

The Catholic Parish of **St John** XXIII
Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

Palm Sunday
28-29 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)

Prayer Group

Friday 7:00pm at the Church kitchen

led by Pauline Camilleri (0407 417039)

Sunday after 7:30am mass

Evangelicum

This is a continuation of an article which adapts some of the ideas in Cardinal Walter Kaspar's book: 'Pope Francis's Revolution of Tenderness and Love'.

The topic of women is especially important to the pope; he devotes two sections to them in *Evangelii gaudium* (103–4). John XXIII counted the participation of women in public life and consciousness-raising concerning their human dignity among the signs of the times. Pope Francis recognizes that women make an indispensable contribution to society and he joyfully notes how many women exercise pastoral responsibility in the church, together with priests. “But we need to create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the church. Because ‘the feminine genius is indispensable in all forms of expressions of the life of society’” (EG, 103). All the same, the reservation of the priesthood to men, as a sign of Christ, the bridegroom who offers himself in the Eucharist, is not open to discussion. Yet in the case of sacramental power, we are moving on the plane of function and not of dignity or superiority. “Indeed, a woman, Mary, is more important than the bishops.”

For Pope Francis that is not a defensive argument. Rather, he sees in it “a great challenge for pastors and theologians”; it is a matter of recognizing more fully “what this entails with regard to the possible role of women in decision-making in different areas of the church’s life” (EG, 104). There are, in fact, many influential positions in the church, including the Roman Curia, that do not require ordination and are open to women, where women could introduce their specific talents for the well-being of the church and could break up an all too one-sided clerical atmosphere simply through their presence and their collaboration.

Young people are also important to the pope — one might say, as a matter of course. In his welcoming address at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro on July 25, 2013, he said:

“I have come as well to be confirmed by the enthusiasm of your faith. You know that in the life of a bishop there are many problems that need to be resolved. And with these problems and difficulties, a bishop’s faith can grow sad. How horrible is a sad bishop! How bad is that! So that my faith might not be sad, I came here to be filled with your contagious enthusiasm!”

Pope Francis knows about the difficulties of young people today and the difficulties of youth ministry (EG, 105–6). But he also knows that “young people call us to renewed and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future, lest we cling to a nostalgia for structures and customs which are no longer life-giving in today’s world” (EG, 108).

I pray that this year's Holy Week may be a source of Blessing and Grace for you all.

Please note the times of the many celebrations of this most Holy of Weeks.

- **Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** of Holy Week at **9am**. PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday mornings
- **Reconciliation Evenings:** Monday 30th March at Richmond Church from 7:30pm; Tuesday 31st March at Quakers Hill Church from 7:30pm. As a result, there will be NO NOVENA MASS this week.
- **Chrism Mass:** Wednesday 1st April in **St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7:30pm**. Collecting the Oils for our Parish will be Stella Drummond (Oil of the Sick), Melva Paguinto (Oil of Catechumens), Fr. John (Oil of Chrism).
- **Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper** will be at **8pm**, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose until Midnight.
- **Good Friday: Stations of the Cross** will be at **10am at Holy Cross School**, led by the Youth of our Parish
- **Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm**. A most solemn and moving Liturgy!
- **Easter Vigil:** this year it will commence at **7pm and finish around 9:15pm**. We pray for Canley, He Shen, and Steven who will be baptised during this Mass. Please come with your (battery) candle, ready to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with joy!
- **Easter Sunday: *Masses as normal***. We will renew our Baptismal Vows at all masses!

My thanks to all who participated in the Enrolment Ceremonies for the Sacramental Programme last weekend; and for all those who came to the Parent Input Evening on Tuesday. I also thank Sacramental Team and the Facilitators for their generosity. It was all marvellously organized by Jill.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be ashamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

R: *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.'

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.'

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

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

Gospel

Mark 15:1-31

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priest, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back. 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription, giving the charge

Gospel (con't)

against him read:

'The King of the Jews.'

And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others, they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Ebi, Eli, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah.' Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.' 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.



Gospel Reflection

Today's Liturgy leads us in to Holy Week, reminding us that Christ suffered for us even unto Death.

The *First Reading* from Isaiah speaks of the Suffering Servant, which Christians see fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus. And the *Second Reading* speaks of the Exaltation of Christ after his Death, drawing all people to himself by the wood of the Cross.

But today's focus is the annual *Reading of the Passion of the Lord* (this year, Year B) from the *Gospel of Mark*.

According to scholars, the earliest writings of the Early Church were only Passion Narratives. To these were added Resurrection scenes, and then the stories of the Public Ministry; eventually Infancy Narratives were added (in Luke and Matthew only).

What this says is that the Passion of Jesus was the key element for the Early Church. The Death of Christ on the Cross was at the heart of the early Christians' understanding of their Faith. His willing Sacrifice of Himself in obedience to the Father's Will was seen as the means for all to receive Salvation. The Resurrection merely confirmed the validity of the Death, but the Death of Christ was paramount.

For us today, Death is a concept that many avoid. When forced to confront Death, many prefer to deny the reality of what has happened by the use of euphemisms: 'he's gone, she's passed, they're no longer with us'. But the message of Holy Week (and especially Good Friday) makes us stare Death in the face. Christ DIED a shameful and tortuous DEATH for us! So, how do we respond? Do we prefer a 'happy' Christianity of Resurrection only, or are we willing to meditate on the Cross and all that that means for us? Are we willing to embrace the Cross in our own lives, and see the many crosses that we have to endure as a means of salvation for us and for others?

As we listen to the Reading of the Passion of the Lord according to Mark this year, let us once again reflection on the marvellous generosity and love of our God, who 'became as we are, and was humbler yet, even to dying on the Cross'. Let us implore God's grace that we may embrace all that the Cross of Jesus means to us and to this world, so that we, as his Disciples, may imitate the Master and bring God's Salvation to the world!

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

During the Liturgy in Holy Week, Jesus passes over the earth and draws near to the dwellings of humankind. The innocent little children at once escorted him, the first to do so, as he entered on the back of a humble donkey. They waved fresh olive branches around him and sang, 'Hosanna, hosanna'; the adults and the young people spread their cloaks on the ground before him, they too greeted him with the ancient canticle. – St. John XXIII, 10 April 1960

We encourage everyone to attend the Second Rite of Reconciliation for our Deanery on Monday the 30th and Tuesday the 31st of March. In view of this, we will not be having the Tuesday Holy Hour and Novena Mass.

Everyone is also invited to attend the Chrism Mass on Holy Wednesday, the 1st of April at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta. Stella Drummond and Melva Paguinto will join Fr. John in receiving the Holy Oils for our parish. Coincidentally, it will be Fr. Dave Hume's birth anniversary on this day, so please say a prayer for him.

We also invite you to participate in the Good Friday re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross School in Glenwood at 10 am. 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.

Lastly, aside from the traditional Lenten acts of almsgiving, prayer and fasting, we ask that you be generous with supporting the Collection for the Poor on Holy Thursday and the Collection for Holy Places on Good Friday. Likewise, our Parish Grand Raffle is drawn in three weeks on April 12 and to-date we are still below break-even point. 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

31 Mar	Gorkic Family
07 Apr	Bacolod Family
14 Apr	Padilla Family
21 Apr	Sebastian Family
28 Apr	<i>still open</i>
05 May	Toroba 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

Music of JS Bach and Sacred Readings for Good Friday on 3 April

With beautiful music, appropriate readings and a powerful devotional atmosphere, this service will be one of the very special offerings during this year's Lenten Season and all are welcome. Offering choral and organ music of JS Bach together with special readings featuring: The Blue Mountains Chamber Chorale, Robert Ampt – Conductor and Organist, Amy Johansen – Choir Accompanist, and Readers from St Finbar's Parish and surrounding Christian Churches.

Time: 7.30pm.

Where: St Finbar's Church,
46 Levy Street, Glenbrook.

There will be a retiring collection; suggested donations \$10 (\$5 conc).

Inquiries: (02) 4758 6067

Position vacant

Communications Director

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is seeking to appoint a Communications Director who will be an adviser to the Bishop on the management of communications and media issues and is responsible for all diocesan media communications, social media and marketing activities. The role reports to the Chief of Operations and Finance. For further information visit the **Employment** page of the Diocese of Parramatta's website: www.parra.catholic.org.au

Divine Mercy Sunday on 12 April

At Kellyville *Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Avenue, Kellyville*

1:00pm Confession, rosary, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy chaplet, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

3:00pm Mass followed by veneration of the relic. Religious items will be on sale. Refreshments.

Contact Steve Boland: 0405 206 695 or OLOR parish (02) 9629 2595

At Marayong *Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Church, 116-132 Quakers Rd, Marayong*

1:00pm Stations of the Cross, rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet and short talk about Divine Mercy.

1:00-3.15pm Confession.

From 4-11 April

3:00pm Mass Novena at the Polish Church small chapel. Under the guidance of Rev Fr Ruben Elago MSP, Filipino Community Coordinator.

If you would like to host the image of Divine Mercy in your home for nine days tel 0409 975 563, (02) 9626 0262, or email ludypapa@live.com.au

At Penrith *St Nicholas of Myra Church, 326 High Street, Penrith*

2:30pm Blessing of Divine Mercy image, Divine Mercy chaplet, Stations of the Cross, homily & benediction, Reconciliation till 4pm

4:15pm Afternoon tea

6:00pm Divine Mercy Mass

Nominations open for the Diocesan Medal of Honour

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Medal of Honour acknowledges those who serve the Church and the community with honour and distinction. The recipients are people across the Diocese who serve in ministry through their parish, agency, school or local community. If you know someone who 'deserves a medal' you can download a nomination form on the Diocese of Parramatta's website: click on "About your Diocese", "Forms" and "Diocesan Awards". You can also request a nomination form from Rev Dr Arthur Bridge AM, Chairman of the Diocesan Honours Committee, tel (02) 9631 3316, secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au

Blackheath Reflection Morning on 18 April

'Heart Spirituality: Homing in ... Homing out'. Presented by John Kelliher MSC. From 10am-1pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall, cnr Sturt & Wentworth Sts, Blackheath. Entry by donation. No need to book. Morning tea provided.

Further details: Carmen Vanny tel (02) 4787 8706

donations \$10 (\$5 conc). Inquiries: (02) 4758 6067

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.elcstanhope.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



Now Enrolling for 2016



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"Educating our children today to nurture in them hope, courage and the capacity to be Christian leaders of tomorrow."

Readings for Holy Week

30 Mar Mon Holy Week

1st Reading Isaiah 42:1-7

Psalm Ps 26:1-3. 13-14

Gospel John 12:1-11

31 Mar Tues Holy Week

1st Reading Isaiah 49:1-6

Psalm Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17

Gospel John 13:21-33. 36-38

01 Apr Wed Holy Week

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm Ps 68:8-10. 21-22. 31. 33-34

Gospel Matthew 26:14-25

02 Apr Thurs Holy Thursday

1st Reading Exodus 12:1-8. 11-14

Psalm Ps 115:12-13. 15-18

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel John 13:1-15

03 Apr Fri Good Friday

1st Reading Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Psalm Ps 30:2. 6. 12-13. 15-17. 25

2nd Reading Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Gospel John 18:1 - 19:42

04 Apr Sat Easter Vigil

1st Readings Genesis 1:1 - 2:2

Psalm Jeremiah 31:10-13

Gospel John 11:45-56

Paying our debt together

Weekly donations

1st Collection: \$ 2,448.00

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

2nd Collection: \$ 5,691.45

Loose \$ 2,168.45

PG Envelopes \$ 1,482.00

PG by EFT \$ 2,041.00

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, 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: Angela Svircevic, Marius Roshnal Perera

Anniversaries: Ryan Raon Ramiscal

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

Thanksgiving: R & J Santos, Ann

Mass intentions weekday Masses in March

Mon 30 Anna Perrone (*Decd*)

Tues 31 Arturo Cobarrubias (*Decd*)
Karam Matte (*Sick*)

In April

Wed 1 Marius Roshnal Perer (*Decd*)

Thurs 2 Ryan Raon Ramiscal
(*10 year Anniversary*)

Fri 3 Angela Svircevic
(*Recently Decd*)

Sat 4 Ann (*Thanksgiving*)



Parish Notices

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.

LED candles for Easter vigil will be on sale this weekend. Limited stock, first in best dress.

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

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.

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

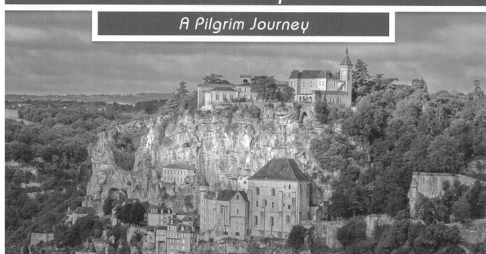
Don't forget our fundraising event, Pilgrimage to Compostela trip for 2 as the first prize.

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



Journey to the Foot of the Cross:

Bishop Ricken Offers 10 Things to Remember For Lent

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers "10 Things to Remember for Lent":

1. Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.
2. It's a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.
3. It's a time to fast. With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.
4. It's a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."
5. It's about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.
6. Don't do too much. It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.
7. Lent reminds us of our weakness. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

E v a n g e l i c u m (c o n ' t)

2

The pope names the theological foundation of the significance of the laity's witness in the church. He refers to the teaching of the *sensus fidei*, the spiritual sense for what is a matter of faith and living the life of faith. The doctrine of *sensus fidei*, which is imparted to every Christian through the Holy Spirit in baptism, is very well established in the biblical and theological tradition, but has often been neglected. John Henry Newman showcased it in a renewed way in his famous essay "On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine," and Vatican II renewed it again. It holds that the people of God as a whole cannot err in matters of belief (*Lumen gentium*, 12; *Evangelii gaudium*, 119, 139, 198).

Unfortunately, that teaching was neglected after the council. There was a fear that it would be misused by dissenting groups inside the church. Pope Francis doesn't share those fears. He highlights the doctrine of the *sensus fidei* and from it concludes that the church must keep its ear to the people. He speaks of the laity's instinct for finding new ways of evangelization and he argues, therefore, in favor of making provisions for their voices to be heard and for pastoral dialogue with them.

W h a t w e d o w h y w e d o (c o n ' t)

14

8. Be patient with yourself. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.
9. Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.
10. Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

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



Hosanna to God in Heaven

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

WORD FIND

Bless branches clothes donkey door enter
 Hosanna Lord road two village young

COLOUR THIS IN



Dear God, as we celebrate on this Palm Sunday help us to remember that day when all the adults and children waved palm branches and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem as King. We know Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. Help us to remember that he is our wonderful King and that we can praise him everyday!

In Jesus' name.

Amen

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HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES

Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week at **9am**.
PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday mornings

Reconciliation Evenings

Monday 30th March 7:30pm at Richmond Church

Tuesday 31st March 7:30pm at Quakers Hill Church

As a result, there will be ***NO NOVENA MASS*** this week.

Chrism Mass

Wednesday 1st April 7:30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral

Collecting the Oils for our Parish will be Stella Drummond (Oil of the Sick), Melva Paguinto (Oil of Catechumens), Fr. John (Oil of Chrism).

Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday

8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose until Midnight.

Good Friday

10:00am Stations of the Cross Holy Cross School, led by the Youth of our Parish

3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion St John 23rd Parish Church.
A most solemn and moving Liturgy!

Easter Vigil

7:00pm *and finish around 9:15pm.*

We pray for Canley, He Shen, and Steven who will be baptised during this Mass. Please come with your (battery) candle, ready to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with joy!

Easter Sunday

Masses as normal. We will renew our baptismal vows at all masses!