



MARCH 21 & 22, 2009 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Issue Number 301

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

We are already celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This means that there is one more Sunday before Palm Sunday. Easter is almost here. In this parish we are using Year A readings for today. The gospel is about the man born blind, and next week - again Year A - the gospel is about the raising of Lazarus. We are using Cycle A readings for these three Sundays instead of Cycle B (to which we will return on Palm Sunday) because John's Gospel best fits the journey being made by the RCIA candidates and the children making their First Reconciliation. Why?

Take the man born blind, the subject of today's gospel.

Although he is healed by Jesus at the beginning of the story, he does not know who Jesus is. It is only as we read on that he gets some insight into who Jesus is. His eyes are opened, to use an expression, because in verse 11 he is "the man called Jesus", in verse 17 Jesus is "a prophet", in verse 33, Jesus is "from God" in verse 39, Jesus is "Lord". That journey is similar to most RCIA candidates and certainly, our little ones celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time next Friday and Saturday. Christians grow in their faith in Jesus like the man born blind, and like the children who, in this Lenten season, will acknowledge that they make wrong choices and need Jesus to show them the way when they have chosen darkness (sin) to the Light (Jesus).

When looking at the First Reading it will be difficult to understand what it is about unless you know that this reading from the First Book of Samuel is about King David. David's name is not mentioned until the very last line of today's First Reading. David is the eighth son born to Jesse of Bethlehem. This is a thousand years before the birth of Christ.

David is appointed King by the anointing with oil; our RCIA candidates will be anointed with oil on Holy Saturday night. The children preparing for their First Confession will likewise be anointed with oil in the sacrament of Confirmation to complete their baptism. This will take place at the end of June.

It beats me why more people don't read the Bible because David's life-story is R-rated. Firstly, although he is married, David's relationship with Jonathan leaves a lot of questions unanswered. David was in the employ

of the King, Saul. Jonathan was Saul's son. There is an age difference between Jonathan and David and the Catholic exegetes say this was a Platonic friendship and the covenant made between them is political rather than erotic. I am sure they are right. Jonathan, however, is willing to betray his father, family, wealth, and everything for David. It is worth reading the whole saga. Then it is this same David, who with a single stone in his slingshot, slew the big man Goliath. David was a good all-rounder.

Although the Bible doesn't tell us whether he was a better

batsman or bowler or a good inside-centre, David could dance, write music and play the harp. The story of the illicit affair between David and Bathsheba is a story of voyeurism, seduction, adultery, unwanted pregnancy, and murder. It's all there. The story leaves *Days of Our Lives* looking like a G-rated movie for pre-schoolers.

At the end David sees the light and becomes the great King of Israel. Note that the darkness of human standards gives way to the bright light of goodness. It is the story of a blind man (David) coming to the light of following God's ways. It is the story of how someone, even a King, can change and mend their ways. A very Lenten theme.

Father John.



King David, limestone, from the south portal, Notre-Dame, Paris, ca. 1145



Today's Readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13. The Lord does not judge by appearances; the Lord sees the heart.

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14 St Paul encourages the community to be children of the light and to shun darkness.

Gospel John 9:1-41 A man born blind has his sight restored and in the process comes to faith in Jesus.

Next week: Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A
1 Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

LECTORS PLEASE NOTE On the **3rd, 4th and 5th** Sundays of Lent the readings from Year A (not Year B) will be used.

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

Feast Day this Week

The Annunciation - Wednesday, March 25
(Masses at 6.45 & 9.15am)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place on Friday evenings at 7.30pm during Lent.

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

PROJECT COMPASSION Care of God's creation has always been an important part of Christian tradition. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps indigenous communities protect their rights and forests for the benefit of us all. Boxes and envelopes are available from the church foyer.



LIFE BEGINS AT 50: Cards/Mahjong on Friday 27 March in the Marian Centre at 7.30pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY A letter of thanks has been received from the Archbishop of Melbourne, Most Reverend Denis Hart for your very generous gift of \$16,420.00 towards the *Archbishop's Charitable Fund Bushfire Appeal*. He wrote, "Be assured that the wonderful support of the parishioners at St Bernadette's Parish is deeply appreciated at such a tragic time in Victoria."

ANNUAL LENTEN RECOLLECTION DAY for the Australian Devotees of Our Lady of Penafraancia on March 28 at Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa from 8.30am to 5.00pm. Phone 9626 9928 or email soaurora@hotmail.com to register.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - DAY OF GROWTH at St Agatha's Parish Hall, 20 Boundary Road, Pennant Hills today (Sunday) 22 March from 11.45am to 5.00pm. The theme is "Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti". Suggested donation \$5 per person.

LITURGY CORNER

In the Gospel for today – using the Year A reading from John, those who are choosing to join our community, will, in the Second Scrutiny, hear the words "enable them to pass from darkness to light and, delivered from the prince of darkness, to live always as children of the light. ...Guide them along the paths of right faith, safe from error, doubt and unbelief, so that with eyes unsealed they may come to see you face to face ..." As faith is a journey for all who confess 'Jesus is Lord', may each of us be constantly aware of Jesus' words 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will have the light of life' (Gospel acclamation) and take the opportunity provided in this Lenten season to 'check' our journey!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM 09/10 Information letters are available from the Church foyer. All families must complete the **Faith Formation Course** prior to their child commencing preparation for sacraments. Please note the following dates:

- **Information evenings** to be held **Mon 3 & Tue 4 Aug at 7:30pm in the Church.**
 - **Faith Formation Course** commences week beginning **17 August** for 4 weeks.
- Please watch future bulletins for **Sacramental Preparation Program** enrolment information.

OAKHILL COLLEGE ART & CRAFT SHOW 28 & 29 March

at Old Northern Road, Castle Hill - 10am to 4pm
*art * craft * jewellery * glassware * ceramics * metal sculpture * gourmet foodstuffs * music * café*

Opening Night Gala Cocktail Party
Friday 27 March - 7pm to 10pm
\$25 prepaid - \$30 at the door

Enquiries to Julie Chivers 0411 232 008

OCTOBER TURKEY TOUR Father Wim Hoekstra, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, is leading a tour to Turkey with the theme of "St Paul's World" from Saturday 3 to Sunday 19 October 2009 (school holidays). Places visited include Ephesus (Mass at Mary's House), Cappadocia, Istanbul and Gallipoli. For further information please contact Fr Wim on 8839 8420 or visit www.stpatrcathedral.com.au and click on the Tour to Turkey link. Deposit due by 15 April.

JESUS & MEN MEETING in the Parish Hall, April 4, 2009, 8.45am – 11.45am. Francis Voon (Parish Support Unit of the Diocese of Broken Bay) will be speaking on 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit'. Please join us for a morning of learning, sharing and fellowship with the men of the parish. Enquiries & Registration: Steve Decker on 02-9688 6226.

OAKHILL COLLEGE ENROLMENTS for Year 11 students in 2010 close on 22 May 2009. Phone 9899 2288 for Applications for Enrolment.



BLANKETS FOR THE NEEDY. With the cooler weather coming it is time to restart blanket making for our St. Vincent de Paul Society. There will be a morning tea on Wednesday 1st April 2009 at 10.00am in the Marian Centre to welcome new and continuing knitters/crocheters and anyone else who would like to become involved with this ministry. Transport available if needed. RSVP to Jo 9634 5961 or Hilary 9894 5913.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT Extra copies of this book of six-minute reflections have become available and can be purchased from the Bookshop for just \$5.

HELP NEEDED Do you attend 10.30am Mass? Would you have 15 minutes to spare once every 4 weeks? We need a volunteer to help in the Bookshop. Please phone Jan Harrild on 0408 291258.

TRIVIA NIGHT St Bernadette's P&F invites all in the Parish to the annual Trivia Night next **Saturday 28th March** in the hall for a night of fun and laughter. Be there at 7pm for 7.30 start. The theme is SPORTS so please dress your table and yourself in favourite sporting gear!! Please call Vanessa Wadih if you have any questions (0438393536). Flyers are available in the church foyer.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to the children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. We ask that you keep these little ones in your prayers.

OAKHILL COLLEGE REUNION: A reunion has been planned for former Oakhill College students "Class of 1984" to be held in the Centenary Sports Centre, Oakhill College, Old Northern Road, Castle Hill. NSW 2154 at 7pm on 4th April, 2009. Inquires to Kerrie O'Leary on koleary@oakhill.nsw.edu.au.

STEPPING BEYOND: FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED "Stepping Beyond" happens monthly. The next gathering will be on Tuesday 31 March at 6.30 pm. at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1 - 5 Marion St, Blacktown. The group is there to support and offer assistance to those who are working through separation and divorce issues. Each month there is a focus question, from which interesting discussion and input evolves. The Focus Question for March is: "How do you wisely go about dating again?" Registrations with Sr Eileen Ph 9890 2968 or equade@bigpond.com.

THE JOURNEY OF AGEING Learn how to walk this ageing journey by walking with some people in Scripture: Abraham and Sarah; Naomi; Elizabeth and Zachary; Mary; Anna and Simeon. Saturday 4 April from 10am to 3.30pm. BYO lunch. Morning tea provided at Mount St Benedict Centre. 449D Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills. The session will include input, quiet time and prayer. Cost \$30.00.



events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

LIFE Night: Our final LIFE Night for term 1 is on TONIGHT straight after the Youth Mass in the Hall. If you're in Years 9-12 at high school, join us for supper and a great night finishing at 8:30pm.

Into LIFE is on Monday night for anyone in Years 7 and 8 at high school. Come along from 7-8:30pm for a fun night with friends. Bring \$2 for supper.

Are you interested in becoming involved in one of the various ministries at our Life Teen Youth Mass on Sunday evenings? We are in need of more people to answer this call to be **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Adult Servers and Welcomers**. If you would like more information about these ministries or would like to become involved, please see Belinda after the Youth Mass or email youth@stbernadette.org.au

Life Teen produces fantastic **weekly podcasts** for free to help everyone get more out of Sunday Mass. Listen to Mark 'Bible Geek' Hart give an insightful explanation and reflection on the upcoming mass readings. Download these or listen to them online. Subscribe now from www.lifeteen.com or search for 'lifeteen.com' at the iTunes store. An excellent resource for lectors. *Plus*, check out their new podcast **THE171** - for great, down to earth talks on faith!

www.lifeteen.com is a great website for all teens and young adults. Get more out of our Catholic faith – the real answers and facts - along with the latest music and movie reviews and even some random facts!

RECOLLECTION DAY The Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Apostolate is organising a Recollection Day next Saturday 28 March from 10.30am to 4.30pm at St Joseph's Retreat Centre, 64 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham Hills. This will be a time to recollect and reflect before the Easter celebrations. Open to all youth aged 16 to 35 and facilitated by the Diocesan Youth Chaplain, Fr Suresh Kumar MSFS. Reconciliation will be available on the day and Mass will be celebrated at 4.00pm. Cost is \$5.00. RSVP to 8838 3418 or youth@parra.catholic.org.au.

PARISH YOUTH WORKER Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill invites interested people to apply for the position of part time Youth Worker. Hours and conditions will be negotiated. The successful applicant must have an enthusiasm for working with youth and young adults; possess an ability and rapport with the age group; be a practising Catholic; and have a reasonable flexibility with hours. Apply in writing with resume attached to: Fr. Warren Edwards fr_warren@ourladyoftheangels.org.au 18 Milford Dr. Rouse Hill 2155

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2008-2009

Mark the date for the Sacramental Camp on Wednesday 22 April in your diary now.

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
 Fr Sunny Michael, ms, Assistant Priest
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw, Sacramental Co-ordinator
 Mr Ian Pomeroy, Into LIFE Youth Minister
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am & 6pm
 Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45am
 Tue 6.45 am,
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15 am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15 am
 Sat 8am

Mass on Public Holidays at 8am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9am; 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]

Sacramental Preparation Program 2010: Information nights for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion is 3 & 4 August, 2009.

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

Please pray for Frank Trunfio, Brian McGee, Kevin Nobbs and Mary Greenwell who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Ricardo S. de Leon (Mar 21), Jose D. Rasang (Mar 23), Andreas Arifin Kesuma and Theodorus Afianto Kesuma and in remembrance of Pax Bastiampillai, Mr B S Anthonypillai, Iona Anderson, Patricia Fitzpatrick and all souls.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – March 28 & 29

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL John Maker S2	Vince Connelly Ray Scully Jessica Fearnside	Iciar Quintana, Cathy & Mark Richmond, Alf Jacobs, Carmel James, Stephen & Janice MacMahon, Don & Remie de Leon
7.30AM Stephen MacMahon S3	Gerard Kearney Daryl Hill Audrey Markowskei	Lina Josue, Albert & Gladys Tsang, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00AM Philip Myers S4	Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Melvyn Myers S5	Eamon Keane Donna Boddy Jo-Ann Campion	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 - March 29

Adult Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Musos
Marc Clasquin James Madry	Adam Chioatto Darren Edwards Alison Wong Belinda Lee Fran Rogers	Bass Daniel Ang Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Michael Smith Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton Sarah Ashton
Altar Preparation Josh Becker	Ian Pomeroy Monica O'Callaghan Tina Muscat Vanessa Muscat Veronica Sahabu	Singers Aarti D'Cruz Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Erich Gracias Flor Sara Ang Veronica Sahabu Monique O'Callaghan
Lectors Jen Austin Lesley & Stef Musgrave	Projectionist Josh Becker	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera Paul Musgrave
Altar Servers S1	Gift Preparation Michael Piggott	Welcomers Melissa Fenech Alison Wong

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Jana Fizely Ingrid Fizely	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Mercedes Pisano, Karen D'Souza, Barbara Fong, Meinard & Pie Leonor	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Campion Fernando, John McDermott, Barrie Waters, Audrey Markowskei, Sarah Markowskei, Emelie de Leon
FLOWER ROSTER No flowers	COUNTING (1st Collection) Howard Woodward Marie Woodward	BOOKSHOP Paula Boyd / Rose Huby / Jane Beard / Crystal Good / Giuli & Serge Dogulin