

CATHOLICS ARE A PEOPLE

Teresa Pirola recently wrote the following article about Catholicism. She asks: Who are we as Catholics? She writes, "If I could make just one statement, it would be this: Catholics are a people. Not a club, team, corporation, educational institute or welfare agency, but a people. This point is crucial. If we don't "get this", nothing else about Catholicism really makes sense". The article is reprinted from the Jesuit publication, *Madonna*.

As a church we could have perfect theology, stunning liturgies, mighty charitable works, but if as Catholics we didn't belong to one another and experience a common way of life, then we would have totally missed the point.

We would be like a husband and wife who have excellent jobs, an immaculate home, and admirable involvement in the community, but who are not intimate with one another. No matter how impressive they are as individuals, it doesn't make a great marriage. It's the ingredient of radical belonging, tangible intimacy, a life shared as one, which gives their marriage real credibility. And so it is with Catholics.

To be Catholic is to belong to other Catholics. This is not to advocate a ghetto mentality or to say that Catholics can't have special relationships with other people. It does mean that to follow Jesus is to be immersed in the way of life of the people of the church.

And we are most intimately 'churched' with those with whom we share the

Eucharist. This might sound simplistic to some ears. Yet it has a profundity reaching all the way to the Trinity: God revealed as persons-in-relationship. Our belonging to one another as Catholics can be compared to the relational depths of the Jewish people and the intimacy of a blood family, except that what binds us is not race or blood ties but a shared faith experience: life in the Spirit as one body of Christ.

The comparison of Catholics to the Jews is not trivial. The Christian Church evolved from the Jewish people and we need to go back to those Semitic roots in order to really understand

our communal identity. The Jewish faith is experienced through immersion in the Jewish community and its unique way of life.

Today's church needs this communal sense as a corrective to centuries of preoccupation with 'doing the right thing'. This is not to play down the importance of a moral code. However, without a sense of peoplehood, that code simply doesn't make sense. Morality becomes a set of rules rather than a liberating, relational way of life.

The comparison to family life is not trivial either. Everyone knows that

a family is not defined by perfect behaviour or harmonious agreement. In fact, the genius of family life is most clearly revealed in the midst of great tensions as members work through their differences and still remain 'family' to each other. You can't just walk away from family like you can from a club.

And it's the same with the church. That is why so many 'non-practising' Catholics still identify themselves as Catholics. They intuitively grasp



Some fathers at the St Bernadette's Football enrolment morning last year.

the fact that their baptism is not a temporary membership badge but rather signifies a mysteriously enduring relationship.

Since Vatican II there has been no shortage of scholarly commentary on this theme of the church's communal depths. The real challenge lies in our lived experience. As Catholics are we focused on belief, or on belonging? On Catholicism, or on Catholics? Do we embrace a disembodied, 'spiritual' Jesus, or a Jesus who promises to be with us always in the flesh and blood of his body, the people of the church?

THANK YOU from Eileen Tye for all your prayers over many months during the illness of her husband, Jim.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER on Friday 5 March: The theme chosen for this year's service, "Let Everything that has Breath Praise God", reminds us that we are to praise God in all circumstances, especially during difficult times because as long as one has breath there is hope. Be encouraged by joining others around the world to praise our Lord for this wonderful truth. All are welcome at St Michael's Church, Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills at 7.30pm for the Service prepared by the women of Cameroon.

PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK: An invitation has been extended to all parishioners from Fr Kevin Lee to attend the Dedication of Padre Pio Parish Church, William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park by Bishop Kevin Manning at 11.00am on Sunday 14 February. Please RSVP to 02 4737 9735 or admin@padrepio.org.au by Monday 1 February.



ST BERNADETTE'S FOOTBALL CLUB SBFC runs mixed junior teams in the 2010 NSWCFA Winter Soccer comp., and a midweek Fun Skills program for Preschoolers aged 4-5yrs.

The Club promotes Football (soccer) with equal time on the field, win or lose to achieve a learning environment whilst promoting involvement in a team sport. Registration for 2009 is on Sunday 7 Feb 9.00am – 12.00pm, outside the parish hall next to the canteen.

Info and Forms available at www.sbfootballclub.org or contact the Registrar Peter Baguley 0414960472.

ST BERNADETTE'S NETBALL CLUB urgently requires players who are turning 11 or 12 years and 13-17 years to play Netball in the 2010 Winter Competition, no experience necessary. For further information, please call Jo Biggs on 8850 0324.

RETIREMENT LIVING at Southern Cross Nordby Village.1 & 2 Bedroom Units available at 15 Hill Road, West Pennant Hills (Some units available on pensioner/renter scheme). Phone Julie Andrews on 0408 220 092 for details.

LITURGY CORNER

The Gospel for today marks the first of many rejections experienced by Jesus. The final rejection was, of course, to lead to the cross but the cross is not the end of the story, nor is this rejection in Nazareth. Jesus simply slips away and continues on the path he has chosen (*The Summit*). The Gospel encourages us to consider how we respond to thinking which challenges us because, either we disagree or it is entirely different. It is worth asking ourselves 'how do I respond to rejection', 'what causes me to reject another' and 'have I the courage to be open to learning new truths about myself, the others and the world?'



Today's Readings

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19. Jeremiah is consecrated and appointed as prophet.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13. Without love we are nothing; the greatest gift is love.

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30. Jesus teaches in the synagogue, but his words are rejected and he has to escape through the crowd.

Next week: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Feast Days this Week

Presentation of the Lord - Tuesday, 2 February

St Agatha - Friday, 5 February

Ss Paul Miki & Companions - Saturday, 6 February

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION this Friday following 6.45am Mass until 9.15 and following 9.15 Mass until 11.45am.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, February 5 at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport (drivers needed) or by providing sandwiches, it would be appreciated. Contact Marion Heron on 9659 9385.

ATTENTION EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: New rosters are being prepared. If you cannot continue, please inform the parish office ASAP.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST will take place in the Church from 5.00pm on Friday 19 February to 5.00pm on Saturday 20 February. **Adoration Time Sheets** are on the board in the Church foyer. Please write your name on the sheet to indicate the time you will be present in the Church.

REPARATION PRAYER GROUP meets on Wednesdays at 8.00pm in the Basement of the Parish Office. All welcome.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP will recommence this Wednesday 3rd February at 10.00am in the Marian Centre for 9 weeks. The topic is *Israel's Story* (part 2). New members are welcome. Please RSVP to the Parish Office by this Monday.

LENTEN GROUP

If you are interested in becoming involved in a discussion group beginning 18 February and focusing on Lent, please contact the Parish Office so books can be ordered. Cost \$5. Meetings will be Thursdays at 10.00am in the Marian Centre. *Sr Judy*

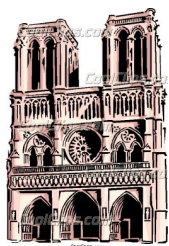
DINNER WITH GERALDINE DOOGUE: You are invited to join in a two course dinner and an evening of thoughtful conversation with ABC TV/radio presenter, Geraldine Doogue speaking on *'Spirituality: Making Connections in our World'* on Friday 12 February 2010 at 7.30pm in St Bernadette's Parish Hall. The cost is \$45.00 pp. Details: www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au.

POSITION VACANT: Student Services Administrator. Our Lady of Mercy College at Parramatta seeks an experienced and customer focused student services administrator. Full details are available on the College website www.olmc.nsw.edu.au.

JOIN FATHER JOHN ON A HARVEST PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Father John is leaving for Europe on June 9 and taking a 12-day pilgrimage (15 days with travel time included) to Fatima, Avila, and Lourdes. He is taking a second pilgrimage immediately following the Visitations of Mary Pilgrimage. The second pilgrimage, an eleven-day pilgrimage (13 days with travel time included), will visit Paris, Lisieux, La Salette, Taize, Turin and other pilgrimage sites in France.

Parishioners and their friends are invited to join Father John on one or both pilgrimages. Brochures are available from the sacristy or from Harvest Pilgrimages 9390 5460 or www.harvestpilgrims.com or talk to Father John on 9634 2622.



SENIORS FAMILY GROUP: The first meeting of the year will take place next Saturday, 6th February at 10.30am in the Marian Centre.

Coffee Afternoon will be on Friday 19th February at 1.45pm in the Wills Café at the Anglican Retirement Villages. Phone Robin Reyden 9634 3354 or Clare Budge 9680 9752.

VINNIES thanks all donors. Meetings start again this Tuesday, February 2 at 7.30pm in the Marian centre. All parishioners are welcome to attend and find out more about their work. Contact Paul on 9651 3343.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: A few calendars are still available from the Bookshop for only \$7 each.



Youth & Young Adults Ministry

LIFE Nights presents **WHO???**

TONIGHT (Sunday 31 Jan) after 6.00pm Mass till 8.30 in the hall for all in grades 9-12. Bring a friend. \$2 for food & drink.



Into LIFE is BACK on!!! This Monday 1 Feb from 7 to 8.30pm in the parish hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Grades 7 - 8 are welcome to attend.

Young Adults (ages 18-35yrs) will be back on soon.

Visit us on <http://www.stbernadette.org.au/> or join our Facebook groups:

Into LIFE - St. Bernadette's, Castle Hill & LIFE Nights - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill

Vision Youth Breakfast: All youth leaders, coordinators and all involved in ministry with young people are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta on Saturday 20 February. Gold coin donation. RSVP youth@parra.catholic.org.au or Anna 0409 399 505.

OUR YOUTH NEED YOU: The Catholic Education Lighthouse Program supports students in Catholic schools to reach their full potential. Students in Years 9 or 10 are provided with the opportunity to develop key skills and experience in a learning environment outside school. They spend one day per week on the job with their mentor. Caring, interested volunteers are needed to mentor students. Tradespeople particularly welcome. Call Melinda Phillips 0417 151233.

HAITI AID: Catholic aid agency Caritas is providing immediate assistance to survivors following the deadly earthquake in Haiti. Caritas Australia welcomes donations to its Haiti Emergency Response Appeal. Show your support by calling 1800 024 413.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED: The Diocesan Solo Parent Ministry offers regular Programs & Workshops for those who have experienced the breakdown of their marriage or long-term partnership and are wanting to pick up some threads and "begin life again". The "Recovery" Program commences on Wed 17 February and runs for 7 weeks at Blacktown. *Stepping Beyond* is a monthly Workshop with a focus on the development of skills and attitudes that will better enable you to move forward with confidence. The first meeting for 2010 is on Tues 23 February at Blacktown and the Guest Speaker is Robyn Moore, an excellent motivational speaker who titles her talk "Reconnecting With Life, Love and Laughter." For further details and registration call Sr. Eileen Quade, 9933 0205 or email eileen.quade@ccss.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: Sessions resume Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th February in the Church at 7.30pm for parents only.

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 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
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon
 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 Natalino Jorge, Hacey McKenna and Teresa Dunne who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Peter Hoefsmit and Angela Forwood (28 Jan).

Prayers for the Sick: Adeline Chong, Marjorie Orioles and Monique Guy.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – February 6 & 7

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Michael Lopez S6	Jenny Quinn John Geoghegan Daniel Mezger	Joanne Barrett, Carol Cividin, Esther Coleiro, Beverley Curtis, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Warren Hiser, Stephanie Coleiro
7.30AM Joe Lorenzo S7	Ron Gledhill Jo Wickens Joe Menezes	Lina Josue, Alfred & Gladys Tsang, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00AM John Maker S8	Karin Abrams Tim Abrams Cathy Richmond	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Stephen MacMahon S9	Chris O'Loan Mila Mina Max Bosotti	Anita Christy, Pauline Camilleri, Dorothy Finucane, Elizabeth Fogolin, Philip & Yolanda Golamco, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - February 7

Adult Servers Marc Clasquin Gillian Pak	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Ian Pomeroy Darren Edwards Mitchell Waters		Musos
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo			Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Michael Smith
Altar Servers S10	Projectionist Josh Becker		Singers Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Monique O'Callaghan Julia Calixto Natalie Jones Maree Calabria
Gift Preparation Michael Piggott	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony & Tina Musgrave	Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Marianne Holohan Shane Robinson	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Margaret Griffin, Margaret Sanders, Faye Goldsworthy, Maree Greenwell	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Adrian Franks, David Tye, Robert Natoli, Cosimo Miccoli, Vincent Traynor
FLOWER ROSTER Wedding	COUNTING (1st Collection) Barbara Ingram Marie Sammut	BOOKSHOP Joanne Barrett / Rose Huby / Bernadette Navarra / Barbara Halpin / Natasha Orioles