



The Massabielle

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

July 24 & 25, 2010 – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Issue Number 369

BAPTISM: THE BEGINNING

Colossae has never been excavated. All you can see is a mound with a few broken Roman columns and some other discarded stonework. Thirty metres below, awaiting revitalisation, is the city where there was a strong Christian community; a city, it seems that Paul never visited. The city was an ancient and important business centre in Phrygia (the region mentioned at the first Pentecost in Acts), 19 kilometres above Laodicea (mentioned in the Book of the Apocalypse) and near the great road from Ephesus to the Euphrates, both places known to us through the Bible. Why Colossae was abandoned we will never know. Perhaps an earthquake?

It was to the parish of Colossae that Paul wrote one of his letters. Paul was in prison in Rome and his surviving letter was written sometime in the 50s. There are those who dispute the Pauline authorship but, even if it was not written by Paul, it has some remarkable Pauline elements in the letter to the Colossians.

The snippet we read from today in the Second Reading is only three verses. It is about Baptism. Baptism makes us who we are. It gives us the dignity we have. It makes us Christian and is the most important sacrament, not only because it starts us on our Christian journey, but also because it commits us to Christ and his Church.

At the 9.00 am Mass today Henry John Oxford will be baptised. He is the son of Louise and Alan Oxford, long time parishioners of Castle Hill. Alan is our parish plumber, (I can give you his phone number and a reference if you want), and Louise teaches at Gilroy Catholic College. Harry is 2 months old and a beautiful baby. Harry will be introduced today to the parish community. It is within St Bernadette's Parish that Harry will begin to understand what it means to be Christian. Louise and Alan are the first educators of their

children in the ways of Faith, but this believing community will have an extraordinary influence on the decisions Harry makes about who he is in relation to Christ and his Church.

Baptism is the first of the sacraments of initiation. The other two sacraments of initiation are Confirmation and First Eucharist. Tomorrow night (and again on Tuesday night), parents belonging to this parish community, who want to further initiate their children into the life of Christ, will attend an information night in the parish hall. The night is to explain the year-long process we have in this parish for preparing

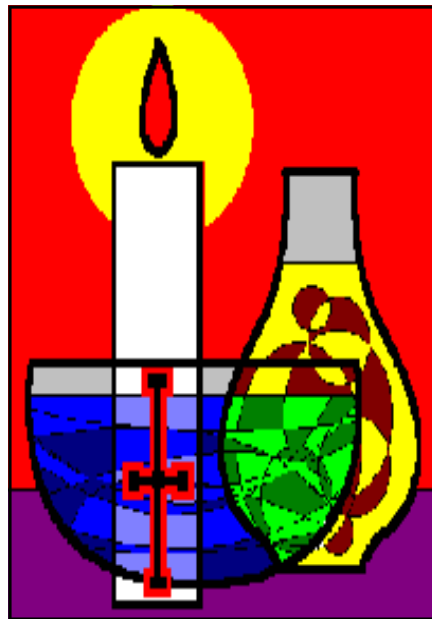
families to hand on the faith to that special child who is ready for reception of the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Our programme caters for children from Year 3 on. Children and young adults who, as yet, have not been Confirmed are also welcome to attend the Information Night tomorrow or Tuesday night.

Except for rare and exceptional instances, like a sick child in hospital, some preparation for sacraments is our tradition. Our tradition also stresses that the parents and the parish priest play a role in

assessing whether a child is ready for sacraments.

The Parramatta Diocese also has some protocols in place to assist all those involved in the sacramental cycle. One of the major differences from, say, how I was prepared for these sacraments of initiation, is that parents are the key players in the actual teaching and handing on of the faith. The parish, the catechists and the Catholic school teachers assist in this process and are important persons, but the actual conveying of information, the actual preparation, is done by the parents of the child. The one exception to this rule is that I prepare the children for the Sacrament of Penance over a four-week series of meetings with children and parents.



Another aspect of Castle Hill's preparation is that I meet with the candidates, his or her parents, and siblings, especially older siblings, who have a much more significant affect on the faith development of their younger brothers and sisters than they can possibly imagine. The underlying philosophy is that "faith is caught, not taught" from the significant "others" in the lives of young children, namely parents and siblings, especially older brothers and sisters.

The other component of our programme is the four week adult Faith Formation Course that runs throughout August. This course is in response to Pope Benedict's Angelus statement of March, 2006 when, addressing the thousands gathered under his window in St Peter's Square, he said, "If parents and godparents are 'to be authentic' in fulfilling their mission to share their Christian faith, the child's (preparation for sacraments of initiation) must be preceded and accompanied by the parents' commitment to deepen their own knowledge of the faith. In so many of today's secularised communities, the first urgency for believers in Christ is precisely to renew the faith of adults so that they will be able to share (the faith) with new generations".

Following the Information Night on Monday and Tuesday some may decide to delay their child's preparation for sacraments until another time. The programme is flexible enough to allow this to happen. We understand that a year-long commitment for most parents is a joy, but others can find it onerous. It is sometimes a surprise and comes as a shock to parents when I say we expect that preparation for First Communion takes precedence over soccer and ballet. Others will go to other parishes to see if they can enrol their child in that parish to avoid some elements of St Bernadette's Parish's expectations. This was brought up on Thursday at a meeting where the priests were discussing with Bishop Anthony the way in which children at the moment were prepared for sacraments in our diocese. "Some parishioners of Castle Hill go to other parishes because of the Faith Formation Course", it was said at the meeting. When discussing this with the Bishop I said, "Ah, this is not quite correct. This is only half the story, Bishop. It is the avoidance of the meeting with the parish priest that makes some of them go in search of another parish." I wonder why?

So, on Monday and Tuesday nights we have our Information Nights for parents at 7.30 pm.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

"In the Lord's Prayer a petition is made for daily food, which for Christians means pre-eminently the Eucharistic Bread, and also for purification from sin, so that what is holy may, in fact, be given to those who are holy" (GIRM 81). The holy people of God are to be given Holy Things by the Holy One. We have affirmed by our Amen our gratitude towards God for the many good things given us. We now turn to God expressing our desire to receive the spiritual food in the Body and Blood consecrated in this celebration. We pray also for purification from sin so that the One we are to receive may strengthen in us the holiness entrusted to us. "May these mysteries make us holy and lead us to eternal joy".

The Summit



Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32. The Lord permits Abraham to stand before him and petition for mercy for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

Second Reading: Colossians 2:12-14. God loves us, forgives us, and fulfils our lives.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-3. Jesus urges his followers to connect with God through prayer, receiving many blessings in return.

Next week: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Eccl 1:2,2:21-23, Colossians 3:1-5,9-11, Luke 12:13-21

Feast Days this Week

Monday 26 - Ss Joachim and Ann

Thursday 29 - St Martha

Saturday 31 - St Ignatius of Loyola

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.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS ... To mark the canonization of Bl Mary MacKillop and Beatification of Cardinal Newman, the Institute for Mission has planned a series, 'For All the Saints' over 3 Wednesday evenings at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, Blacktown from 7 to 9pm on Wednesdays, August 4, September 8 and October 13. Presenters are Bishop Anthony Fisher, Daniel Ang and Sr Bridie O'Connell RSJ. More details can be found on the noticeboard.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS: The last few Entertainment Books are still available from the Parish Office during office hours. \$60 for Parramatta/Hills edition or \$65 Sydney North or Sydney editions,

SUNDAY MISSALS AVAILABLE: A small number of (2010 only) Sunday Missals are now available from the Bookshop.

CHURCH RENOVATIONS AGAIN THIS WEEK:

During renovations to the church sanctuary, weekday masses will be celebrated in the parish hall (under the church) and an Adoration Chapel has been set up in the Marian Centre.

ALPHA COURSE: Alpha will be held again this year commencing this week on Monday, Tuesday & Friday 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 locations. Enquiries to Mike and Von on 9899 1383 or contact the Parish Office. Course content details on Alpha.org.au.



THE CATENIANS meet for dinner and trivia quiz at the Hills Lodge, cnr Windsor and Salisbury Rds., Castle Hill this Tuesday 27th July for 7.00pm. Any males who are interested in becoming members of the group are welcome to join them. RSVP to Malcolm on 9639 1915 or Tony on 9680 3079.



CAN YOU SPARE VINNIES A LITTLE TIME? From August 21 - 29, the St Vincent de Paul Society will hold its annual Doorknock Appeal in our Diocese to raise funds to help families in need. Are you

able to spare a few hours of your time on the weekend of 21/22 (or 28/29) August to join the great St Bernadette's Vinnies Doorknock Team? Encourage your family and friends to join you! No one too old! If you haven't received a letter, please call Margaret Hawkes on 0413013390 or Greg Piggott on 0413747214.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY: All are welcome to come to read and reflect on the **Acts of the Apostles** starting on Wednesday 4th August at 9.45am in the Marian Centre for 10 weeks. Come and be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit of God. Please ring the Parish office before July 28 so your books can be ordered. Books are \$18.00.

OAKHILL COLLEGE GALA DAY - Saturday 31 July
Home games of rugby, soccer, tennis, netball, hockey
* Battle of the Bands * Big Kids' rides
* Mums chill out zone (tea, coffee etc)
* Stalls/ food * Raffles & more

STEPPING BEYOND: The Solo Parent Ministry is holding its next Workshop for those who are separated or divorced, at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown this Wednesday 28th July. 6.30 for 7.00 pm start. This month's focus is on "Assertive Communication": Bookings are essential. Contact Sr. Eileen on 9933 0205 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



LIFE Nights presents "**Blasting Zone**" (for grades 9 to 12) this Sunday night, 25th July after the Youth Mass in the Hall under the church till 8:30pm. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink
The Following Life Night is "**Death by Chocolate**" Sunday 8th August.

Into Life is on this Monday 26th July 7 - 8.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Years 7 - 8 are welcome to attend.

Spring Camp 2010 is coming so keep these dates free: **Into Life (years 7-8) on 10-12 September**
Life Night (years 9 -12) 17-19 September
Camp will be held at La Salle Youth Camp Kincumber located on the shores of Kincumber's waterways. Teens will have a great time hanging out with friends and meeting new people while doing activities and chilling out. The camp is organised and run by the Youth Ministry team headed by our Youth Minister and consisting of Life Teen Core, Young Adult Leaders, and Parent Support.

Young Adults: *Alpha Course* on Tuesday Nights starting 27th July for the next 10 weeks 7-9:30pm. Join together with other Young Catholics for inspiration. Bring a donation.
For more information contact youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

Coming soon is WYD2011 Madrid (ages 15 - 34). More information nights coming up so stay tuned. For information wydtours.com.au (Parramatta diocese) or contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277.



SOUL FOOD presents "**Sex and the City vs Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body**". This is the next combined young adults activity on 27th July from 6:30 till 9:00 at the Castle Hill Tavern (25 Victoria Ave Castle Hill in the upper room)

40 Hour Famine - Take the challenge!
Don't just sit at home doing nothing - do the 40 Hour Famine and raise money to fight the Global Food Crisis. It's on 20-22 August. Contact Luke Hackett, Darian Jessup-Lonsdale and Chloe Hijniakoff to pick up your famine book and do something real!
For more information contact youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2010 - 2011

Sacramental Programme Information Evenings for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion for their children in 2011 will be held at 7.30pm **this Monday July 26 and Tuesday July 27** in the Parish Hall.

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 Bill Miller, Louie Lebnan and Philomena Carvalho who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Katharina Antich, Vincenzo Melia, Eamonn Hughes, Lawrence De Souza, and Cecil Taylor.
Prayers for the Sick: Jim Reardon, Jo Martin, John Peters, Pedro Hornedo, David Edhouse, Michael Dowson, Patrick Ferris and Caroline Wooster.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – July 31 & August 1

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS		LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Zeno Hong S3		Vince Connelly Ray Scully Cheryl Braisby	Felicity Carvalho, Lourice Asmar, Patrick Bowie, Rod Boyd, Laura Burrige, Ignatius/Natalia Chui, Lynne Myers, Barbara Ortlepp, Mary McMahon
7.30AM Joe Josue S4		Ron Gledhill Jo Wickens Joe Menezes	Lina Josue, Alfred & Gladys Tsang, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00AM Budi Kawiadji S5		Karin Abrams Tim Abrams Cathy Richmond	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Edy Kesuma S1		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 - August 1

Adult Servers Gillian Pak Marc Clasquin	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy	Mitchell Waters	Musos Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Michael Smith	Singers Julia Calixto Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Monique O'Callaghan Natalie Jones Maree Calabria
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan		Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton	
Altar Servers S2	Usher Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony Muscat Tina Muscat	Drums Annie Smith	
Gift Preparation Jeremy Smith Mitchell Johnson-Green				

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Vicki Ford Pauline Andrew	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Karen D'Souza, Christine Gracia, Jana Fizely & Leader	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Matthew Troy, Andrew Losurdo, Graham Murray, Michael & Julie Puckeridge
FLOWER ROSTER Sandra Fernando	COUNTING (1st Collection) John Faehrmann Len Goldsworthy	BOOKSHOP Carmel Adams / Rose Huby / Bernadette Logue / Dora Saleh / Patricia Smith