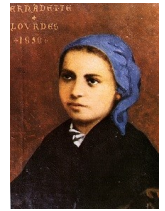




# St Bernadette's Parish

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



Second Sunday in Advent

Year C

5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Parish Staff

Fr John Taliana 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

**Tuesday to Friday - 9.15am**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** - St Ambrose

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Mass for Vernon Browne  
7.00pm St Bernadette's Community Centre,  
Cooke Ave

## Weekend Masses

Saturday - 6.30 pm Vigil Mass,  
Sunday - 8.30 am, 9.45am (Polish) 11.00 am and 7.00pm  
12.30pm Vietnamese (1st & 3rd Sunday)

## Reconciliation

Saturday

Call the Presbytery to make an Appointment

## Baptisms

By Appointment Only

Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month at 11.00am



## WELCOME BACK

To attend mass we all need to abide by the Government restriction.

Fully Vaccinated **12 years + 2 months and over** need to provide evidence of your Covid 19 Vaccination Certificate either through the Services Victoria App or a hard copy. You will have to check-in using QR Code and at this time show the Welcomers your Covid 19 Vaccination Certificate as you enter the church.

Our Welcomers are there to help.

Masks are highly recommended.

We understand this may be inconvenient but please remember that these rules are a way of keeping us all safe.

We ask that you come early to Mass.



Second Sunday of Advent

Reflect, today, upon the unerring truth that you need to repent. You do. The only person who doesn't need to daily repent is the one who lives perpetually in a state of perfect communion with the Most Holy Trinity. But these holy souls are rare. Don't be offended by this truth but rejoice in it. Give thanks

to God for the strong words of Saint John the Baptist, spoken to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and allow yourself to hear those words yourself, as if they were spoken just for you. Receive them with humility and rejoicing, and allow them to prepare you more fully to receive our Divine Lord more deeply into your soul this Advent season.

*My powerful Lord, You sent Saint John the Baptist before You, so as to prepare many hearts to receive You and Your transforming truth. Please humble me, dear Lord, so that I will listen to the words spoken by John and will indeed continually repent of all of my sin with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Our Scripture reflection sessions are on Thursday evenings. These sessions are via ZOOM video platform so you do not need to leave the comfort of your own home to attend.

If you haven't already attended these sessions, but would like to, please send Amanda an email to brownieab75@gmail.com and she will send you the ZOOM link weekly.

These sessions focus on reflecting on the scripture for the following Sunday and they are a chance for you to connect, not only with the Word of God, but also with the other Parishioners that join.



## New Details for FR DENIS

If you would like to visit or talk with Fr Denis he is at Rosary Home, Odessa Ave, Keilor Downs.

His direct phone number is 9365 3545 or Rosary Home's Office 9367 7722.



## Please Pray For

All who have died recently, for all whose Anniversaries

occur at this time and  
for all those  
who are sick  
and dying.



On **Wednesday 8th December** at

**7.00pm** we will

have a special mass to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin.

**Starting with the Rosary at 6.30pm.**



## **CHRISTMAS**

### **FLOWERS**

If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the Church flowers for Christmas, please see Sr Renata at the Convent.



## **CHRISTMAS TREE**



We invite all Parishioners to share with others by donating non perishable food or gifts. These can be placed under the Christmas Tree in the foyer or dropped off at the Parish Office. Donations must be left no later than **12th December** as St Vincent De Paul Society will collect the donations the next day to distribute them to needy families in time for Christmas.

## **Memorial Mass**

For Vernon Browne will be held on Friday the **10th December** at **7.00pm** at St Bernadette's Community Centre Cooke Ave.

## **MINISTERS ROSTERS**

Proclaimers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Welcomers, your rosters can be collected from the Sacristy.

## **MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



The Society's 2022 Calendar is available in the church foyer. Take the time and have a look at the photos and read about their missions in Peru, Cuba, Pakistan & Philippines.

## **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY**



A meeting and practice for all those children who would like to be involved in this year's Nativity Play will be held on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at 5pm in the church. The Nativity Play is part of the Christmas Eve Family Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December at 6pm. If you cannot attend this meeting but still would like to be a part of the play, please contact Amanda on 0438 514 304.

## **WALKERS NEEDED**

We are looking for people who will deliver the Christmas Program to letterboxes in our area. If you are interested please leave your name and contact number with Father after Mass. We appreciate your help.



## **ADVENT ANGELS ARE HERE!**

These handcrafted decorations are **only \$3 each** and will be on sale at **St Bernadette's** at all masses **this weekend**. Please come along, support this fundraising effort and help to make a difference.

All money raised is donated to mssp missions in support children's education.

We can only accept cash for purchases at St Bernadette's.

## **GLOBAL GIFTS - Caritas Australia**



You can make a big difference to the lives of people experiencing poverty this Christmas.

When you buy a Global Gift, through Caritas Australia, your loved one gets a special card and you help raise much-needed funds for vulnerable communities around the world.

Some order forms are available in the foyer or visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

You can also call the Caritas Supporter team on 1800 024 413

## **Advent 2021 with Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy**

You are invited to 'Expect the Unexpected' this Advent. Join me each day for a short, free Advent Daily Devotional Video that will guide you on a life-changing journey.

Starting November 28th you'll receive short inspirational videos each day from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be!

Register now or for more information: <https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent/> Email: [info@brucedownes.org](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

VERBUM DEI CARO FACTUM EST.

## **SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

Quddiesa ta Ringrassjament ghas-sena 2021, ghal Koperaturi  
U il hbieb tal MUSEUM,  
iccelebrata min Rev. Fr. Carm Borg,  
Nhar it-Tnejn, 13 ta Dicembru fis-sigha pm, fi Preca Centre,  
82 Westmoreland Rd, North Sunshine.  
(Tridu tkunu hadtu id double Vaxine)  
Wara jkun hemm xi refreshments.  
**IL-MILIED IT-TAJJEB LILL KULHADD**  
Miriam Belli 9387 9492

**First Reading:****Baruch 5:1-9***A reading from the Prophet Baruch*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:****Ps 125**

**Response:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

**Second Reading:****Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11***A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:****Luke 3:4. 6**

**Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

**Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!**

**Gospel :****Luke 3:1-6***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## EDUCATION IN FAITH

### Prepare a Way for the Lord in Advent

#### God's Messengers

The Jewish People of the Old Testament had been promised that the Messiah, the Chosen One of God would come to deliver and save them from oppression and slavery. They were told through the Prophets, God's messengers, that God would always be with them. Sadly, over the generations, they had lost faith and hope in this message. They in fact, had turned away from God and forgotten that God had indeed saved them and was always guiding and leading them.

#### Forgotten Promise

By the time of Jesus, the people had almost completely forgotten the promise, the Covenant that God had made with them. They were now being ruled and governed by the Romans and they longed for a new ruler, one of their own who would overthrow the Romans and create a new Jewish empire. God had never forgotten them; the Messiah was coming, but not the sort of Messiah they wanted. God had an altogether different plan for them.

This Sunday in the gospel we meet and hear from the great messenger and Prophet; John the Baptist. Before Jesus arrives, John is the last of the Prophets of the Old Testament. The Prophets had a very important role in the lives of God's People. They came to remind the people that God had neither abandoned or forgotten them. They came to challenge the people because of the way they were living and treating each other; often unfairly and unjustly. Lastly, they came with a message of hope for the future; God's Chosen One, the Messiah would come eventually in God's time and in God's way, not theirs. So John the Baptist comes to challenge and to encourage the people. He came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

#### An Invitation

We don't normally experience Advent as penitential time, but it is, just as Lent is. Advent calls us to prepare to celebrate Christmas as best we can. Perhaps reflecting prayerfully on the quality of daily lives is part of this preparation. This need not be difficult or painful. We are invited to return to our loving and forgiving God who will welcome and embrace us tenderly and compassionately. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation could be a very enriching and fruitful way of getting ready for Christmas.

#### And a challenge?

Perhaps this is what the second part of John's message means to us during these Advent days; he calls, invites and challenges us to prepare a way for the Lord. As well as preparing for Christmas by shopping and getting our homes ready, we could also take some time to get ourselves ready at a prayer and spiritual level too. What in my own daily life needs changing and improving? Is there someone in my family or a colleague in work to whom I am being asked to say sorry and apologise?

This week as we take another step on our Advent Journey may we do whatever we can to prepare a way for the Lord, whether at home, in school or at work. -Br Michael Moore OMI

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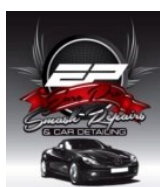
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