

## NEW BISHOP FOR PARRAMATTA

On St Patrick's Day, 1836, the newly-arrived Archbishop of Sydney, John Bede Polding, visited Parramatta to lay the foundation stone of a new church to be named after St Patrick. People from the town, from the Hills District and further West were in attendance. So were all the Catholic clergy of the colony. The locals had never seen anything like it. Archbishop Polding was richly vested in rochet, stole and cope, with mitre and crozier; the clergy wore chasubles of silk, gold and embroidery work; even the chantors had copes of costly material.

On Thursday night this scene was repeated on that same site, but for Bishop Anthony Fisher's installation there were two cardinals, 35 archbishops and bishops and about 300 priests present. It was the anniversary of Archbishop Polding's ordination, so it was fitting that the installation of the Third Bishop of Parramatta took place on that date and on a site sacred to Catholics for over two hundred years and one visited often by the first bishop in Australia.

Amongst the 2,000 lay people present for the two and a half hour ceremony was the Premier, Kristina Keneally, both our Federal and State Members of Parliament and our two official parish representatives, Monica Guy and Michael Wilson. I noticed that Peter Grace was in charge of the girls welcoming us to OLMC. The girls' hospitality was warm and genuine. The Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta added a splash of colour to the cathedral ceremony.

The music will be remembered and talked about. It was beautiful. It was executed with precision and passion. The choirs must have had intense preparation to master so many pieces of music, many of which were in Latin. The installation was a special occasion and demanded

grand music, but some music was unsuitable for liturgical use and would have been best left in the concert hall. Music is so integral to Catholic liturgy and is often the cause of complaints and criticism. I would value the choirs coming together again to repeat Thursday's performance before a more appreciative audience willingly there for the sole purpose of enjoying such rich fare.

There were problems with the sound system and some parts of the ceremony lacked organisation.

The most moving part of the ceremony for me

was to see Bishop Fisher's mother and father bring up the offertory gifts. The newly-installed bishop kissed his mother as he took the gifts from her hand. Forty-nine years ago she had given him the precious gift of life and now she gave him the equally precious faith-gift that would become the Body of Christ. It took all of three seconds but was a powerful sign of a bond symbolising the interconnection between family and faith.

The homily was what we wanted to hear. There was

humour, for instance, when Bishop Fisher told us about the first Dominican to work in the colony, Father Christopher Dowling. He was Irish and arrived in Sydney in 1831. He was, or should have been, Father Therry's clerical superior. The Dominican, preaching on fraternal charity made strong allusions to Father Therry, who in the heat of momentary excitement dragged Father Dowling from the altar. Then, when Father Therry went to the church door, still in mass vestments, with a collection box (perhaps a custom I could myself adopt if it helps increase the collections) Father Dowling decided to challenge him and tried to wrestle the collection box from Father Therry. The congregation witnessed the two priests, both in mass vestments,



fighting over the collection box. The Dominican fled firstly to Windsor and then to Newcastle. Bishop Fisher made the comment that he hoped he wouldn't suffer the same fate as his confrere and be forced to flee the area as the Dominican who preceded him had had to do in 1838.

Bishop Fisher spoke for 23 minutes, and it was a well-delivered and meaty homily. He is a good speaker. I gave him 12 out of 10.

According to Tess Livingstone writing in *The Australian*, Bishop Fisher is "one of the church's colourful characters. An avid reader, skilled cook and internationally respected academic, he took a path less travelled to the priesthood.

"He studied arts/law at Sydney University, was a solicitor for Clayton Utz in Sydney and had a serious girlfriend or two. He joined the Dominicans at 25, and was ordained six years later.

"He completed a PhD in bioethics at Oxford before becoming a lecturer at the Australian Catholic University and the inaugural director of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family in Melbourne. Bishop Fisher is Australia's youngest Catholic bishop."

Being a young bishop means he is also one of the youngest priests in our diocese. It is a sobering thought that he will preside at my funeral, for he will be, in theory, our bishop for twenty-five years. My prediction is that we will have him for six years or so and then, depending on the Cardinal's health, he will move to Sydney. He is very talented.

I know he will have our support and we will keep him in our prayers. He has an enormous task ahead of him and he mentioned some of the areas he will single out as priorities in his homily last Thursday night. He is the leader of the most Catholic diocese in Australia. He should know he has the biggest parish in the diocese right behind him. I look forward to the day he makes an official visit to our parish to meet his loyal supporters.

*Father John.*

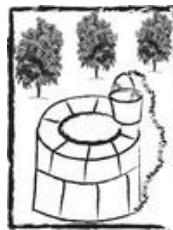
---

**GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE** invites interested families to the Open Evening for Year 7 2011 on Tuesday 16 March at 6.00pm in the Brother Damien Harvey Hall. School tours at 5.30 & 7.00pm only. Bookings essential on 8853 8200. Enrolments close Thursday 1 April 2010. For information visit the website or email [tpoole@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tpoole@parra.catholic.edu.au).

**ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL** Enrolment Packages will be available from the School Office from Monday 19 April (the beginning of Term 2).

## LITURGY CORNER

For the next three Sundays of Lent, the RCIA will attend Mass together (a different mass each week) so that the parish community can support the Elect in The Scrutinies, and experience personal benefit. The Scrutinies are integral to the enlightenment, purification and ongoing conversion of the Elect and the community. The rituals are supported by the Year A gospels which are stories of conversion and the forgiving transformative power of Jesus over the power of sin. They are based on, what have become, the primary baptismal symbols: water (this week), light (14/3) and life (21/3).



### Today's Readings

**First Reading:** Exodus 3:1-8,13-15. The Lord promises to deliver his people from slavery in Egypt and give them a land where they can build fruitful lives.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12. Paul tells us that God cared for Moses and the people who were delivered from slavery, but they were expected to remain faithful to God.

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9. God gives plenty of opportunity for repentance. Without repentance the people will perish.

### Next week: 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

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

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

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



**ST BERNADETTE'S CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP** meets in the Lourdes Centre, 31b Brisbane Road, Castle Hill. (follow the lighted pathway), Thursday Evenings 7.30 - 8.30. Newcomers very welcome. Phone Marilou Sandejas 9680 4531 or email [sandejas@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sandejas@ozemail.com.au) or Lesley Maker 9873 1221 or email [jandmaker@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jandmaker@optusnet.com.au)

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

15 - 19 March

Parishioners are warmly invited to visit and see what is happening in St Bernadette's School during this period. The Choir, 'Dance Fever' and the Band will all be performing at different times during the week. Following a special St Patrick's Day Mass at 9.15am on Wednesday 17 March, a delicious morning tea will be served in the Hall. All parishioners are welcome.



Fliers are available at the back of the Church.

**PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES** are available from the baskets at the church doors. Please take one home with you today

**PALM SUNDAY YOUTH MASS & BBQ:** Bishop Anthony invites the youth of the Diocese to St Patrick's Cathedral for a Youth Mass followed by Q&A session and BBQ on Sunday 28 March. Gather in Prince Alfred Park opposite the Cathedral at 5.45pm for a blessing and procession leading into the Mass.

**THE IRISH FUN NIGHT – IT'S ON AGAIN!** In the Parish Hall, 20th March, 7.00 for 7.30pm start. For a great night of Irish fun and festivity, organise a table of 10 or 12 now. Irish Dancing, Music and Jokes with some Trivia on the side. Only \$15 per head. BYO Nibbles & Drinks. Supper, Tea & Coffee provided. All parishioners and groups welcome. Organised by the FAMILY GROUPS. Bookings – phone Maureen or Ray Scully 9634.6925.



**DRIVER NEEDED** to join one of the teams bringing elderly parishioners to church for the 9.00am mass on Sundays from the Anglican Retirement Village. The commitment is once a month - pick up and drop back. Please ring Jim Gidlow on 9659 4782 or 0403814427.

**EDEN & SAPPHIRE COAST TOUR** with LIFE BEGINS AT 50 from 11 to 16 October 2010. See the noticeboard for details. Phone Harry & Robin Reyden 9634-3354.



**MOUNT ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE** is holding its annual Open Day next Sunday 14 March from 10am until 2pm. Limited parking on site. For enquiries: Jill Willis on 9980 0444 or [www.msb.nsw.edu.au](http://www.msb.nsw.edu.au).

**FILIPINO FIESTA** in honour of St Joseph, husband of Mary at St Michael's School Grounds, 155 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown next Sunday 14 March from 10.45am to 1.00pm with Eucharist at 10.45 and lunch at noon.

**UPPER ROOM GATHERING BEREAVEMENT GROUP** will meet on Thursday 11 March at 11.00 am at 2A Villiers St (Anne Clark Centre) Parramatta. This month's meeting will focus on "Normal Grief Reactions". Register with Sr. Eileen Quade on 99330205 or [Eileen.quade@ccss.org.au](mailto:Eileen.quade@ccss.org.au)

### PILGRIMAGES WITH FATHER JOHN

Father John is leaving for Europe on June 9 and taking a 12-day pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, and Lourdes, then a second pilgrimage immediately following the Visitations of Mary Pilgrimage for eleven-days to Paris, Lisieux, La Salette, Taize, Turin and other pilgrimage sites in France. You are invited to join Father John on one or both pilgrimages. Brochures are available from the sacristy or from Harvest Pilgrimages [www.harvestpilgrims.com](http://www.harvestpilgrims.com) or 9390 5460 or call Father John on 9634



### Youth & Young Adults Ministry

**LIFE Nights** presents **Tridu..um?** next Sunday, March 14 after 6.00pm Mass till 8.30 in the hall for all in grades 9-12. Bring a friend. \$2 food & drink .



**Young Adults (ages 18-35yrs)** The Lenten Programme continues till Easter, Thursday night 7:30 till 9:00pm. Register by email [ym@stbernadettes.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadettes.org.au) or call/sms the youth minister on 0420 594 277.

**Into LIFE:** This Monday from 7 - 8.30pm in the parish hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Grades 7 - 8 are welcome to attend.

**Life Teen Youth Mass Training.** If you want to serve at the Sunday night masses in any way please contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au). All ages are welcome to participate and we have many roles to fill including welcoming committee, offertory team, communion ministers, readers, senior servers and more.

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

### Oakhill College P&F Art & Craft Show

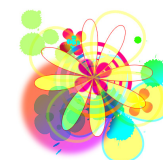
Old Northern Road, Castle Hill  
27 – 28 March from 10.00am-4.00pm

*Featuring the works of Patrick Shirvington  
plus a \$500 & under exhibition*

**art • craft • jewellery • glass • ceramics •  
sculpture • gourmet foodstuffs • music • café**

Opening Night Gala Cocktail Party  
Friday 26 March • 7.00pm-10.00pm  
\$25 prepaid - \$30 at the door

Enquiries: Julie Chivers 0411 232-008



### VIVA LA FIESTA!!!!

To help us all celebrate the Year of The Priest in 2010, St Bernadette's Parish Pastoral Council is inviting parishioners to register their interest in a **MULTINATIONAL FOOD FIESTA** to be held in the Parish on **Pentecost Sunday - 23 May**. Expressions of interest are now being sought from parishioners who would like to participate in the FOOD FIESTA, by way of cooking traditional dishes and then distributing these dishes through stalls set up at the celebration.

A limited number of stalls will be available so you if you want to show off your culinary skills and introduce a world of tantalizing gastronomical treats to your fellow Parishioners please register your interest as early as possible. For more information and bookings please call Greg Piggott 9680 3977 0413 747 214

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:** The next session will be on this Tuesday 9 March at either 4pm or 7.30pm or Saturday 13 March at 3.30pm in the Parish Hall for parents and children who will be receiving Reconciliation..

**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  
 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** Maria Licciardo and Joseph Gangemi who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Angelina Rajendram, Marie Gatt, See Seng Lorenzo and Victoria Fidel.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Adeline Chong, Marj Orioles, Rita Gatt, Pablito Afbale, Antonietta Aloschi, Brian Fausset and Frank Gould.

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – March 13 & 14**

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS		LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
<b>VIGIL</b> John Stone S3		Vince Connelly Ray Scully Cheryl Braisby	Joanne Barrett, Carol Cividin, Esther Coleiro, Beverley Curtis, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Stephanie Coleiro, Maria Tunchon, Warren Hiser
<b>7.30AM</b> Michael Wilson S4		Tony Falzon Patricia Bright John O'Dea	Lina Josue, Alfred & Gladys Tsang, Jo Wickens, Colleen & Eric Woodhead
<b>9.00AM</b> Zeno Hong S5		Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
<b>10.30AM</b> Joe Josue S1		Tony Smith Philip Golanco Trinity Abbertson-Woo	Anita Christy, Pauline Camilleri, Dorothy Finucane, Elizabeth Fogolin, Philip & Yolanda Golanco, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

**6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - March 14**

<b>Adult Servers</b> Julia Calixto Michael Smith	<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b> Belinda Lee Alfonso Aguilera Bill Clasquin Brenda Clasquin Julie Ferry		<b>Musos</b>
<b>Lectors</b> Gillian Pak Leanne Pak Mitchell Waters		Marc Clasquin Maria Aguilera Tina Muscat Tony Muscat Vanessa Muscat	<b>Bass</b> Erich Gracias Flor <b>Piano</b> Alice Bradshaw <b>Guitar</b> Daniel Ang
<b>Altar Servers</b> S2	<b>Projectionist</b> Matt Ashton		<b>Singers</b> Alison Wong Annabel Irawan Monique O'Callaghan Sara Ang Veronica Sahabu Bec Burrowes
<b>Gift Preparation</b> Caitlin Chaney	<b>Ushers</b> Alfonso Aguilera Glen Ferry	<b>Welcomers</b> Darren Edwards Monica O'Callaghan	<b>Horns/Strings/ Winds</b> Matthew Ashton

<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Marianne Holohan Joanna Delvecchio	<b>CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING</b> Pat Kenna, Francesca Menezes, Moira Mitchell, Maree McDermott, Margaret Sinha	<b>COUNTING (2nd Collection)</b> Bill Lee, Greg Piggott, Christopher Crowe, Eddy Pagnucco
<b>FLOWER ROSTER</b> No flowers	<b>COUNTING (1st Collection)</b> Sandra Watson Michael Watson	<b>BOOKSHOP</b> Carmel Adams / Rose Huby / Bernadette Logue / Dora Saleh / Patricia Smith