



The Massabielle

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

JUNE 26 & 27, 2010 – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Issue Number 365

SAINT BERNADETTE AT THE MASSABIELLE

Most of us know something of Bernadette Soubirous, the saint after whom our parish is named. On 11 February 1858, Bernadette, then aged 14, was out gathering firewood with her sister and a friend at the grotto of Massabielle outside Lourdes, when she had an experience that completely changed her life and the town of Lourdes where she had lived.

It was on this day that Bernadette claimed she had the first of 18 visions of what she termed “a small young lady”. Bernadette never claimed it was Our Lady. She referred to the vision simply as “Aquerò” (that one). Bernadette described the lady as wearing a white veil, a blue girdle, and had a golden rose on each foot. She held a rosary of pearls. The lady was standing in a niche in the rock. Bernadette’s sister and her friend stated that they had seen nothing.

On her next visit, she said that the “beautiful lady” asked her to return to the grotto every day for fifteen days. The supposed apparition did not identify herself until the seventeenth vision, although the townspeople who believed she was telling the truth assumed she saw the Virgin Mary.

Bernadette's story caused a sensation with the townspeople, who were divided in their opinions on whether or not Bernadette was telling the truth. Some believed her to have a mental illness, and demanded she be put in an asylum. She soon had a large number of people following her on her daily journey, some out of curiosity and others who firmly believed that they were witnessing a miracle.

The other contents of Bernadette's reported visions were simple, and focused on the need for prayer and penance. However, at the thirteenth of

the alleged apparitions, on 2 March, Bernadette told her family that the lady had said, “Please go to the priests and tell them that a chapel is to be built here. Let processions come hither.”

Bernadette duly went to the parish priest Father Dominique Peyramale with the request. Bernadette’s parish priest had little time for people who saw visions and dreamed dreams and told Bernadette that the lady must identify herself.

Bernadette said that, on her next visitation, she repeated the priest's words to the lady, but

that the lady bowed a little, smiled and said nothing. As Bernadette later reported to her family and to church and civil investigators, at the ninth visitation the lady told Bernadette to drink from the spring that flowed under the rock, and eat the plants that grew freely there. Although there was no known spring, and the ground was muddy, Bernadette saw the lady pointing with her finger to the spot, and said later she assumed the lady meant that the spring was underground. She did as she was told by first digging a muddy patch with her bare hands and then



attempting to drink the brackish drops. She tried three times, failing each time. On the fourth try, the droplets were clearer and she drank them. She then ate some of the plants. When finally she turned to the crowd, her face was smeared with mud and no spring had been revealed. Understandably, this caused much skepticism among onlookers who shouted, “She's a fraud!” or “She's insane!” while embarrassed relatives wiped the adolescent's face clean with a handkerchief.

In the next few days, however, a spring began to flow from the muddy patch first dug by Bernadette. Some devout people followed her example by drinking and washing in the water,

which was soon reported to have healing properties.

Her 16th claimed vision, which she stated went on for over an hour, was on 25 March. During this vision, the second of two “miracles of the candle” is reported to have occurred. Bernadette was holding a lighted candle; during the vision it burned down, and the flame was said to be in direct contact with her skin for over fifteen minutes, but she apparently showed no sign of experiencing any pain or injury. This was said to be witnessed by many people present, including the town physician, Dr. Pierre Romaine Dozous, who timed and later documented it. According to his report, there was no sign that her skin was in any way affected, so he monitored Bernadette closely but did not intervene.

According to Bernadette's account, during that same visitation that she claimed, she again asked the lady her name but the lady just smiled back. She repeated the question three more times and finally heard the lady say, in Gascon Occitan, the dialect spoken by Bernadette, “I am the Immaculate Conception”. Four years earlier Pope Pius IX had defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception: that, alone of all human beings who have ever lived (save for Jesus, Adam, and Eve), the Virgin Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin. Her parents, teachers and priests all later testified that she had never previously heard the expression ‘immaculate conception’ from them.

Bernadette was a sickly child; she had cholera in infancy and suffered most of her life from asthma, and some of the people who interviewed her following her revelation of the visions thought her simple-minded. However, despite being rigorously interviewed by officials of both the Catholic Church and the French government, she stuck consistently to her story.

Disliking the attention she was attracting, Bernadette went to the hospice school run by the Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction, where she finally learned to read and write. She then joined a convent, moving into their motherhouse at Nevers at the age of 22. She spent the rest of her brief life there, working as an assistant in the infirmary and later as a sacristan, creating beautiful embroidery for altar cloths and vestments. She later contracted tuberculosis of the bone in the right knee. She eventually died of her long-term illness at the age of 35 on 16 April 1879.

Father John was at Lourdes last Sunday and said Mass at the Massabielle.

LITURGY CORNER

In the gospel for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Luke tells us that Jesus is on a journey which we know will lead him to Jerusalem and eventually to his crucifixion. As Christians we too are on a journey – a journey of faith central to which is belief in God. It is this God who raised Jesus from the dead and to whom he ascended. Christians believe that God, who is one yet three relates to us in three ways: as God the Father who created all that is; as God the Son who came among us as Jesus and who understands what it means to be human, and God the Holy Spirit. Our God calls us into relationship with him, loves us, forgives us, disciplines us and desires our company. While other faiths – Judaism and Islam, believe in one God, the God of Abraham, they do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but rather a great prophet like Moses. To speak of God as Trinity is specifically Christian.



Today's Readings

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:16,19-21. Anointed as Elijah's successor, Elisha prepares a banquet for his followers before taking up his new task.

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1,13-18. Paul urges us to become Spirit-centred rather than slipping back into the old slavery of self-centredness.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62. As Jesus sets out for Jerusalem, where death and resurrection await him, he makes clear what is expected of all would-be followers.

Next week: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-12,17-20.

Feast Days this Week

Monday 28 June - St Irenaeus
Tuesday 29 June - St Peter & Paul
Saturday 3 July - St Thomas

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, July 2 at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport or by providing sandwiches, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Marion Heron on 9659 9385.

REPARATION PRAYER GROUP meets Wednesdays at 8pm in the Parish Office Basement. All welcome.

ACOLYTES AND ALTAR SERVERS: Please collect your rosters from the Priests' Sacristy and the Altar Servers' Room.

MISSION APPEAL THANK YOU

The annual appeal for Catholic Missions last weekend brought in a total of \$18,120.00. The Pontifical Mission Societies wish to thank you all for your very generous support.

VINNIES thanks all donors for their generosity. The end of the Financial Year is now very close so please remember that donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Receipts will be given to those who provide their name and address.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 10/11: Get your new edition now and enjoy another year of great savings. At \$60 for Parramatta/Hills edition or \$65 Sydney North & Sydney, these books are the best value ever! Check out the sample books in the foyer. Books are available from the Parish Office during office hours. Funds raised support our Life Teen Youth Ministry.

With the end of the Financial Year fast approaching, would you please bring your contributions up-to-date and please notify the Parish Office if you have changed your address or any other details.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION EVENINGS for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion for their children in 2011 will be held at 7.30pm on Monday July 26 and Tuesday July 27, 2010 in the Parish Hall.

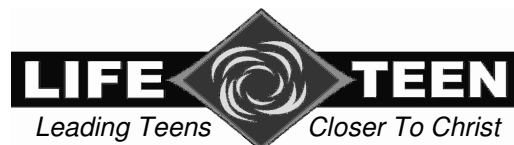


CAKE STALL TODAY: After Mass there will be a cake stall to help raise money for a community project being undertaken in Tanzania, Africa. The project involves teaching the seminarians to build and run a fish farm to provide food and income for the seminary and on-going skills for the seminarians. For information or to make a donation, contact Matthew Guy on 0419 090818 or guymm@utas.edu.au.

ALPHA COURSE: Alpha will be held again this year commencing the last week of July on various evenings. Invite a Non Churched or Non Christian friend, neighbour or family member to learn more about Jesus and Christianity. Come and be refreshed yourself. The Alpha course will be held over 10 weeks and each evening will include a meal, DVD and discussion. The sessions will be run in various homes. Enquiries to Mike and Von on 9899 1383 or contact the Parish Office. **Alpha** Course content details on Alpha.org.au.



'HANDLING PERSONAL FINANCES' The Solo Parent Ministry (Stepping Beyond) is offering an Information Night on the topic of "Handling Personal Finances". "Stepping Beyond" is usually for those who are separated or divorced, but anyone who is challenged by financial restraints and commitments is welcome to attend. Mr. William Vogels, Accredited Financial Counsellor, will be conducting this session. Venue: Diocesan Assembly Centre (Downstairs room), 1 – 5 Marion St. Blacktown on Wednesday 30 June at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Bookings essential on 9933 0205 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au.



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



LIFE Nights presents **Road Work Ahead** (for grades 9 to 12 and bring a friend). This Sunday night, 27th June after the youth mass in the Hall under the church till 8:30pm. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink.

Into LIFE this Monday night from 7 - 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) in the Marian Centre on Wednesday 23rd June 7 till 8:30pm. Join together with other Young Catholics for inspiration. Bring \$2 donation. For more information contact youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

LIFETEEN Leaders Training Weekend (for young adults aged 18-35yrs). If you are interested in being involved in the youth ministry in the parish this is for you. From 2nd July at 7pm till 3rd July at 4pm in Kurrajong. Cost is \$50 with all food and accommodation provided. For more information or to register contact youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

SOUL FOOD presents "E10". This is the next combined young adults activity, on this Tuesday, 29th June from 6:30 till 9:00 at the Castle Hill Tavern (25 Victoria Ave Castle Hill in the upper room).

That's right: **coming soon is WYD2011 in Madrid (ages 15 – 34)**



PATRICIAN CLUB REUNION All former members of the Patrician Club, Parramatta are invited to attend a reunion picnic to be held in the Casuarina section of Nurragingy Reserve, Knox Road, Doonside on Sunday, 27 June, 2010 from 10am onwards. BYO. For further details contact Pat Baticic on 9831 2002.

CERDON COLLEGE MERRYLANDS 50th Anniversary Dinner for former staff, students & parents will be held at Rosehill Gardens on Saturday 28 June at 7.00pm. Cost \$90. Phone 9632 8759.

Immaculée Ilibagiza (author of *Left to Tell*) survived the 1994 Rwandan genocide, hiding in a bathroom for 91 days with 7 other women, while most of her family was murdered. Come and hear her moving story of living faith, hope and charity that led her to forgiveness. Starts 6.30pm at PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church St, Parramatta. \$10 steaks before 7pm. Details: www.theologyontap.com.au

ST BERNADETTE'S CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP meets in the Lourdes Centre, 31b Brisbane Rd, Castle Hill on Thursday evenings 7.30 to 8.30. Newcomers very welcome. Please contact Marilou 9680 4531 or Lesley 9873 1321.

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 6.45 am
 Tue 6.45am
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon
 Sat 8.00am

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

Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am

Sacramental Preparation Program 2011: Information nights for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion are in the parish hall at 7.30pm on July 26 & 27, 2010.

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 Adeline Chong, Dinita Llanos, Eamonn Hughes, Antonius Koesmoeljana and Jude Giannone who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Eugene Ali, Antonio Roco and Francis Lobo and in remembrance of Jack Cotter, Lucy and Denis Street.
Prayers for the Sick: Jim Reardon and Michael Dowson.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – July 3 & 4

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS		LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Terry O'Mara S5		Kristine Murgatroyd Brendan McEntee Rod Burrige	Joanne Barrett, Carol Cividin, Esther Coleiro, Beverley Curtis, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Stephanie Coleiro, Maria Tunchon, Warren Hiser
7.30AM John Stone S1		Anne Parker Mary Ward Matthew Troy	Joe Busuttill, Patricia Bright, Hilary Burton, Margaret Elder, Ken Short, Peter Grace
9.00AM Michael Wilson S2		David Green Von Lulan Mike Lulan	Stephen Suen, Howard Woodward, Janice Bonaccorso, Marcia Bosen, Shane Robinson, Rosalind Yeo, Elizabeth Vasta, Angela Stenglin, Patricia Williams
10.30AM Zeno Hong S3		Bill Gleeson Elizabeth Fogolin Michael Puckeridge	Marion McDonald, Mila Mina, Michael Puckeridge, Florina Vanderwaals, Barbara Shannon, Tony & Wendy Smith, Wendy Stone, Barry Halpin

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - July 4

Adult Servers Gillian Pak Marc Clasquin	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Mitchell Waters Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy		Musos	
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo			Bass Erich Gracias Flor	Singers Darian Jessup-Lonsdale Julia Calixto Monique O'Callaghan Natalie Jones Maree Calabria
Altar Servers S4	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan		Guitar Michael Smith	Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton
Gift Preparation	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony & Tina Muscat		

CHILDREN'S LITURGY School holidays No Liturgy	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Margaret Griffin, Margaret Sanders, Faye Goldsworthy, Maree Greenwell	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Campion Fernando, John McDermott, Emelie De Leon, Barrie Waters, Audrey & Sarah Markowskei
FLOWER ROSTER Christelle Jayawardena	COUNTING (1st Collection) Howard Woodward Marie Woodward	BOOKSHOP Carmel Adams/ Catherine Seddon/ Bernadette Logue/ Dora Saleh/ Patricia Smith