



# The Massabielle

The Weekly Newsletter of St Bernadette's  
Parish Community, Castle Hill, NSW

NOVEMBER 14 & 15 – THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

Issue Number 335

## OUR CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**S**he came to the parish office with a request for First Communion for her son. I thought she was returning the church keys when I opened the door. The fact that it was raining did not help put life into her hair which hung in damp clumps covering her eyes. I invited her in and something told me there was more to this story than a request for First Communion. It was 9.30 pm Saturday night. The conversation began with the fact that Brendan (not his real name) had brought home a note from school about children making First Communion. Brendan's Scripture Teacher had been talking about the sacraments of initiation at school and because he was Catholic, Brendan wanted to go to Reconciliation, be presented to the bishop for Confirmation and make his First Communion. "He wants to belong to something special like the Church", she said. "I am not Catholic, and my partner is not interested in anything religious, but Brendan says he prays every night and wants to know God better. He has learnt all about this at school. He constantly talks about his Scripture Teacher who has a soft spot for my son. Well, actually, he is not my son; he is my partner's son, but I want to do the right thing by him. Home is not very good at the moment and Brendan feels safe at school and comes home telling me about how God loves everyone, even sinners. Because of my marriage situation I don't feel I would be welcome in the church, but Brendan is pleading with me to take him to Mass on Sunday."

The presenting issue was First Communion, but I knew that there was more than this. She told me that her partner had come home drunk a few hours earlier. He had screamed at the kids and

verbally attacked her. He hadn't hit her, but she felt she had to get out of the house because of the tension. He was a good man when he didn't drink, but a bad day at the races and a few drinks, made him become abusive and intimidating.

She had a child by another man and the man who fathered this child was refusing to pay any maintenance. "Wasn't his child", he said. Her older child had some medical problems but he was at home looking after the younger children. After his rage, her partner had fallen asleep. He had lost a good deal in gambling during the week and had tried to recoup this money at the races. But he had blown the lot. Somehow she would survive financially but at my suggestion of help from the St Vincent de Paul Society, she said her pride would not allow her to seek financial help, thereby perhaps depriving someone more in need of Vinnies help.

She was the genuine article. She wasn't after money. She just wanted to talk. After about fifty minutes she dried her eyes, said she was ready to go back home, and thanked me for listening. She asked me if she could come another time and talk with me. She said she would bring Brendan and I could tell him about a few things he was doing wrong. "He's very religious, but I told him that Jesus did not like boys who leave wet towels on the bathroom floor". She seemed surprised when I said that Jesus loved everyone, even people who left wet towels on bathroom floors. As she was leaving I assured her that I would welcome seeing her again but asked if she felt that it would be more beneficial to see some professional person with a view to changing some of the home situation. I said that the Diocese had an agency where the goal was to empower families to make



**We should never make a judgement about others until we have walked in their shoes.**

changes in their situation. I said that the Diocese also had a service that assists gamblers and their families to deal with the issues and problems caused by gambling. She was interested when I said that counselling was provided for individuals, couples and families. She said she would think about it and talk it over with her partner.

After she left I just sat for an hour in the dark, thinking. To me family life is very important. Families, including blended families, are the building blocks of our society. Relationships that are outside of those endorsed by the Church still provide children with protection from neglect or abuse. Our Diocese strives to make our world a better, safer place for children. We financially support Catholic agencies and assist professional staff who work with families who need a hand up.

People who believe Jesus judges those who leave wet towels on the bathroom floor will also believe the Church judges those who sometimes find themselves in a fix. Neither is true. Jesus' way is about compassion and mercy. It is non-judgemental and caring.

If it were not for a caring catechist going into the state schools, Brendan's mother would not have thought about coming to the Church when she needed help. She still had her pride despite the situation she found herself in on that Saturday night. She knew her marriage situation was "irregular" but took the risk in speaking with a Church person. She did not need to be told the Church did not approve of her de facto situation. She told me as much. What she needed was help.

Three times a year we take up a collection for the works sponsored by the Parramatta Diocese. I firmly believe the money goes to a good cause. The catechists are educated by the Diocese and organised by a Diocesan central agency called the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Brendan only learnt about Christ through this agency. It is worth supporting. The Diocese's Catholic Social Services can help Brendan's family to function better as a family unit. The employees of these organisations are highly professional. Some receive government funding. Others are supported only by parishioners; people like you and me.

Today's gospel is about the end times. It is a truism that we believe our reward will be great in heaven. It is also said that charity begins at home. Let it begin in our diocese to make the difference we know even a small donation can make. By giving just 'something' today, we can contribute to changing people's lives. We can be the difference that makes a difference.

Father John.

## LITURGY CORNER

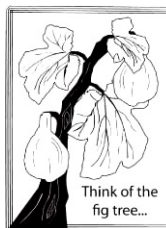
*"But in what sense is Christ a priest?" asks St Augustine, "Because he offered himself for us. Give your priest something He can offer" (Commentary of Ps149:6). We are constantly being invited in our daily living to give expression to the grace that has been entrusted to us by our initiation. Our daily spiritual sacrifices which bring peace, forgiveness, service, honesty, into our world provide our Priest with "something He can offer" to the Father. The Sacrifice of Christ has been offered once and for all, but must be constantly given concrete expression in faithful living by each Christian. "The meaning of the (Eucharistic) Prayer is that the entire congregation of the faithful should join itself with Christ ... in the offering of Sacrifice (GIRM78). Keep us faithful in serving you, for to serve you is our lasting joy.*

The Summit

## Today's Readings

**First Reading:** Daniel 12:1-3. The prophet Daniel tells of the end of the world and how some will be saved.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:11-14,18. Jesus has made just one sacrifice - himself. Through this sacrifice he has achieved eternal perfection.



**Gospel:** Mark 13:24-32. Jesus tells his followers of a dark time coming soon, when the Son of Man will come in glory. Nobody knows the day or hour.

### Next week: Christ the King - Year B

Daniel 7:13-14; Apocalypse 1:5-8; John 18:33-37.

**HOLY HOUR** every Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome!

### RETIREMENT VILLAGES SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

**Warrina**—Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Tuesday 17 November at 4pm in the chapel.

**Nuffield & Hopetoun** - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday 18 November at 4pm in the chapel at Farrer Brown Court.

**Nordby** - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Thursday 19 November at 4pm.

**Wirreanda** - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick on Thursday 19 November at 11am.

**Kilvinton** - Mass & Anointing of the Sick on Friday 20 November at 2pm at Brian King Gardens.

**Flinders** - Communion Service & Anointing of the Sick, Saturday 21 November 10am at Donnington Court.

**THE PARISH AGM** will be held this Thursday 19 November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend.

**DESPERATELY NEEDED:** Volunteer drivers to take people to appointments through the week. Phone Marion Heron on 9659 9385 if you can assist.

## SALE

**10% OFF EVERYTHING IN THE BOOKSHOP**  
(except Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars).

**THIS WEEKEND ONLY**

## NOVEMBER MASSES

Those who wish to have their loved ones remembered during the month of November are asked to include the names on the special November Mass offerings envelopes, and the Parish will add these names to the Book of Remembrance on the sanctuary. Only the names of recently deceased and anniversaries will be noted in the bulletin. Regarding the offerings amount, a decision by the Australian Bishops' Conference has noted that November Mass offerings are \$20 per Mass. However, St Bernadette's Parish will always continue to offer masses for the intentions of its parishioners, irrespective of the amount offered.

Parishioners are also invited to place a photo of any recently deceased parishioner or relative on the board in the Church foyer. Please place the name of the deceased person on the back of the photo with details of your name, address and phone number.

### DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL TODAY

The DWF Appeal is being held in our parish today. Please be generous in your giving.

**BOOKSHOP NEWS** Columban Calendars are available at the Bookshop for only \$7.00 each. Vinnies Christmas Cards (pack of 10) are \$6.50.

**ATTENTION LECTORS:** If you are a Lector at the Vigil, 7.30am, 9.00am or 10.30am Masses and are unable to continue in this ministry, please inform the Parish Office asap as new rosters are being prepared.

**LIFE BEGINS AT 50: Christmas Dinner** on Saturday 5 December in the Parish Hall, 7pm for 7.30 start. Three courses - \$50.00pp. Contact Howard for further information 9899 8983.

### COLLECT YOUR PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Those parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Programme by envelope are asked to collect your boxes containing the next 12 months supply of envelopes from the church foyer. A special thank you to all who helped prepare these boxes for distribution.

**REPARATION PRAYER GROUP:** The first meeting of this group will be held in St Bernadette's Church on Wednesday 2 December at 8.00pm followed by a cuppa. It is a response to Geraldine's talk on October 28. Future meetings will be either in the Church or in the Basement of the Parish Office.

**CANTEEN TENDERS CALLED** for St Bernadette's Primary School canteen. Please see the noticeboard for details.

**BLANKETS FOR THE NEEDY** final morning tea for 2009 is on Tuesday 24 November at 10am in the Marian Centre. All welcome. Transport available if needed. RSVP Jo 9634 5961 or Hilary 9894 5913.

### COME - SEE ... 21 November 2009

Topic: The Gift of Advent  
Time: 12 noon. BYO lunch, then 1 to 4.45pm  
Place: Marymount, 34 David Rd, Castle Hill  
Cost: \$5.00  
RSVP: 17 November to the parish office. **Sr Judy**



## Youth & Young Adults Ministry

**LIFE Nights** presents (for Grades 8 to 12 and bring a friend) **Lock in night** - 4th to 5th December. Come hang with the gang in the hall under the church from Friday at 7:30pm till the next morning - Saturday at 10am. The cost is \$10 per person. This includes supper and breakfast.



**Into LIFE** is this Monday 7 - 8.30pm in the parish hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Years 6 - 8 are welcome to attend.

**SUMMER CAMP 2010** - Make sure you come along to this fantastic annual event (January 18 to 21). Four fun-filled days of beach, crazy activities, friends and faith and a great way to start the new year! More information will be available soon. Keep a keen eye online at [www.lifeteenaustralia.com](http://www.lifeteenaustralia.com) and make sure you don't miss out on your spot!

**Point to Ponder:** Mark 13:24-32 "Christ is coming again" Am I ready for the second coming of Christ? Have I followed his commandments closely?

**Pray For:** Preparations for summer camp have commenced, big prayers that all goes amazingly!!!

Need some inspiration or some faith facts? This fantastic web site is for you - [www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com).



### Christmas Hampers

On Sunday December 13 at 6.00pm the annual Christmas Hamper Mass will be celebrated. Once again we are looking for your generous support of this Parish initiative to bring the spirit of Christmas into the homes of needy families who struggle to meet the basic necessities of life.



**Firstly**, we need your donation of hampers, so kindly take a label from the foyer and return it to the church on the weekend of 12/13 December.

**Please** read the information on the notice board regarding the assembly of the Hampers.

**We ask for consistent sizing of the hampers, not only for the handling but also for equitable distribution to the receiving families.**

**Secondly**, we need your support in helping us sort the hampers in the Parish Hall and then distributing them to the families on Tuesday December 15. A work sheet has been posted on the notice board in the church foyer. Please indicate the times you are available to help or call Maureen Scully on 9634 6925.

### Prayer for the Year of the Priest, 2009 - 2010

Lord our God,  
We give thanks for those you have called to lead your people in the ways of faith.  
Grant to them good health, peace and joy.  
May they be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**St Bernadette's Parish Community**  
**Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154**

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au  
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

**Parish Staff**

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest  
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest  
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate  
 Mr Luke Hackett, Pastoral Associate (Youth)  
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager  
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)  
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator  
 Mr Darren Edwards, Maintenance

**Mass Times for this Week**

**Sunday** Sat 6.00pm  
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am &  
 6pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

**Weekdays** Mon 6.45am  
 Tue 6.45am, 10.00am  
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am  
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am  
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am  
 Sat 8.00am

**Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am**

**Reconciliation** Sat 8.30am-9.00am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

**Baptisms and Marriages:** By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

**Please pray for** Brian Mooney (funeral Tuesday at 10am), Sr Claire Kerby and Florence Daley who have died recently and for the anniversary of James Griffin (Nov 12).

**Prayers for the Sick:** Abel De Guzman, Carmen Nazareth and Adeline Chong.

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – November 21 & 22**

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
<b>VIGIL</b> Michael Wilson S5	Kristine Murgatroyd Cheryl Braisby Jenny/Albert Agius	Felicity Carvalho, Lourice Asmar, Patrick Bowie, Rod Boyd, Adeline Chong, Ignatius/Natalia Chui, Lynne Myers, Barbara Ortlepp, Mary McMahon
<b>7.30AM</b> Zeno Hong S1	Catherine Seddon Paul Hennessey Peter Ferguson	Paul Hennessey, Francesca Menezes, Remy Sie, Bernard Rogers, Geoff Roney, Catherine Seddon
<b>9.00AM</b> Joe Josue S2	John Obeid Katrina Obeid Lina Josue	Brian & Jenny Blacklock, Neil Bone, Angela Crowe, Brian D'Arcy, Jeff Davis, Jocelyn Donovan, Jack Garcia, Yulia Hong
<b>10.30AM</b> Budi Kawiadji S3	Michael Abrahams Kerry Myers Anthea Hannan	Mary & Jeyaraj Winslow, Crystal & Bernie Good, Mark Street, Gaye Crammond, Lydia Flores, Monica & Matthew Fitzalan

**6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - November 22**

<b>Adult Servers</b> Alex Tomic	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b> Annalyce Hangan Belinda Lee Chris Dogulin		<b>Musos</b>	
<b>Lectors</b> Vanessa Muscat Tina Muscat Brenda Clasquin		Kate Eagleston Monica O'Callaghan	<b>Bass</b> Erich Gracias Flor	<b>Singers</b> Alison Wong Annabel Irawan
<b>Altar Servers</b> S4	<b>Projectionist</b> Matthew Ashton		<b>Piano</b> Alice Bradshaw	Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Sara Ang
<b>Gift Preparation</b> Jeremy Smith Mitchell Johnson-Green	<b>Ushers</b> Paul Musgrave Phillip Smith	<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>Guitar</b> Daniel Ang	Veronica Sahabu Adam Chioatto Bec Burrowes
			<b>Horns/Strings/ Winds</b>	

<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Niamh Holt Karen Byrnes	<b>CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING</b> Marion Heron, Marjorie Anderson, Caroline Higgins, Bernadette Logue	<b>COUNTING (2nd Collection)</b> Adrian Franks, David Tye, Robert Natoli, Cosimo Miccoli, Vincent Traynor
<b>FLOWER ROSTER</b> Bernadette Logue	<b>COUNTING (1st Collection)</b> John Faehrmann Len Goldsworthy	<b>BOOKSHOP</b> Carmel Adams / Anne Parker / Bernadette Logue / Dora Saleh / Patricia Smith