

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens [www.john23rd.com](http://www.john23rd.com)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5 - 6 March 2016

### Our Parish Mission

*The parish of St John XXIII is a faith community with the Eucharist as its heart. Inspired by John XXIII's prophetic opening of the windows of the Church, we welcome the fresh air of the Holy Spirit, inviting every person to share in the responsibility of enriching the life and faith of our community by sharing their gifts and talents."*



<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr John McSweeney	✉ <a href="mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au">FrJohn@john23rd.org.au</a>
<b>Asst Priest:</b> Fr Robert William	✉ <a href="mailto:FrRobert@john23rd.org.au">FrRobert@john23rd.org.au</a>
<b>Deacon:</b> Nicephorus Tan	✉ <a href="mailto:DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au">DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au</a>

### Mass Times

*Monday to Friday* 9:00am

*Also Wednesday* 9:00am Holy Cross  
Primary during school term

*Saturday* 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)

*Sunday* 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am  
6:00pm (Youth)

**Baptism** 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

### Reconciliation (First Rite)

*Saturday* 5:00 - 5:45pm

*And after any weekday masses*

### Parish Office Hours

*Tuesday to Friday* 8.30 - 4.00pm

### Parish Office Contacts

☎ (02)9852 0580    📠 0403 766468 AH

Secretary: Tanya Gatt

✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)

✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thurs)

✉ [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

✉ [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

## Devotions & Prayers

### Novena Masses

*Tuesday* 7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

*First Friday* 7:30pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*Tuesday* 6:30 - 7:30pm

*First Friday* 6:30pm followed by  
7:15pm Benediction

*Saturday* 8:00 - 9:00am (*Vocations*)

### Sacrament of the Sick

*First Saturday* 9:00am Mass or upon request

### Divine Office

*Friday* 12:00pm with Adoration

*Sunday* 8:15am

### Praise & Worship

*3rd Saturday* 7:30pm

led by SJ23rd Prayer Group

*2nd Saturday* 7:30pm

led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

*Friday evenings* 7:00pm church kitchen

(*Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group*)

## From the Pastor's Desk

Forgiveness, Compassion, MERCY. These words and concepts sum up the Heavenly Father, who is perfect. And we are called to imitate God: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect", says Jesus (as recorded in Matthew's Gospel). So, like the Father, we too should pray for and attentively wait for those who have gone astray; like the Father, we need to support those who are faithful and yet may feel neglected at times during their spiritual journey; like the Father, we need to celebrate the many gifts that are given to all, feasting with the returning sinners, throwing a party for those who continue to strive to live the Gospel Message, rejoicing in the goodness of God to all!

# At the end of last week the parish put into practice the request of Pope Francis and spent 24 hours with the Lord. It was a spiritual time with great benefits to all in the community, especially for those who were able to participate. Thanks to all who came to spend some time in prayer and reflection.

# The Parish Finance Committee will meet this Tuesday (8th March) at 7:30 in the Conference Room.

# I have asked Helen Zammit to co-ordinate a new *pillar* of the Parish Council termed ***Evangelization***. This brings together all those ministries which are involved in Outreach to the community: Baptism Team, RCIA Team, Sacramental Team and Facilitators, and all involved in SRE in our State Schools. There is the hope that we will be able to establish in time a new Team that will be called Mission Outreach. The first meeting of the coordinators of these ministries is this Thursday (10th March) in the Conference Room.

# Please return all raffle tickets for the WYD raffle as quickly as possible as they need to be sent to the Chancery this week!

# Please support the Fundraising Committee as they begin the process of selling tickets for our Parish's Grand Raffle, which will be drawn on 5th June.

# Next Weekend (12-13 March) there will be the Enrolment Ceremony during masses for all the Children who will be commencing their First Holy Communion preparation after Easter.

God bless you all. Have a great week! Fr. John

## Evangelicum

*(Continued On the vigil of Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis)*

However, two of his sons take his cloak and cover him so that he returns in the dignity of father. This passage makes me say how important our role is in confession. Before us is a "naked" person, and also a person that doesn't know how to speak and doesn't know what to say, with his weakness and his limitations, with the shame of being a sinner, and so many times unable to say it. Let us not

forget: the sin is not before us, but a repentant sinner, the sinner who would like not to be like this, but is unable <to change>, a person who feels the desire to be heard and to be forgiven. A sinner who promises that he doesn't want to be estranged from the house of the Father and that, with the little strength he has, wants to do all he can to live as a child of God. Therefore, we are not called to judge, with a sense of superiority, as if we were immune from sin. On the contrary, we are called to act like Shem and Japheth, Noah's sons, who took a cover to spare their father shame. To be a confessor according to the heart of Christ means to cover the sinner with the cover of mercy, so that he is no longer ashamed and is able to regain the joy of his filial dignity, and is also able to know where it is found again.

Therefore, it is not with the cudgel of judgment that we will be able to bring the lost sheep back to the sheepfold, but with the holiness of life that is the principle of renewal and of reform in the Church. Holiness is nourished by love and is able to take upon itself the weight of the one who is weaker. A Missionary of Mercy carries the sinner on his own shoulders, and consoles him with the strength of compassion. And the sinner who goes there, the person who goes there, finds a father. You have heard, I have also heard, so many people who say: "No, I don't go anymore, because I went once and the priest beat me, he reprimanded me so much; or I went and he asked me some obscure questions, out of curiosity." Please, this isn't a good Pastor, this is a judge who perhaps thinks he hasn't sinned, or is a poor sick man who is inquisitive with his questions. But I like to say to confessors: if you don't feel you are a father, do not go to the confessional, it is better if you do something else. Because so much harm can be done, so much harm to a soul if it is not received with the heart of a father, with the heart of Mother Church. Some months ago I was speaking with a wise Cardinal of the Roman Curia about the questions that some priests ask in the confessional and he said to me: "When a person begins and I see that he wants to throw something out, and I remember I must understand, I say to him: I understand! Be tranquil!" And forward – this is a father.

I support you in this missionary adventure, giving you as examples two saintly ministers of God's forgiveness, Saint Leopold and Saint Pio – there, among the Italians, there is a Capuchin that resembles Saint Leopold very much: small, with a beard ... — together with so many other priests that in their life have witnessed God's mercy. They will help you. When you feel the weight of the sins confessed to you and the limit of your person and of your words, trust in the strength of mercy that goes to encounter all as love and that knows no limits. And say as so many holy confessors: "Lord, I forgive, put it on my account!" And go forward. May the Mother of Mercy assist and protect you in this very precious service. My blessing accompanies you and you, please, do not forget to pray for me. Thank you.

## Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## Communion Antiphon

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

## First Reading

*Joshua 5:9-12*

*The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 33:2-7*

**R.** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; In the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

## Second Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

*God reconciled us to himself through Christ.*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

*Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is the great Parable of the Prodigal or Lost Son. According to biblical scholars, together with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we see in this text from Luke something of the genius of Jesus of Nazareth.

What can we say about this marvellous parable that has not been said before? Not much, really. We certainly see ourselves in the two sons. But have we seen ourselves in the character of the Father as well?

The younger son, through self-centredness demands his inheritance ahead of time, and through hedonism wastes all the money given to him. In Lent the Church invites us to repent of our sinfulness which is often born of self-centredness which cuts us off from others, and to return to the Father. Let's make certain that we continually return to the Father through seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation as often as we can.

The elder son, through selfishness and self-righteousness, fails to appreciate the marvellous return to the family of his wayward brother. We can also be jealous of others' good fortune, when we appear to have missed out. Like with the elder son, we can be angry with God, asking why we didn't receive the same blessings. In this, too, we need to return to the Father!

And the Father loves them both, and wants BOTH of them to be loving to each other as well as to Him. Forgiveness, Compassion, MERCY. These words and concepts sum up the Heavenly Father, who is perfect. And we are called to imitate God: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect", says Jesus (as recorded in Matthew's Gospel). So, like the Father, we too should pray for and attentively wait for those who have gone astray; like the Father, we need to support those who are faithful and yet may feel neglected at times during their spiritual journey; like the Father, we need to celebrate the many gifts that are given to all, feasting with the returning sinners, throwing a party for those who continue to strive to live the Gospel Message, rejoicing in the goodness of God to all!

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died and was buried; he descended  
into hell; on the third day he rose  
again from the dead; he ascended into  
heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty; from  
there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and life  
everlasting. Amen.

THE WORD  
OF GOD

Let your light so shine before  
men, that they may see your  
good works, and glorify your  
Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

## Readings for Next Week

### 07 Mon 4th week of Lent

1st Reading 2 Kings 5:1-15  
Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4  
Gospel Luke 4:24-30

### 08 Tues 4th week of Lent

1st Reading Daniel 3:25, 34-43  
Psalm Ps 24:4-9  
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

### 09 Wed 4th week of Lent

1st Reading Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9  
Psalm Ps 147:12-13. 15-16. 19-20  
Gospel Matthew 5:17-19

### 10 Thurs 4th week of Lent

1st Reading Jeremiah 7:23-28  
Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9  
Gospel Luke 11:14-23

### 11 Fri 4th week of Lent

1st Reading Hosea 14:2-10  
Psalm Ps 80:6. 8-11. 14. 17  
Gospel Mark 12:28-34

### 12 Sat 4th week of Lent

1st Reading Hosea 5:15-6:6  
Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 18-21  
Gospel Luke 18:9-14

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Mary Elizabeth Etccl (Nancy),  
Cyastine Orguzmanklyoe, Jayfrene  
Ramirez Yanson, Fe Martinez,  
Napoleon Nazario

### Deceased:

Jerry Camilleri, Jeff Turner

### Anniversary:

Antonia Cremona, Emanuel  
Cremona, Victoria Cremona,  
Victor Cremona, Anglea Cremona

### Sick:

Estela Pangilinan, Mark de Jesus,  
Laura Z Faelnar, Peter O'Leary,  
Elizabeth Newnes, Jackson Tate,  
Ernesto Coronel, Rosalia Clores,  
Mariano Antonio Jon Villaraza,  
Edwin Rizon, Nigel Reynolds,  
Helen Hill, Guy Austria, Maria Bellia

### Thanksgiving:

Wira Peiris

## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**2nd Collection: \$ 5264.00**

*Loose* \$ 1525.00

*PG Envelopes* \$ 2179.00

*PG by EFT* \$ 1560.00

*Pays parish debt and on going running costs,  
including wages of staff.*

***Please contribute more on the  
Second Collection as this helps the  
parish community***

If you would like to be a part of the  
church's plan giving program, an  
**SJ23rd form** (white) is available at the  
church foyer or contact the parish  
office.



## Acknowledgments

We thank those ladies who tirelessly  
help in maintaining the church,  
vestments, altar linens, banners and  
flowers.



**The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart  
give thanks for 150 years**




**Listening to the Heartbeat of the World**

**Saturday 19th March  
Mass at 10.00 am**

**St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney  
College Street**

**ALL INVITED**

**If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive  
communion in your home please contact the parish office.**



## **Calling for nominations for diocesan awards**

Nominations are now open for three diocesan awards:

### ***1. The Diocesan Medal of Honour***

The Diocesan Medal of Honour seeks to encourage and recognise outstanding contribution and service by members of the Parramatta diocesan community in work on behalf of the Church and society. The Diocesan Medal of Honour is awarded for outstanding services to parish, Diocese and community.

### ***2. The Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth***

The Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth seeks to encourage and recognise youth between the ages of 18 and 25 who have shown outstanding contribution and service to the parish, Diocese and community.

### ***3. The Diocesan Certificate of Recognition***

The Diocesan Certificate of Recognition seeks to encourage and recognise outstanding contribution by non-Catholic members of the Diocese of Parramatta community, for work supporting the parish, Diocese and community.

The overview for how to make a nomination and notations are available from Rev Fr Arthur Bridge AM, Chairman of the Diocesan Honours Committee, tel (02) 9631 3316, [arthurbridge@arsmusica.org.au](mailto:arthurbridge@arsmusica.org.au)

## **Youth Ministry Co-ordinator - casual, 10 hours/wk**

Christ the King Catholic Parish, North Rocks, is seeking a dynamic and enthusiastic youth worker to lead the existing team of youth and young adult volunteers. The successful applicant will support the development and day-to-day running of youth activities in the parish. Experience in youth ministry and/or parish youth groups is desirable. We are looking for a person with excellent interpersonal and communication skills who enjoys working with youth of all ages. Very good written skills and sound time-management skills are essential. The successful candidate will support the teachings of the Church and the ethos of the Parish and Diocese. To apply submit your CV with a cover letter, Working with Children Check documentation, two referees as well as a letter from your parish priest. For further details and to submit your application, contact Fr Ian McGinnity tel (02) 98718710, [ctk.nrocks@bigpond.com](mailto:ctk.nrocks@bigpond.com)

**Youth Ministry applications close 4 March 2016 but they may take late applications.**

**For more events please go to:**

<http://catholicoutlook.org/event/>

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*We must all use this time of Lent to put a holy freshness into our hearts, our works, into what we say, and this freshness will lead us to the true joy that Christ brought into the world and which he continually renews in the triumph of his Passover. - St. John XXIII, 23 Feb 1955*

### COUNCIL MATTERS

- † Next PPC Executive Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 April 2016, from 7:30 pm at the Parish Office Conference Room.

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

- † The next **Gardening Working Bee** will be held on Saturday morning, March 12. Volunteers needed.
- † The **Church Basement Cleanup** is being planned for Saturday morning, April 9. Volunteers needed.
- † The **Church Kitchen Cleanup** is also planned for Saturday morning, April 9. Volunteers needed.



### LITURGY TEAM

- † Our parish will host the **Deanery's 2nd Rite of Reconciliation** on Tuesday, 22 March from 7:30 pm. There will be no Novena Mass on this night.
- † If you are interested in participating actively in the **Good Friday Stations of the Cross** to be held at Holy Cross School, Glenwood, please contact Bob or Grace Agbulos directly or through the Parish Office.
- † Rehearsals for the Holy Week liturgical celebrations for Acolytes, Altar Servers, Readers and EMCs are tentatively scheduled for Saturdays, 19 March, and 26 March, with Wednesday, 23 March as another possibility. Please check with Bob Agbulos for final schedules and times.

### Music Ministry

- † Thanks to all the Choir groups who attended last Tuesday's **Music & Liturgy workshop** called "Celebrating the Easter Triduum" hosted by the Diocesan Office for Worship.
- † Choir Rehearsals for the Holy Week liturgical celebrations are tentatively scheduled for Wednesdays, 16 March and 23 March, with Saturday, 26 March as a third possibility. Please check with Meg Lijauco and Ray Samonte for final schedules and times.

### FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- † The monthly Praise & Worship Night hosted by the **SJ23 Prayer Group** will be held on 19 March after the Vigil Mass. Guest speaker and theme will be announced during the weekend masses.
- † Thanks to everyone who responded to the Pope's call to have "**24 Hours with the Lord**" during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We hope that you are spiritually

## Parish Council

refreshed with the perfect splendours of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Thanks to those who responded to our call for host families for the Rosary statue for February and March 2016. We are now looking for hosts for our Blessed Mother for April and May.

† **Pilgrimage Walk to the Holy Door at the Franciscan Shrine of the Innocents in Kellyville**

Obtain the special jubilee plenary indulgence when you make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door during this Jubilee of Mercy year (conditions apply). The faithful are invited to join the St. John 23<sup>rd</sup> Parish community on this pilgrimage walk (approx. 3.5km) on **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2016, after the 9:00a.m. Mass.** Bring the whole family! Assembly point will be the courtyard outside the front entrance of the church.

### PASTORAL & SACRAMENTAL TEAM

#### FIRST EUCHARIST SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

All children partaking in this year's First Eucharist program are reminded to bring their completed Enrolment forms to the Ritual Masses next Sat 12 March, 6pm or Sun 13 March 9am, 10.30am or 6pm. If you haven't picked up an enrolment form yet, it is available online at [www.john23rd.com](http://www.john23rd.com) or from the Parish office.

#### **FIRST EUCHARIST PARENTS' MEETING**

There will also be a parents' meeting on **WED 16 MARCH, 7.30PM at the Church.**

#### FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

† Please continue to support this year's **Parish Fundraising Grand Raffle** Draw by buying more tickets! The first prize will be a brand new Mitsubishi Mirage ES to be drawn on Sunday, 5 June 2016 coinciding with our Church Dedication 9th Anniversary.

### *Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

Tuesday nights beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, sung Benediction Mass 7.30pm and Novena prayers at 7:40pm.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue visit you in your home contact Bart Sarlabus - [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com). Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

#### **Rosary Statue Family Roster**

<b>March 8</b>	Agbulos Family	<b>March 15</b>	Sobrevinas Family
<b>March 22</b>	Houghton Family	<b>March 29</b>	Torroba Family
<b>April 5</b>	<i>available</i>	<b>April 12</b>	Olan Family
<b>April 19</b>	<i>Pangilinan Family</i>		

## Parish News

### WYD

WYD fundraising raffle! Tickets sold or unsold will need to be returned by next weekend.

WYD will be having a bbq on Sunday morning 9am and 10:30am

- \$3 for a sausage sizzle / 2 for \$5

- \$1 soft drinks / water



**Our next working bee** is on Saturday 12 March from 10.00am (after 9.00am mass) to 12.00. Drinks and something to eat will be available. Please bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, sunscreen.



**President** Bart Sarlabus

✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

#### Council Team Leaders

*Community Bldg* Techie Sarlabus

*Comms & Media* John McCartney

*Faith Formation* Rose Franco

*Fundraising* Rodi Orantia

*Liturgy* Bob Agbulos

*Music* Ray Samonte

*Pastoral Care* Jill Franco

*Social Outreach* Qwayne Guevarra

### Our School Communities

#### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ olycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

#### John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave,

Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

#### Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave,

Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

## Why we do what we do.....

### Why do the Stations of the Cross?

The most important reason for reviving the practice of making the Stations of the Cross is that it is a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. It takes the reflection on the passion out of my head, and makes it an imaginative exercise. It involves my senses, my experience and my emotions. To the extent I come to experience the love of Jesus for me, to that extent the gratitude I feel will be deep. Deep gratitude leads to real generosity and a desire to love as I have been loved. First, just a note about the history of the stations:

**The History:** From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death and resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus was. These sites become important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The stations, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites. In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating "replicas" of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, these shrines became the set of 14 stations we now know and were placed in almost every Catholic Church in the world.

**Why Put Them On the Web?** We do this for the same reason we have done the Daily Reflections and the Online Retreat on the web - accessibility. It would be wonderful if each of us would

find the time to explore our church, or a classic church in town, and make the stations there, going from station to station. However, it is much easier to imagine almost anyone with a computer going through these stations, any time, day or night.

**What if I have never made the Stations before?** Go to the page on "How to do the Stations" and see how simple it is. On the web, it's easy. I can do one a day, for two weeks. I can do several at a time, and just do them, when I get a chance. I can do all 14 at a time, and return to them in my prayer and imagination as I do them.

The most important thing to remember is that this can be as personal as I'd like it to be. One of our common religious struggles is to realize that we are not alone. The Good News is that Jesus entered into our life's experience completely - even suffering and death - and that he fell into the hands of a Loving God, who raised him from death to life. We can have complete hope that suffering and death have no complete hold on us. We will all share eternal life with him, if we can fall into the hands of the same Loving God. And, along the way, we are not alone. Jesus is with us as one who knows our suffering, and the death we face. That can be deeply consoling.

So try the stations, and experience the consolation they offer. And return often, to be renewed in this intimate experience of Jesus' solidarity with all humanity in our way of the cross each day.

*<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations-why.html>*

## Youth Corner

### GTK Youth Group

*(Getting to Know)*

St John XXIII Parish youth group where our young people get to know God, the Catholic faith and each other through Gospel reflection, music, active participation at mass, games and food!

So, if you are in years 4 - 9, come along to one of our sessions and let us grow together in our faith.

**When:** 2nd (choir) and 4th Sunday

**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

**Time:** 4:30 - 7:30 pm

**Contact:** [gtk youth@gmail.com](mailto:gtk youth@gmail.com)

**Info:** <http://www.gtkyouth.com/>

### IGNITE

*Enkindling the fire of faith*

Young adults from 18 - 35 years of age meets every 3rd Sunday of the month after the 6:00pm mass. Monthly guest speaker, discussions & shared supper

### CRL

*(Community of the Risen Lord)*

Praise & worship

**When:** 2nd & 4th Saturdays

**Where:** Church

**Time:** after 6:00pm vigil mass

### YFC

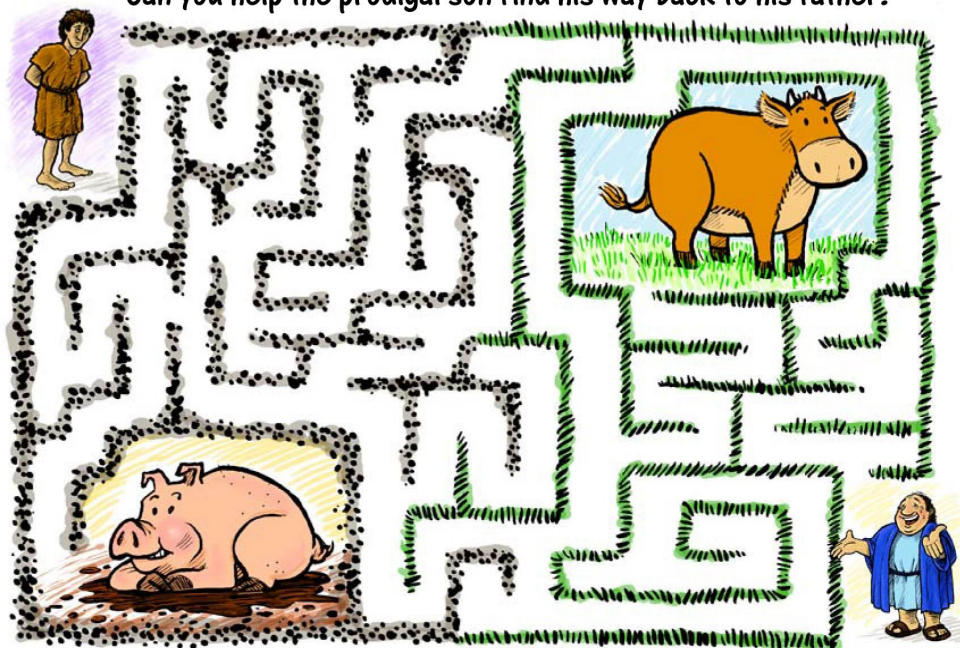
*(Youth for Christ)*

**When:** Meets every 3rd Sunday

**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

**Time:** 1:00pm for Break open the word

**Can you help the prodigal son find his way back to his father?**



## Word Find

I was lost but now I am found

I N M Y L H D Q L P P Q O T M E T  
 D V D A L G I S R V L A H R I S K  
 E K W Y I C T O D E Y E B O V L V  
 Q K U S A B P U N Q S T A E P K Q  
 G D G U S E H R X F I C Q Q F A P  
 G T U N R S E S Z H V E I Z R F W  
 G W Z T I Y P C Q C L L O B I R I  
 E L Y C C R I J D I V E C S E A V  
 O Y A G N I V R A T S B I D N G K  
 G T E V A L S U N D M R F H D A D  
 G E V Z V R Y U N U C A K F L B D  
 N K E H U E Y U T F K T N D Y E P  
 P D B P A J O W Y H U E C B G L D  
 H C W X C F X I K I L X J G Z P D  
 S B M S D S F E R G V D E T S A W  
 V D V Q S F U S F T I B K L Q W B

*Find these words*

Begged celebrate eats found friendly glad obeyed  
 Property ring slave starving wasted



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