

Fifth Sunday of Lent
21-22 March 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 0580 📠 0403 766468 AH
Secretary: Tanya Gatt
✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au
Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)
✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au
Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thurs)
✉ 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

E v a n g e l i c u m

Today we begin articles which adapt some of the ideas in Cardinal Walter Kasper's new book, "Pope Francis's Revolution of Tenderness and Love". It will be take a number of weeks, so this is the first instalment.

The Bible and Catholic tradition have various images for describing the essence of the church. At the center of Pope Francis's understanding of the church, corresponding to the approach of the Argentine theology of the people, stands the image of the church as the people of God (*Evangelii gaudium*, 111–34). It is firmly anchored in the biblical, patristic, and liturgical tradition. The Second Vatican Council renewed that understanding and presented the church as the messianic people of God (*Lumen gentium*, 9–12). Before long, however reservations grew loud among European theologians. One suspected a one-sided sociological, political, grassroots ecclesiology. It was different in Argentina. There the impulse of the council was eagerly seized upon and further developed into the Argentine form of liberation theology, into the theology of the people. Pope Francis imbues this ecclesiology of the people of God with concrete life.

That is not a new in itself, but is certainly a renewed view of the church, which should lead to a new style of ecclesial life. In *Evangelii gaudium*, Pope Francis speaks of "pastoral care in conversion." In his speech to the bishops of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro, he said very clearly what he meant by such a conversion:

"In reference to the conversion in pastoral care, I would like to remind you that 'pastoral care' is nothing other than the exercise of the church's motherhood. She gives birth, breastfeeds, lets grow, corrects, nourishes, leads by the hand.... There is need therefore for a church that is capable of rediscovering the womb of mercy. Without mercy it is scarcely possible today to penetrate into a world of the 'injured,' who need understanding, forgiveness, and love."

Pope Francis's style is correctly understood against the background of the theology of the people. This style is not good-natured folksiness or even cheap populism. Behind the pope's pastoral style, which is close to the people, stands an entire theology, indeed a mysticism of the people. For him the Church is far more than an organic and hierarchical institution. It is above all the people of God on their way to God, a pilgrim and evangelizing people that transcends every (however necessary) institutional expression.

Ultimately, the church is rooted in the secret of the most holy Trinity. Salvation is a work of God's mercy. Out of sheer grace God draws us to himself through his Spirit and brings us together as his people. Thus, the church stands under the primacy of grace; the Lord always precedes us with his love and his initiative. Through his Spirit he draws us to himself, not as isolated individuals, but as his people. So the church must be the place of renegotiated mercy, where all can feel themselves welcomed and loved, where they experience pardon and can feel encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. On the basis of

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

As we move closer and closer to Holy Week and Easter, we are all trying to get so much done before the Festivities, both religious and secular. In the midst of the busyness of these last weeks, let us not lose sight of the purpose of our Lenten Season: **to prepare ourselves spiritually for the greatest celebration of the Church's Liturgical Year, the Resurrection of Jesus!** We need to make sure that we find those few precious moments to be alone with our God and allow the Lord to speak to us in the silence of our hearts.

A lot is happening this coming week:

1. This weekend we have the Enrolment Masses for all the children who will be commencing the Sacramental Programme soon. Let us continue to pray for these younger members of our parish community who will receive Christ in the Eucharist for the first time in a few weeks' time
2. The Parent Input Evening is this Tuesday (24th March) from 7:30pm in the School Hall. At least one parent is encouraged and expected to attend this Adult Education Session.
3. The Baptism Preparation Evening for all those having their children baptised in April is this Wednesday 25th March at 7:30pm in the Church. Godparents are also encouraged to attend with the parents.
4. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, and thus the commencement of Holy Week. Please take note of the Easter Ceremony times in the Bulletin, as well as the two Second Rites of Reconciliation in our Deanery: on Monday 30th March at Richmond, and Tuesday 31st March at Quakers Hill. Both commence at 7:30pm. Please make an effort to attend one of these, as there will be most of the priests of the Deanery present for both evenings. **DO NOT DELAY RECONCILIATION TO GOOD FRIDAY**, as the Church encourages us to be reconciled **BEFORE HOLY THURSDAY**, the commencement of the Easter Triduum.

I will be having Day Surgery on my knee this Thursday 26th March. I will be on light duties for 1-2 weeks. Please keep me in your prayers.

God bless you all. Have a great Fifth Week of Lent!

Fr. John

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

When we are faithful to the vocation to which the Lord has called us, truly faithful, with seriousness, ardour, energy, we are sure to receive the true consolations of life. – St. John XXIII, 22 January 1963

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.

We invite you to join the Acolytes at the traditional Friday night Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm or to participate in the Good Friday re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross School in Glenwood. You may contact Ray Samonte and Father Robert who are working with the Youth Groups on this Lenten event.

We congratulate the Lenten discussion groups who are now in their last week of breaking open the Word. We hope that it has provided you with a lot of spiritual inspiration and insight, effecting positive changes within you during this period of reflection and remembrance.

Thanks to those who responded to our call for hosting of the Rosary Statue this April. We now need host families for May and June.

Lastly, aside from the traditional Lenten acts of almsgiving, prayer and fasting, we ask that you be generous

with supporting Project Compassion and our Grand Raffle Draw.

After a month, we are happy to report cash sales of \$6k and ticket allocations of \$15k, so we have made good progress but things have slowed a bit and we are still below break-even sales. We also only have 3 weekends to go before the raffle draw on April 12, so we ask you to keep on selling tickets, remit payment of the allocated tickets soonest and pray for your continuing support for this fundraiser!

Have a great week! Bart

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. Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

Rosary Statue Family Roster

- 24 Mar Lusica Family
- 31 Mar Gorkic Family
- 07 Apr Bacolod Family
- 14 Apr Padilla Family
- 21 Apr Sebastian Family
- 28 Apr *still open*
- 05 May Torraba Family



President Bart Sarlabus

✉ 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

**2015 Parish Council Meeting
Schedule**

Executive (*Council leaders*)

20 May 22 Jul 18 Nov 16 Sep

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.

Diocese News

Positions Vacant

1. The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is seeking applications for the position of **Executive Assistant to the Chief of Operations & Finance**. Applications close Monday 23 March. For details see the **Employment** section of the Diocese of Parramatta's website: www.parra.catholic.org.au
2. The Parish of Our Lady of Fatima Kingsgrove, is inviting applications for the position of **Youth Coordinator**. Applications close Thurs 26 March. Inquiries to Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources on 0402 210055. Details: www.catholicjobsonline.com.au
3. The Seminary of the Good Shepherd Homebush, is inviting applications for the position of **Part Time Cleaner**. Working days are Mon and

T u e s , 9 . 3 0 a m t o
2.30pm. Applications close Friday 27
March. Inquiries to Anthony Spata,
REACH Human Resources, on 0402
210055 or details at the website:
www.catholicjobsonline.com.au

Divine Mercy Sunday

You are invited to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on 12 April at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Avenue, Kellyville. Begins at 1pm with Confession, Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Mass is at 3pm. Veneration of the Relic after Mass. Religious items will be on sale. Refreshments. Contact Steve Boland: 0405 206 695 or OLOR parish (02) 9629 2595

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:13-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4, 12-15

R. *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 12:26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel
John 12:20-30

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'

Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Readings for March

23 Mon Fifth week of Lent

1st Reading Daniel 13:41-62
 Psalm Ps 22
 Gospel John 8:1-11

24 Tues Fifth week of Lent

1st Reading Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm Ps Ps 101:2-3. 16-21
 2nd Reading John 8:21-30
 Gospel Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

25 Wed The Annunciation of the Lord

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-14. 8:10
 Psalm Ps 39:7-11
 2nd Reading Hebrews 10:4-10
 Gospel Luke 1:26-38

26 Thurs Fifth week of Lent

1st Reading Genesis 17:3-9
 Psalm Ps 104:4-9
 Gospel John 8:51-59

27 Fri Fifth week of Lent

1st Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13
 Psalm Ps 17:2-7
 Gospel John 10:31-42

28 Sat Fifth week of Lent

1st Readings Ezekiel 37:21-28
 Psalm Jeremiah 31:10-13
 Gospel John 11:45-56

Paying our debt together

Weekly donations

1st Collection: \$ 3,023.00

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

2nd Collection: \$ 5,867.20

Loose \$ 2,180.20

PG Envelopes \$ 1,646.00

PG by EFT \$ 2,041.00

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

(Please put a little extra 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, a **green form** is available at the church foyer or contact the church's parish secretary, Tanya Gatt secretary@john23rd.org.au

Mass Cards are now available for purchase at the parish office

Special intentions

Born to eternal life: Anna Perrone, Arturo Cobarrubias

Anniversaries: Sammy Formosa, Charles Joseph Darmanin

For the sick: Felomina Docena, Shona Modrich, Lourdes Subijano, Anthony Joseph, Anthony Subijano, John and Rhonda Devereaux, Marlon Marcelo, Athan G Alvarez, Jovie Disterhoft, Florencia Melgar, Angelica Nepomuceno, Nikhil Parvathaneni, Concepcion Quirancee, Cynthia Villafuerte Cano

Thanksgiving: R & J Santos

Mass intentions for coming weekday Masses in March

Mon 23 Ronald Hertz Alvarez

(Thanksgiving)

Tues 24 Mr Sockalingam

Ramon & Magdalena

Miranda *(Death Ann)*

Wed 25 Mrs Naomi Raj *(Death Ann)*

Thurs 26 Sammy Formosa

(Anniversary)

Fri 27 Charles Joseph Darmanin

(Anniversary)

Sat 28 R & J Santos & Family

(Thanksgiving)

Parish Notices

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

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

The church **Choir area platform** needs 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.

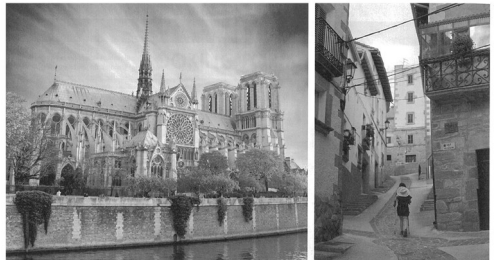
Project Compassion

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

Social Justice Committee is calling for donations to support the **House of Welcome's Winter Clothing Drive**. Quality warm clothes, shoes, blankets needed for asylum seekers and refugees at risk of homelessness. Please leave in the parish foyer by the 12 of April.

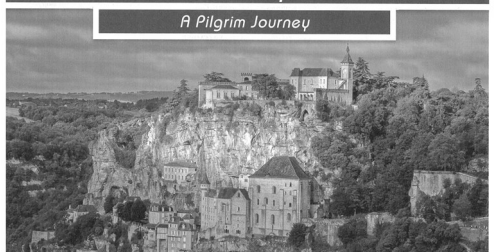
If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.

Don't forget our fundraising event, Pilgrimage to Compostela trip for 2 as the first prize. Please support this endeavour and buy or sell raffle tickets. We only have four weeks to go before the raffle date, 12 April, Divine Mercy Sunday.



Paris to Compostela

A Pilgrim Journey



Gospel Reflection

The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B) encourages us to look at our spiritual ‘heart’: how are we taking care of it? Is it in need of a strict regimen of spiritual exercise and healthy input so as to be able to do all that God requires of us?

The Readings speak to this theme:

* Jeremiah prophesies to the Jews in exile in Babylon, telling them to look forward to a New Covenant in the future which God will make with His People, a New Covenant written on their hearts. “Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts”.

* The Psalm declares that God will renew and cleanse a sinner’s heart: “A pure heart create for me, O God. Put a steadfast spirit within me”.


* The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of true religion, which must be written “on the hearts of peoples”, something that flows from obedience to God, imitating the Lord Jesus himself in His obedience to the Father.

* And the Gospel shows us what such obedience to God, having a faithful heart, involves, being of service to all like Jesus himself: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself”.

As Australians we hear about Heart Disease all the time. We are aware of how this is one of the killers in our community. And we try (in various ways) to lessen the possibility of a heart attack: we eat healthily, we exercise, we meditate and relax - we strive to take care of our physical heart. So, if we, as a Nation, strive for the health of our physical heart, shouldn’t we, as the People of God, strive for the health of our spiritual heart?

After all, which is the more important?

E v a n g e l i c u m (c o n ’ t)


 his theology of the people of God, Pope Francis is averse to every form of clericalism. “Laypeople are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God. The minority — ordained ministers — are at their service” (*EG*, 102). The shepherds should not feel that they are fine, genteel lords, but rather should take on the smell of the sheep. Francis wants the participation of the entire people of God in the life of the church — women as well as men, laypeople as well as clerics, young and old. On the basis of baptism and confirmation, all are missionary disciples; they should be included in decisions. Lay ministries ought not be restricted to intra-ecclesial tasks; they are supposed to have an impact on advancing Christian values in the social, political, and economic world and should be engaged in applying the gospel to the transformation of society. The education of the laity and the evangelization of the professional and intellectual life pose, therefore, a significant pastoral challenge.

Until next week

Our School Communities

Catholic Education – did you know:

According to the most recent figures available (2012), the average net cost of educating a student in a NSW Catholic school was \$11,532 per year. This is less than the cost of educating a student in a government school (\$12,118) or in an independent, non-government school (\$16,654). Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs – to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Our Learning Community

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ holycross@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

✉ elcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

The Catholic Learning Community John XXIII Catholic Primary School St Mark's Catholic College

We offer

- innovative learning spaces that embrace contemporary learning and teaching
- an interdisciplinary approach to learning
- state of the art resources
- contemporary information and learning technologies
- specially chosen and qualified teachers
- learning anchored in authentic Catholic values
- welcoming and secure learning environment
- parent participation



STREET 160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768
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"Educating our children today to nurture in them hope, courage and the capacity to be Christian leaders of tomorrow."

What is a novena?

The word novena derives from the Latin word for “nine.” A novena is a series of prayers prayed over a nine-day or nine-hour period. The prayers are repeated to obtain special graces or as a sign of devotion to God. Usually a novena involves making a specific request or expressing a specific intent. Prayers may come from the rosary or from prayer books, or they may be written by the petitioner. Usually the same prayer is prayed every day for nine days, or the same series of prayers is prayed. A nine-day novena has prayers made at the same time each day; a nine-hour novena has a prayer at the same time each hour. Novenas are primarily practiced by Catholics, although some members of the Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches also say novenas.

There are, in general, four categories of novenas. Mourning novenas are said following the death of a loved one; a special novemdiales is said following the death of a pope. Preparation novenas are said before a major religious holiday, such as Easter or Christmas. Prayer novenas are said to obtain special graces, and may consist of prayers from prayer books, recitation of the rosary, or other small prayers through the day. Indulgence novenas are prayed to alleviate the temporal punishment for one’s sins, including the sins of those in purgatory. Novenas are often prayed to specific saints and may be public or private; public ones require special mass attendance or the daily lighting of a candle. The supposed efficacy of a novena depends on the piety and devotion of the individual performing it. Most Catholics resent the superstitious supposition that a novena is a sort of spiritual chain letter, the idea that saying a novena for a given amount of time virtually guarantees that one’s request will be granted.

The novena is perhaps loosely derived from Scripture. It is thought that the time between the ascension of the Lord Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was nine days. Acts 1:14 says that the disciples spent that time continuing “with one accord in prayer.” However, the ancient Romans also observed a nine-day period of prayer following the death of a loved one, or to avert some evil predicted by a soothsayer. Ultimately, the novena is based more on tradition than on Scripture, which contains a prohibition against “vain repetition” in prayer (Matthew 6:7-8). The concept behind novenas is not explicitly unbiblical, but the prayer content in the vast majority of novenas is unbiblical. It is true that we are exhorted to pray continually (Luke 18:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17). However, we need to be sure that our prayers are thoughtful, God-centered and God-honouring.

How to Pray the Novena

A novena is a set of prayers repeated for nine consecutive days, usually with a particular intention in mind. Novenas take many forms. Some are prayed directly to God while others seek the intercession of saints or express a Catholic devotion. Novenas are often prayed leading up to a special occasions such as Divine Mercy Sunday.

1. Choose a novena text. Some feast days have novena prayers that go along with them. If you have a particular intention, look for a patron saint. For example, St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers. Choose one of his novenas if you are praying for employment. If there is no obvious choice, a novena of the Blessed Virgin Mary works for most intentions.
2. Specify your intention. The more specific you are, the clearer the Lord's response. Plus, if you know exactly what you are asking for, it's easier to see God's answer in your life.
3. Ask someone to say it with you. You don't have to pray at the same time in the same place. Your prayer partner can help you to remember and will strengthen your prayers.
4. Pray the novena each day for nine days, stating your intention each time. Update your intention if there are any changes.
5. Thank God for hearing your prayers. Remember that God does not answer every prayer, but He always listens. If He does not respond directly, He may have something better planned for you.

MARIAN NOVENAS

Our Lady Of Good Remedy
 3 Hail Marys Novena
 Miraculous Medal Novena
 Our Lady Of The Rosary
 Our Lady Of Sorrows Novena
 Our Lady of Hope Novena
 Our Lady of Lourdes Novena
 Immaculate Heart Novena
 Novena For Peace
 Our Lady of Hope Novena
 Immaculate Conception Novena
 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Novena
 Our Lady of Pompei
 Annunciation Novena

SACRED HEART NOVENAS

Novena to the Sacred Heart
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Novena
 Sacred Heart Mediation and Novena
 Two Hearts Novena

SAINTS NOVENAS

Little Flower Novena
 St. Peregrine Novena
 St. Benedict Novena
 St. Blaise Novena

St. John Bosco Novena
 St. Anthony Novena
 Novena to St. Philomena
 St. Therese's 24 Glory Be to the Fathers
 Novena to St. Joseph
 St. Jude Novena
 St. Ann Novena
 St. John Vianney Novena
 St. Gerard Novena
 Maximilian Kolbe Novena

SPECIAL NOVENAS

Divine Mercy Novena
 Christ the King Novena
 Corpus Christi Novena
 Christmas Novena
 Ascension Novena
 Assumption Novena
 Novena to Our Lord of Transfiguration
 Holy Family Novena
 Novena for Pope Benedict XVI
 7 Gifts of Holy Ghost Novena
 Holy Spirit Novena, Novena For Priests
 Holy Cross Novena, Novena for Grace
 For the Souls in Purgatory

Youth Corner

GTK Youth Group

GTK is the youth group of St John XXIII Parish. It is where the young people of our parish get to know God, the Catholic faith and each other.

A typical session includes:

Gospel reflection, music, Mass, games and food!

So, if you are in years 4 - 9, come along to one of our sessions and see what it's all about.

When: 2nd (choir) and 4th Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Contact: gkyouth@gmail.com

Info: <http://www.gkyouth.com/>

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

Spot the difference

5 differences to be found



I will write my laws on their hearts and minds

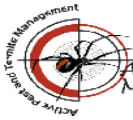
V D M P O N E D G U Q S X Q U
 K W Y S J W F O R G I V E C N
 D N G G Y E G R Y G G X L M R
 Y I R E Q D F O R G E T V Z Q
 P Y O O B E Y Q H N P D J F B
 C L U Q R L M A W E G Y P T D
 O A N Z F D B P M V J W M R B
 U Z D B G B Q G R A I N U H G
 N K X C R N Y O I C O J O K S
 D M O T V I Q R X F D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

WORD FIND

ancestors certain Egypt fall forget forgive grain
 ground obey one time wheat

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