in our Parish and are looking to start the series mid April. The series goes for about 11 weeks and will once again be face to face. This year the Alpha series has new Australian Street Talks and a new interactive format with discussion questions and breaks throughout each episode.

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.



Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in everyone's best interest.

By opening a personal account with CDF Community Fund, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities.

With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including **5.55% p.a.* on a 12-month Term Investment**, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, or contact the CDF Team on csg@melbcdf.org.au or phone 1800 134 135.

*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).

Fifth Sunday of Lent 16 & 17 March

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2024.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, *for all future generations.*

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Saturday 6.30pm: Mary Grima, Bugeja Family, 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: Benjamin Irons, Joseph Sultana, Jerry Sultana - 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, All Souls

Sunday 7.00pm: Emy Saffarese, Charlie Said, Holy Mary - Alvin John, Joseph & Carmen Bugeja, Ganna & Joseph Pace, All Souls

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: Rob Brennan

Funeral: Josephine Borg on Tuesday 26th March at 10.30am, Rosary followed by Mass.

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

EASTER PROGRAM

Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd March

7.00pm to 8.00pm Lenten Mission - Jesus and Friends

Saturday 23rd March - Palm Sunday Vigil

Masses - 6.30pm and
8.00pm Neo Catechumenal (Pioneers Hall)

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday

Masses - 8.30am, 9.45 (Polish),
11.00am, 12.30pm (Vietnamese) and 7.00pm



Monday 25th March

5.30pm to 7.00pm - Polish Mission
7.00pm - Vietnamese Stations of the Cross
followed by Reconciliation

Tuesday 26th March

9.15am - Morning Mass
9.45am to 10.15am - Reconciliation
6.30pm to 8.30pm - Polish Reconciliation
7.00pm to 8.00pm - Polish Mission



Wednesday 27th March

9.15am - Morning Mass
9.45am to 10.15am - Reconciliation
6.00pm to 8.00pm - Reconciliation



28th March - Holy Thursday

7.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper



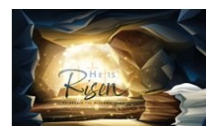
29th March - Good Friday

10.00am - Meditation on the Sorrowful Mother
10.30am to 11.30am - Reconciliation
3.00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

NB: Today is a day of fasting and abstinence.

30th March - Holy Saturday

3.00pm - A Blessing of the Food (Polish)
7.00pm - Vigil Mass of the Resurrection
11.00pm - Neo-Catechumenal Easter Celebration



31st March - Easter Sunday

Masses - 8.30am, 9.45am (Polish),
11.00am and 12.30pm (Vietnamese)

NB: No evening mass on Easter Sunday

1st April - Easter Monday

10.00am - Polish Mass
7.30pm - Vietnamese Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD - 5th Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 50:3-4. 12-15

RESPONSE: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

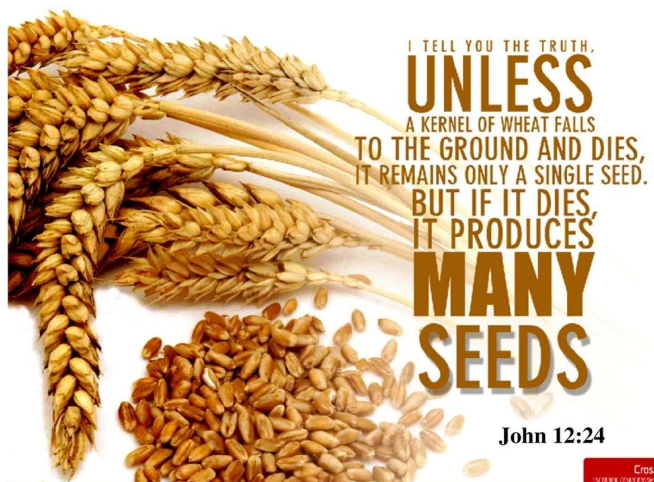
People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47