

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Year B

21st April 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 22nd

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

Tuesday 23rd St George, Martyr, St Adalbert of Prague

9.15 am Mass

Wednesday 24th St Fidelis of Sigmaringen

9.15 am Mass

6.30 pm Novena, Rosary followed by

7.00 pm Mass

Thursday 25th ANZAC Day

9.15 am Mass

Friday 26th St Mark, Evangelist

9.15 am Mass

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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.

Weekend Masses

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.



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

On the 5th of May, Br Can, one of the Vietnamese seminarians of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, will be professing his final vows as a member of our Society. As we rejoice in the call he received and his saying yes, we wish Br Can all the best in the Lord.



Today we are celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who cares about his sheep. They know his voice and follow him. He is ready to give his life for them. That, says Jesus, contrasts him to the hired hand, who does not really care about the sheep because they are not his.

A few weeks ago, we celebrated the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Truly, the Good Shepherd gave himself and was crucified to save us, his sheep, from the slavery of sin and death. He willingly accepted death, and he had the power to take it up again. He is Risen! As the risen Lord, he continues to care for us, shepherd us, and grant us the comfort of his voice and marvellous deeds.

He also calls upon us to be true shepherds who work hand in hand with him. Each of us is entrusted with a mission in life, and as we care for those who rely upon us for support, care, and love, we are true shepherds.

Today we are invited to pray for priests and priestly vocations. Priests have a pastoral role to play in the church. They are called to be shepherds who work hand in hand with Jesus and act in his name. Like him they are to be good shepherds. They know they are not perfect, and sadly sometimes they err gravely. But with God's grace, they continue to shepherd the flock entrusted to them.

So let us today pray for holy priestly vocations. May the Good Shepherd continue to call upon and give those who are called the grace to say yes. We Paulist Fathers call upon you to pray for us so that we may continue to minister with love in all circumstances.

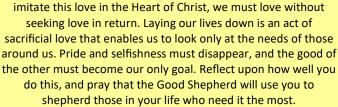
God bless you.

Fr Silvio

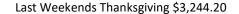
4th Sunday of Easter Year B

Reflect, today, upon the calling you have received to lay down your life for others in imitation of the

Good Shepherd. In order to



Divine Shepherd, You came to lay down Your life for us all so that we might have life and have it to the fullest. Like the blind man You cured, I profess my belief in You and worship You. Help me to receive and imitate Your love so that I will lay my life down for others, leading them to You, their holy Shepherd. Jesus, my Good Shepherd, I trust in You.



WELCOME BR CAN

Br Can will be speaking at all masses next weekend. This will be a good opportunity for you to catch up with him.

MISSION 2025

Experience mission with the Paulist Missionaries.

Share in the work of the church in Manila and in Bataan.

Young adults who have participated in last year's mission immersion will be

speaking during next weekends masses about their experience. They will be available to answer your questions after mass.





RCIA PROGRAM

Any person wishing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation through the RCIA program to become a member of the Catholic Church please contact

Tony Gatt on Mobile 0419115692.

Program commences on Monday 29th of April at 7pm.

Address: 29 Rosslare Pde St Albans.



We Welcome into our **Parish Community**

Josef Lawrence SULFARO son of Giovanni & Jennifer Judah Benedictus ANTONY son of Jonathan & Miriam Jordan Miles AZZOPARDI son of Shane & Katarina Anastasia Marie XERRI daughter of Paul & Natalie



The Missionary Society of Saint Paul And the family of

Br Can Tran mssp

Are pleased to invite you to join us in the Joyful celebration of the Final Profession of Vows

Sunday, 5 May at 10.30am

Saint James the Apostle Parish 330 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing Vic 3029

Presided by Fr Hector Attard mssp **Regional Superior of the Philippines mission**

Followed by light refreshments at the Paulist Centre Next to the church

RSVP by 29 April to: finalvows@mssp.org.au

Pentecost and the Holy Spirit in our Lives

Have you ever experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? Have you ever had the opportunity to reflect upon the significance of Pentecost - not only for the disciples of Jesus after he ascended into Heaven, but for each one of us in our daily lives?

On Saturday the 18th of May, in partnership with Michael Azzopardi from the Proclaim Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Parish will be running a Pentecost Retreat Day.

The Retreat Day will take place at St Bernadette's School and will run from 9:30am to 5:00pm. There will be opportunities to reflect with Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, Raniero Cardinal

Cantalamessa (video), as well as opportunities to worship with song.

If you would like to join us for this prayerful experience, please contact Amanda on 0438 514 304 or via email at brownieab75@gmail.com



EDUCATION IN FAITH

Jesus the Good Shepherd

For many of us today who live in cities and housing estates, we don't often see many shepherds herding their sheep to market! The language and images in the gospel can seem and bit strange to us today and may even be outside our experience altogether.

In the gospel this Sunday, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. At the time of Jesus shepherds were a part of daily life for many people. When Jesus uses the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking would have understood what he was talking about immediately. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. Just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep knows and trusts the shepherd. The shepherd guides and protects the sheep. The sheep go where the shepherd leads them. We are not sheep! But the Lord knows and loves each of us as individuals. We are not all the same to Jesus. He loves each of us personally and intimately. The Prophet Isaiah has a beautiful image of this when we writes, 'I have called you by your name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me and I love you.' If a shepherd cares for his sheep with great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us?

Jesus does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us. He invites us to follow him freely. The choice whether or not to respond is ours. We make take our time in responding, but Jesus will never stops calling us by our name; he will wait until we do respond.

Jesus does not call and ask us to follow him just for the sake of it. He offers us not only the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of his life. Jesus came so that each may have life and have it to the full. This fullness of life is offered to us here and now, not some time in the future.

As we continue our journey through Easter in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude and gratefulness. May we follow where he leads us.

Michael Moore OMI

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Saturday 6.30pm: Camilleri & Cutajar Families, Joe Pulis, Louis Xuereb, Stellini & Xuereb Families, Winstin Dingli - Joe & Mary Porter, 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: Rita & Salvu Cini, Winstin Dingli, Joseph Nguyen, Dinh Thanh, Maria Hoi Nguyen, Maria Ron Dinh, Da Minh Khiet Dinh, Teresa Thieng Dinh, Maria Huong Nguyen - Laurie Haber, John Muscat, Vernon Browne, Emanuel Spiteri, Rita Cini, Lewis & Emanuel Azzopardi, Tarcisio, Gulia, Spiro, Emanuel & Patrick Debrincat, All Souls

Sunday 11.00am: Winstin Dingli - 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, James & Gladys Pinto, All Souls

Sunday 7.00pm: Connie Micallef, Winstin Dingli - Alvin John, Joseph & Carmen Bugeja, Ganna & Joseph Pace, All Souls

Recently Deceased: Mary Zammit (mother of Fr Raymond Zammit)

Anniversary: Winston Dingli (12th)

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

DO YOU HAVE A ROOM TO RENT

We have a woman of middle age who works in IT looking for a room to rent. If you do have a room please contact the Parish Office on 9311 2977 and speak with Fr Silvio or Joyce.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Thank for your generous contributions to St Bernadette's Thanksgiving Program. If you would like to join the Thanksgiving Program, simply fill in a Census and Pledge Card form. You can obtain this from the Sacristy.



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LITURGY OF THE WORD - Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29

RESPONSE: The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The

Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 9:26-31; John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

