



The Massabielle

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

July 3 & 4, 2010 – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Issue Number 366

THE HEALING WATERS OF LOURDES

Last week's *Massabielle* told the story of how Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879) experienced eighteen apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary between February 11 and July 16, 1858 at Lourdes. The visions took place in a desolate and locally forbidden grotto called Massabielle. It is from this grotto that our parish bulletin takes its name. I celebrated Mass at the Massabielle two Sundays ago.

During the ninth apparition, Bernadette was told by "the Lady" to scratch the soil on the ground where she would find a spring of water. "Would you mind going down on your knees, kissing the ground, and eating the grass that is there. Go drink at the spring and wash yourself there." Bernadette did this, but with difficulty. The onlookers who, up to that day had shown some enthusiasm, were now shocked, scandalised and disgusted. Bernadette was slapped, insulted and led before the Public Prosecutor.

The "spring" is now a central part of the Lourdes' story and all Catholics know something of the healing properties of Lourdes water. People from all over the world come to get some of this water and take it home and sprinkle it around the house, especially on those who are sick. There must be fifty outlets for Lourdes water at the Grotto, but I noticed people still queued as they waited to fill their containers. You can fill containers at any one of the points that are positioned near the Massabielle, situated under and to the right of the original church.

From my observation, Lourdes is about care and concern for the sick. The sick have priority at all services and they have the front row at all Masses. They are taken ahead of every one else, except for children, to be plunged into the healing waters in the spring where the Lady told Bernadette to "go wash yourself there". With

thousands of pilgrims in Lourdes – there are only more hotels in Paris – the organisation has to work. And it does. The centre is reliant on volunteers from every part of the Catholic world. Many young people, especially from Ireland, give up their summer holidays to move the sick on gurneys and wheel chairs. It is very moving to see the faith of the people who have obviously struggled to reach Lourdes, being conveyed in a most gentle but professional manner, with medical equipment still attached to them and their conveyance. The weekend I was at Lourdes it was raining, but the volunteers continued to work all



day in the teeming rain bringing their charges to the various devotions. Lourdes is prepared for rain because the wet-weather plan includes blankets and water-proof covers for the special Lourdes wheel chairs that resemble mini carts from a by-gone era.

It is customary for pilgrims to take to the waters, to be immersed in the freezing Lourdes spring. I had to wait three hours, fifteen decades of the Rosary and endless verses of hymns in unheard of languages, for my turn to be allowed to enter one of the five men-only dressing rooms. The number on the men's side was so great and filled up so quickly that the volunteers closed the area and told the pilgrims to return the following afternoon. This happened within five minutes of the queue area being opened. The waiting area is a cross between a doctor's surgery and a railway station. There was a queue snaking around the platform complete with underfoot asphalt and railway-station seating. All available open space was taken up with hundreds of men in wheel chairs and their volunteer attendants, who stood all the while, and others on stretchers, again with minders. The waiting area was prayerful, although the loud speaker asked a number of times for silence.

Because I had been walking on the wet Lourdes pavements, my shoes had filled with rain water and my socks were soaking. My feet were ice cold, but I daren't return to the hotel for dry socks and give up the once in a life-time opportunity of "washing myself" in Lourdes water. I thought there was a good chance that I might die of pneumonia. The thought occurred to me that, should I die of some virus I picked up in Lourdes, my funeral would be noteworthy.

The ambulant men, like me, were eventually processed and moved into one of the five smaller dressing rooms, each holding six persons. Unless you have experienced the process you don't know what is behind the heavy privacy curtains. It is a little disconcerting to be ushered into a cubicle with five other pilgrims, each sitting in his underpants. It gave me the feeling that I was back in the cadets and was about to be inoculated. It was not a pretty sight. I suspect a similar thing was happening in the women's section, but I didn't need to know, so I didn't ask.

Eventually it came my turn to enter the private cubicle containing the bath filled with Lourdes water. I had to remove my underpants and a man placed a linen cloth around my loins. The cloth was wet and freezing cold and was the worst part of what was a very chaste process. The two men who led me into the water asked me to make the sign of the cross and say a prayer as they lowered me (with some force, I might add) into the large bath. There was no escape. I was not allowed out until I had bowed to a statue of the virgin and for a second time made the Sign of the Cross. God help a Protestant who felt the need for the plunge and didn't know how to make the Sign of the Cross.

When the men led me out of the bath, they indicated I should put on my underpants. There was no suggestion of a towel. I obeyed and was led from the pool back into the waiting area where I could dress, again sans towel. It was a wonderful experience and a very spiritual one. I did return to my hotel, however, for a hot bath to complete the healing process, ward off any pending symptoms of influenza, and get warm again. It was then that I discovered that French hair dryers are not up to being put into shoes to dry them out. I had only dried one shoe when the apparatus stopped dead in my attempt to remove it from one shoe to the other. I had to use a towel to do this because the coil was burning my fingers. Strange to say, next day the hair dryer had made a remarkable recovery and was working again. Another miracle I suppose.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

Peace is a word which crops up in many biblical texts (eg gospel of 14th Sunday: 'peace to this house', 'a man of peace'). It is a word we frequently use, so it seems reasonable to reflect upon its usage in our Christian context. In the history of the church, thought about peace has tended to fall into two strands - a political concern for matters of war and peace, and a spiritual, often mystical or reverent concern for the individual's well-being of soul. If the biblical concept is to guide our thought, the spiritual should never be divorced from the social (including political), nor the individual's peace from the well-being of the wider community. Which ever strand we take, both require that peace be an activity in which we engage for the well-being of self and other.



Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the peace and joy the Lord sends to his people.

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18. St Paul states that he has nothing to boast about except the cross of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12,17-20. Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples to share his mission of proclaiming the good news of the kingdom.

Next week: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Deut 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37

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

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

BUS TRIP TO MARY MACKILLOP MUSEUM: Those who are booked on the tour this Wednesday, 7 July are asked to meet in Brisbane Road by 8.45am.

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. Course content details on Alpha.org.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.

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.

LIFE BEGINS AT 50: Cards/mah-jong this Friday, 9 July at 7.30pm in the Marian Centre.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS NEXT WEEKEND

The final sale of these popular books will be next weekend after all masses. At \$60 for Parramatta/Hills edition or \$65 Sydney North & Sydney editions, these books are the best value ever! Check out the sample books in the foyer.

PARRAMATTA MARIST ANNIVERSARY DINNER:

On Friday 29 October, Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead is holding its 190th Anniversary Dinner at Sarah Grand Ballroom, Le Montage, Lilyfield. Tickets: \$90 each. Corporate sponsorship available. Contact the school on 9635 7066.

OAKHILL COLLEGE GALA DAY - Saturday 31 July

- Home games for rugby, soccer, tennis & hockey
- Battle of the Bands
- Big Kids' rides
- Mums chill out zone (tea, coffee etc)
- Stalls/ food
- Raffles & more

POSITION VACANT: Assistant Pastoral Care Worker, Australian Sudanese Catholic Community.

The Archdiocese of Sydney is seeking applications for the role of Assistant Pastoral Care Worker. This is a part time position working 3 days per week and located at Homebush West. Applications to Anthony Spata, Polding Centre, Level 5, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000 or anthony.spata@sydneycatholic.org. Applications close 11 July. Enquiries: 9390 5317.

CATHERINE McAULEY REUNION: Ex-students of Catherine McAuley, Westmead class of 1970 are invited to a reunion on 30 October at Wentworthville Leagues Club. Phone Margaret Kelly: 0412 779927.

'THE FULLNESS OF TRUTH' with international speakers Alex Jones, Fr Pacwa and Steve Ray. For times and locations phone 9786 4836 or go to www.thecatholicforum.org.



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



Rock Climbing (for grades 7-12) followed by Youth Mass next Sunday 11th July @ 3pm – 4:30pm at the Edge Rock Climbing (9/10 Hudson Ave Castle Hill) - \$13 per student, car pooling back to youth mass at the parish. Parents needed for supervision and car transport back to parish.

Register by contacting the youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

The holidays are here so there are **no** regular **LIFE Nights** and **Into Life** programs for the next few weeks. Life Nights will be back on 18th July and Into Life on 19th July.

Want to go to Madrid for World Youth Day 2011? (for ages 15 - 34). Come to an **INFORMATION NIGHT TONIGHT**, Sunday 4th July in the hall under the church from **7.00pm till 8.30pm**. Find out more about what the diocese and our parish are doing! Pilgrimages! Fundraising! Volunteer opportunities! Parish sponsorship! For further information contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au.



For info on Pilgrimages go to www.wydtours.com.au (Parramatta Diocese).

Keep a keen eye online at www.lifeteenaustralia.com

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 this Monday, 5 July. \$10 steaks before 7pm. Details: www.theologyontap.com.au

DINNER WITH WESLEY SMITH: Right to Life (Australia) invites you to dinner at Pennant Hills Golf Club, Beecroft on Saturday, 17 July at 7pm with Wesley Smith, senior fellow in bioethics and human rights and lawyer/consultant for the International Force on Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide. Cost is \$55. For information: 8197 9627 or john@lejeunemedical.com.au.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2009 - 2010

New Members of God's Family - the final ceremony and presentation of certificates for children who have recently received Sacraments of Initiation, will take place on Friday 23 July at 7.30pm in the Church.

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
 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 John King, Vittorio Muratore (funeral Tues at 11am) and Dermot Earley who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Tom Edwards, Peter Hoefsmit, Stephen Ward, Lucia Reyes Rarang, Godofredo de Leon, Max Yago, Mathes Perera, Preciosa Menezes, Branko Habek and Bibi Yana Perera
Prayers for the Sick: Jim Reardon, Jo Martin, Evi Barbosa, Maureen Gain and Michael Dowson.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – July 10 & 11

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS		LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Joe Josue S10	Martin Collins Katrina Obeid John Obeid	Iciar Quintana, Cynthia & Charles D'Emanuele, Alf Jacobs, Carmel James, Stephen & Janice MacMahon, Don & Remie de Leon	
7.30AM Budi Kawiadji S6	Yolanda Colosimo Joyan Fife Jerard Heffernan	John O'Dea, Annemarie & Daryl Hill, Jennifer Wakeling, Matthew Troy, Fran Mulcahy	
9.00AM Edy Kesuma S7	Angela Crowe Nanette D'Arcy Neil Bone	David/Bettina Green, Sally Healey, John & Lois Donnelly, Aida Pereira, Von & Mike Lulan, Brian & Katrina Fitzalan	
10.30AM Michael Lopez S8	Irene Ngu Margaret Griffin Guy Hannan	Buds Custodia, Campion, Rani & Cherani Fernando, Kerry Myers, Natalie Parmenter, Sandra & Johan Nelis, Rosary Roco	

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - July 11

Adult Servers Julia Calixto Michael Smith	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Alfonso Aguilera Bill Clasquin Brenda Clasquin Julie Ferry		Musos Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Daniel Ang	
Lectors Gillian Pak Leanne Pak Mitchell Waters		Marc Clasquin Maria Aquilera Tina Muscat Tony Muscat Vanessa Muscat	Singers Alison Wong Annabel Irawan Monique O'Callaghan Sara Ang Veronica Sahabu Bec Burrowes	
Altar Servers S9	Projectionist Matt Ashton		Horns/Strings/ Winds	
Gift Preparation Caitlin Chaney	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera Glen Ferry	Welcomers Darren Edwards Monica O'Callaghan		

CHILDREN'S LITURGY School holidays No Liturgy	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Maria Mochnik, Kathy Habek, Adeline & Ronald Tabila, Caroline Irawan	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Adrian Franks, David Tye, Robert Natoli, Cosimo Miccoli, Vincent Traynor
FLOWER ROSTER Lorraine O'Mara	COUNTING (1st Collection) Alfred Tsang Gladys Tsang	BOOKSHOP Maureen Gain / Heather Woods / Christine Jenneke / Jan Harrild / Bernadette Boulos