

First Sunday of Lent  
21 - 22 February 2015

**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."*



Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney ✉ FrJohn@john23rd.org.au  
Assistant Priest: Fr Robert William ✉ FrRobert@john23rd.org.au

**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 050 ☎ 0403 766468 AH  
Secretary: Tanya Gatt ☎ (02)9852 0580  
✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au  
Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)  
✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au  
Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thur)  
✉ admin@john23rd.org.au  
Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

**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 & 4th Saturday 7:30pm  
led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

**Friday Prayer Group**

Friday 7:00pm at the Church kitchen  
led by Pauline Camilleri  
☎ 0407 417039

## EVANGELICUM

ROME, February 17, 2015 (*Zenit.org*) - This morning, the Vatican announced the appointment of Archbishop Tito Yllana as Apostolic Nuncio to Australia. Archbishop Yllana, until now, has served as the Apostolic Nuncio to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Archbishop Yllana replaced Archbishop Paul Gallagher, who now serves at the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States.

The Filipino Prelate studied international diplomacy at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome and was named to his first post in 2001, as the Nuncio to Papua New Guinea. He has also served as the diplomatic representative to the Holy See in the Solomon Islands, Pakistan and the Congo. Following the announcement by the Holy See, Archbishop Denis Hart, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference expressed his gratitude to the Holy Father for the appointment and welcomed Archbishop Yllana.

"Archbishop Yllana brings wide and diverse experience, great faith and priestly gifts. We assure him of a warm and enthusiastic welcome upon his arrival and service here in Australia," said in a statement.

Pope Francis has told young people to have the courage to be happy, and to realize that God is always waiting for them with open arms. In his message for the 30th World Youth Day released today by the Vatican, the Pope said, "In Christ, you find fulfilled your every desire for goodness and happiness."

"He alone can satisfy your deepest longings," Francis continued, "which are so often clouded by deceptive worldly promises." While celebrated annually on Palm Sunday at the diocesan level, the next international World Youth Day will take place in Krakow, Poland in July 2016. In this year's message, the Holy Father reflected on the Beatitudes as a guide to the journey to Krakow. This year, specifically focuses on the 6th Beatitude, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5: 8).

While saying that the search for happiness is shared by people of all times and ages, he added that God has placed in the heart of every man and woman an irrepressible desire for happiness and for fulfillment.

"Have you not noticed that your hearts are restless, always searching for a treasure which can satisfy their thirst for the infinite?" he asked. "It is Jesus," the Pope reaffirmed, "who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives."

Through purity of heart, Francis said, this blessedness comes. He then pondered: In what, then, does the happiness born of a pure heart consist? The Pontiff warned against relationships which impurify and "defile" our hearts.

He stressed we must form our consciences rightly and sensibly, in order to discern what is good and acceptable and perfect. "My question to you is this: 'Are you praying?'" he asked. "Do you know that you can speak with Jesus, with the Father, with the Holy Spirit, as you speak to a friend? And not just any friend, but the greatest and most trusted of your friends."

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Welcome to the joyful season of Lent! Although a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the season of Lent is meant to be a 'joyful' season in that we prepare through traditional practices of self-sacrifice and giving for the coming Feast of the Resurrection (Easter). Let's enter into this time of preparation to the best of our ability.

- ◇ I will be away in Victoria from Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon, attending the episcopal ordination of my classmate, Most Rev Patrick O'Regan, who is the new Bishop of Sale. Fr. Robert is due back from the Holy Land on Wednesday afternoon, and hopefully will be able to celebrate Thursday morning mass despite jet lag!! Weekday masses return to normal timetable from the first week of March.
- ◇ We have had complaints about illegal parking in driveways during the Ash Wednesday evening mass. I realize that the school unfortunately left some of the bottom carpark locked that evening, but there is still no excuse for parking illegally. To do so, and upset our neighbours, is not acceptable and brings our parish and the whole church into disrepute. Please do not do this again!
- ◇ Don't forget that there are evening Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:30pm in our Church during Lent. All are welcome.
- ◇ We pray for our three Catechumens who are attending the Rite of Election in the Cathedral on Sunday afternoon. Let's ask the Lord to keep these gentlemen in the palm of His Hand as they approach the Easter Sacraments.
- ◇ My thanks to those who contributed to the DWF collection last week and this. Your generosity helps the parish meet its annual quota so that the charitable activities of our Diocese can continue to serve the needs of all.

God bless you all. Have a great week!

Fr. John

E v a n g e l i c u m   c o n t ' d

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Recommending encountering Jesus through reading a little passage of the Gospel daily, Francis said that Christ "will open your eyes to recognize his presence and to discover the loving plan he has for your life."

"Challenge yourselves, and with a pure heart do not be afraid of what God is asking of you!" Francis exhorted. "Never forget: God's will is our happiness!" he said. "So once more I urge you: Have the courage to be happy!"

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*Jesus' passion shows us just how fruitful suffering can be for the salvation of the world and the sanctification of souls – St. John XXIII, 19 March 1959*

We encourage you to a renewal of the spirit by joining the parish Lenten Program (Arise!) where you break open the Word of God and share your thoughts and faith experiences through the six weeks of Lent. If you are unable to attend this program, take home a copy of the bulletin and the Readings for the week for your private reflection.

We are looking for host families to welcome the Rosary Statue of our Lady into their homes and pray together during this season of Lent. Please contact me for March and April bookings.

We also enjoin you to join our traditional Friday night Stations of the Cross, every Friday night at 7:30 pm. The Youth groups are currently organizing the Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross School in Glenwood, so if you would like to participate actively in the reenactment scenes, please keep an eye out for announcements regarding this event, or drop me a line via email.

There will be a “rehearsal” for all rostered lay ministers participating in the Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) liturgical activities on Saturday, 28 March from 10 am to 1 pm at the Church. We strongly encourage attendance of this important liturgical practice event.

There will also be a Lenten Retreat and Refresher Course for all SJ23 Liturgical Ministers on Sunday, 8 March from 1 pm at St. Mark’s College.

Lastly, aside from the traditional Lenten acts of almsgiving, prayer and fasting, we ask that you be generous with supporting Project Compassion, the Diocesan Works Fund and of course, our Grand Raffle Draw. After two weekends, we are happy to report cash sales of \$3k and ticket allocations of \$15k, so we are off to a good start with our Grand Raffle! We pray for your continuing support in ensuring that this fast start snowballs into another successful venture for our parish community.

*Have a great week! Bart*

### 2015 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

**Executive** (*Council leaders*)

18 Mar    20 May    22 Jul

16 Sep    18 Nov

**General** (*all Parish Council members*)

8 Apr    7:30pm - 9:00pm

St Marks College Staff room

During the General Meeting, our School Executives and Finance committee are also invited to provide updates. ***Parishioners are invited*** to come and be part of this meeting.

### LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

Following are the Discussion Groups still open for anyone interested in participating:

#### **WEDNESDAY 7:30pm**

*Venue:* 4 Clapham St.,  
Stanhope Gardens

*Leader:* Priscilla Houghton

*Tel.* 0412 865047

#### **FRIDAY after the 9:00am MASS**

*Venue:* Church kitchen

*Leader:* Renuka Soosaipillai

*Tel.* 0414 795814

#### **FRIDAY 7:00pm**

*Venue:* Church kitchen

*Leader:* Pauline Camilleri

*Tel.* 0407 417 039

Please contact the group leaders for instructions regarding your first meeting!

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The amended Sacramental Calendar for 2015 is now available.

If you know of families interested to enrol their children for any of the sacraments, calendar is posted on the notice board at the church foyer or can be viewed on our parish website, [www.john23rd.org.au](http://www.john23rd.org.au).

### ***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.

### Our Parish Council

**President** Bart Sarlabus

✉ [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com)

#### **Council Team Leaders**

*Community Bldg* Techie Sarlabus

*Comms & Media* John McCartney

*Evangelicum* tba

*Faith Formation* Rose Franco

*Fundraising* Rodi Orantia

*Liturgy* Ray Samonte

*Pastoral Care* tba

*Social Justice* Qwayne Guevarra

### Bake sale

**What for:** ‘Reckless love – a walk with the Son of God’ Easter program organized by CRL youth Australia (details about the event can be obtained at the bake sale)

**When:** 1st March after the 10.30am mass. So have a cupcake, a slice of cake and help support a very worthy cause!

If you want the opportunity of having the statue visit you in your home contact Bart Sarlabus. Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

### ***Family Roster for the Rosary Statue***

24 Feb, Ramiscal Family

03 Mar *still open*

**First Reading**

*Genesis 9:8-15*

*I will recall the covenant between myself and you ... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.

The word of the Lord.

**Response** Thanks be to God.



**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 24:4-9*

**R.** *Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.*

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

**Gospel**

*Mark 1:12-15*

*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Second Reading

*Peter 3:18-22*

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

**Response** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 4:4*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from  
the mouth of God.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!*

## Apostle's 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.

## Gospel Reflection

“Repent, and believe the Good News”.

With these words Jesus begins his Public Ministry. And these words are now said to each person on Ash Wednesday as the ashes are placed on their forehead.

What does ‘repent’ really mean? It comes from the Greek word **metanoieo** which invites us to feel remorse, be converted, and turn our life around so that we are going in the opposite direction.

And ‘believe’, coming from the Greek word **pisteuo** is really about being convinced of the veracity (truthfulness) of something.

And what is it that turns our life around and convinces us about its truthfulness? The ‘Good News’ or euangellion in Greek. Originally meaning a reward given to a messenger who brought good tidings to the king, this word became synonymous with any good news. And in time it came to receive a specific Christian sense of the ‘good news about God’s love for humankind in His sending of His Son for the salvation of the world’.

So, this is what our Lenten season is all about, my friends: “Repent, and believe the Good News”!

Let’s try to make these 40 days of preparation for Easter a time of conversion in our lives. Let’s reflect on what blocks us from a closer relationship with Jesus, and then try to do something about turning ourselves around to face fully the road that leads to Him. In so doing, let’s utilise the great Christian traditions of penance and sacrifice.

Furthermore, let’s commit ourselves to seeking the healing touch of the Lord in Reconciliation, and of making amends in practical and concrete ways for past hurts. “Repent, and believe the Good News”!





Readings for next  
Week

February

**23 Mon First week of Lent**

1st Reading Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

Psalm Ps 18:8-10. 15

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

**24 Tues First week of Lent**

1st Reading Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm Ps 33:4-7. 16-19

Gospel Matthew 6:7-15

**25 Wed First week of Lent**

1st Reading Jonah 3:1-10

Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 18-19

Gospel Luke 11:29-32

**26 Thurs First week of Lent**

1st Readings Esther 14:1. 3-5. 12-14

Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 7-8

Gospel Matthew 7:7-12

**27 Fri First week of Lent**

1st Readings Ezekiel 18:21-28

Psalm Ps 129

Gospel Matthew 5:20-26

**28 Sat First week of Lent**

1st Readings Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Psalm Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 7-8

Gospel Matthew 5:43-48

Paying our debt  
together

Weekly donation

**1st Collection: \$ 1,737.00**

*Funds go to Priest Remuneration Fund, to support the priests of our Diocese.*

**2nd Collection: \$ 5,488.50**

*Loose \$ 1,452.00*

*PG Envelopes \$ 1,995.00*

*PG by EFT \$ 2,041.00*

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

*(If you can, please put a little extra on the Second Collection.)*

If you would like to be a part of the church's plan giving program, a green form is available at the church foyer or contact the church's parish secretary, Tanya Gatt [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

Mass Cards are now available for purchase at the parish office



Special intentions

**Born to eternal life:** Jose Agbulos, Resurreccion D. Quianzon, Domingo Pascual, Elisa Ramos, Stevanus Hendradi T.R, Ruby Newton

**Anniversaries:** John Bichara, Vences Fernando, Arturo Cobarrubias

**For the sick:** Felomina Docena, Shona Modrich, Lourdes Subijano, Anthony Joseph, Anthony Subijano, Concepcion QuiraneeMatrlon Marcelo, Athan G Alvarez, Jovie Disterhoft, , Nikhil Parvathaneni, Angelica Nepomuceno, Florencia Melgar

**Thanksgiving:** Rajendra Dasi & Family, Vedaria Family

Intentions for weekday Masses this week

Tues 17/2 - Leonor Sioson Deleon (Anv)

Wed 18/2 - Jose Agbulos (R/Dec)

Thurs 19/2 - Getrude Silva (D/Anv)

Fri 20/2 - Rajendra & Vekara Family (Thanks)

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## Parish Notices

### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for 2015

#### Parramatta Institute for Mission

Understanding liturgical ministries, ministry of the word, extraordinary ministers of communion, communion to the sick & dying, senior servers and acolytes & acolyte courses. Courses starts **23 Feb & 2 Mar 2015**

For more information call the parish office to collect forms

#### Free morning tea

Every 4th Sunday after the 9am mass courtesy of SJ23rd Prayer Group

#### SRE Teachers needed

Special Religious Education Teachers or Catechists to teach in our State Schools. Training will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office

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

#### GARDENERS NEEDED

Thank you to the people that take care of the Church gardens, we need more volunteers to help if interested please call Parish Office on 9852 0580.

If you know of anyone who needs help from our **Community Outreach** group please contact the parish office

#### Project Compassion commences

Please take a box or set of envelopes to generously help the poor and those in need during this year's Lenten season.

### Catholic Joke

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and, realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So he told the Associate Priest that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Priest left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

When he arrived at the first tee, he was alone; after all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this same time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then, Father Norton hit the ball. It shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. **IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE!**

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

The **church Choir area platform** need to be carpeted and we are seeking the help of a carpet layer or anyone with the right skills to help complete this project. Please contact Father John or the Parish office if you can assist.

**Positions Vacant****Parish Advisor Position,  
Parish Coordinator Position**

St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong, is inviting applications for the role of Parish Coordinator. This full-time role is accountable to the Parish Priest and responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Parish Office. The Parish Coordinator's role also includes responsibility for being a personal assistant to the Parish Priest, office administration, liturgical preparations, accounts, banking and records management. For further details about the role and the application process visit the Employment section of the Diocese of Parramatta's website: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)  
Applications close Friday 6 March 2015.

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**Stepping Beyond: For Those Separated or Divorced.**

CCSS Solo Parent Services Monthly Support Group, "Stepping Beyond" will be held again on the last Tuesday of the month for those who are separated or divorced.

**Venue:** CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown.

**Date:** Tuesday 24th February.

**Time:** 7.30 – 9.30

**Cost:** \$5.00

**Registration:** Eileen or Rita

**Phone** 99330205 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

**Called by Name – Discernment  
Weekend Retreat**

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer weekend retreats for women aged 18-35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. This retreat is a one-to-one encounter. It includes prayer times, talks and accompaniment. It is a great opportunity to have a lived experience with the sisters. "Is God calling me to religious life?" If this is a real question for you, this retreat is for you.

**Date:** last weekend of every month. RVSP a week before the retreat.

**Cost:** donation.

**Venue:** Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong.

**Details:** Sr Margaret

**Telephone** (02)9626 9200

0420 754727

[margaretcsfn@gmail.com](mailto:margaretcsfn@gmail.com)

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The Filipino Chaplaincy invites you to St. Joseph Feast Day Mass on Sunday, 22 March 2015 at 10:45 a.m.

at St. Michael's School Ground, 58-62 Orwell Street, Blacktown.

Main celebrant is Fr. John Boyle, Episcopal Vicar for Migrant Chaplaincies, Missions and Hospitals.

Schools around our community

Families seeking enrolment into **Kindergarten 2016 at John XXIII Catholic Primary and Year 7 2016 at St Mark's Catholic College**, to submit an Expression of Interest for Enrolment (available at the office or on the College website) to the College office as soon as possible

Good Morning People,  
Just a short note to say thank you for all your efforts in making Shrove Tuesday such a wonderful success. A very special thank you to Jessica MacAllister ably assisted by Dave Drummond, Megan Tynan and Jeannie Briffa .

Not forgetting the ladies in the finance office Kirsty Paddy and Prue Daffy who so diligently counted all those coins. I would also like to thank Kim Palmer for her amazing shopping skills and bargain hunting for pancake batter.

Of course we can't forget all the students who slaved over those hot stoves diligently cooking thousands of pancakes. Also the senior college leaders who worked all Tuesday morning in service to the community delivering and serving pancakes. The result of all this effort is an amazing \$1565.10

Congratulations to all.

Regards  
Des Fitz-gerald



**Our Learning Community**

**Holy Cross Primary**

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)

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

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Peter Wells

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ [stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**Catholic Learning Centre**

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [elcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:elcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

**Why do Roman Catholics make the Sign of the Cross** when they say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"?

Making the Sign of the Cross may be the most common of all actions that Catholics do. We make it when we begin and end our prayers; we make it when we enter and leave a church; we start each Mass with it; we may even make it when we hear the Holy Name taken in vain and when we pass a church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

But do you know why we make the Sign of the Cross? The answer is both simple and profound.

In the Sign of the Cross, we profess the deepest mysteries of the Christian Faith: the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and the saving work of Christ on the Cross. The combination of the words and the action are a creed - a statement of belief. We mark ourselves as Christians through the Sign of the Cross.

And yet, because we make the Sign of the Cross so often, we may be tempted to rush through it, to say the words without listening to them, to ignore the symbolism of tracing the shape of the Cross on our own bodies. A creed is not simply a statement of belief--it is a vow to defend that belief, even if it means following Our Lord and Savior to our own cross.

One further note about the reader's question: Roman Catholics aren't the only Christians to make the Sign of the Cross. All Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox do as well, along with many high-church Anglicans and Lutherans (and a smattering of other Mainline Protestants). Because it is a creed that all Christians can assent to, it shouldn't be thought of as just "a Catholic thing." *About.com*

Youth Corner

**GTK YOUTH GROUP**

*(Getting to Know - God, yourself and other)*

Age group - School Years 4-9

**When:** 2nd and 4th Sundays

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

**Time:** 4.30pm drop off  
5.00pm Break open the word  
5.30pm Welcomers at mass  
6.00pm Youth Mass  
7.30pm leave from Church

**Contacts:**

RJ Samonte

raf.samonte@hotmail.com

Ceejay Sarlabus cjsarlabus@gmail.com

[www.gtkyouth.com](http://www.gtkyouth.com)

**GTK returns on the 22 February**

**CRL**

*(Community of the Risen Lord)*

Praise & worship

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

**Where:** Church

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

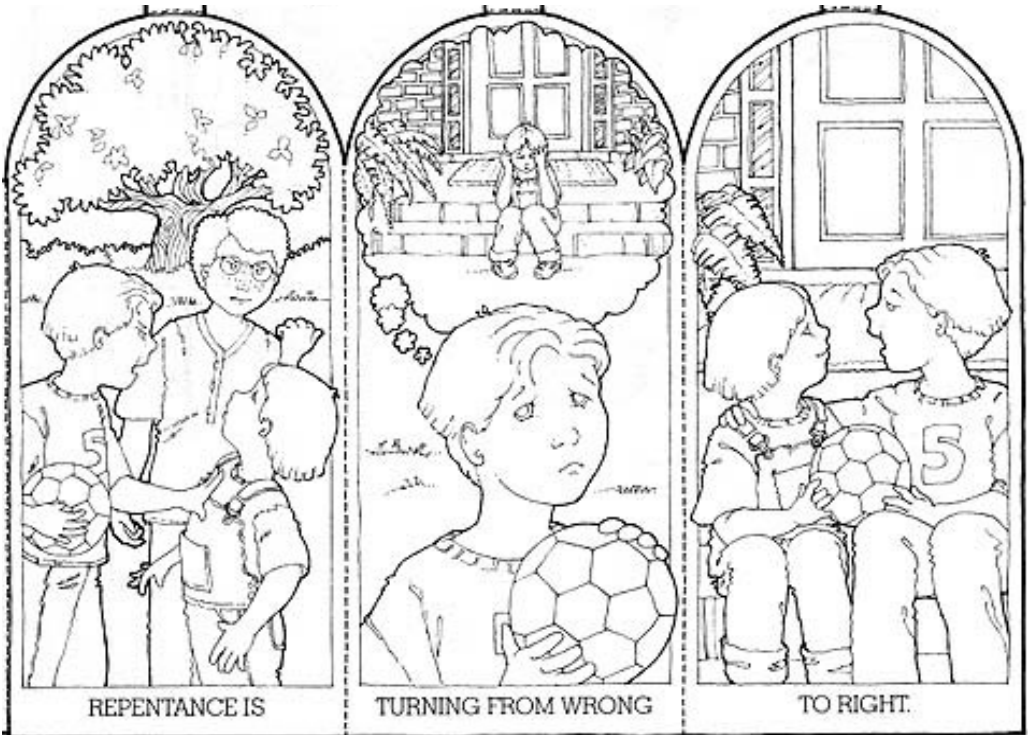
**YFC**

*(Youth for Christ)*

**When:** Meets every 3rd Sunday

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

**Time:** 1:00pm for Break open the word  
6.00pm Youth Mass



Believe the Good News

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

**Word Search:**

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