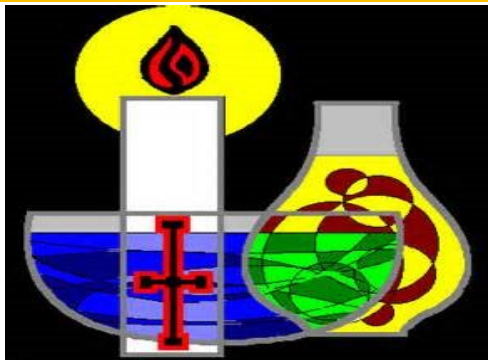


The Catholic Parish of **St John** XXIII  
Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**04 - 05 April 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](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
**Assistant Priest: Fr Robert William** ✉ [FrRobert@john23rd.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)

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

Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thurs)

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

Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

**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

Pope Francis wants a magisterium that listens. He shows how serious he is in *Evangelii gaudium*. In this apostolic exhortation, he cites not only statements from the Roman magisterium, but often he also cites documents from episcopal conferences from around the world. Popular piety is especially important to him. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, a theological source and is, so to speak, the mother tongue of the faith. In their 2007 Aparecida document, the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean speak of the “people's mysticism” — Pope Francis cites the text in *Evangelii gaudium* (124, 237).

That does not mean that the church creates out of itself the truth and its power. On the contrary, as the itinerant people of God, the church does not live out of its own resources, but rather from listening to the word of God and from the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. The pope devotes the entire, lengthy third chapter of *Evangelii gaudium* to living on the basis of the proclaimed word of God.

“All evangelization is based on that word, listened to, meditated upon, lived, celebrated, and witnessed to.... The church does not evangelize unless she constantly lets herself be evangelized. It is indispensable that the word of God be ever more fully at the heart of every ecclesial activity. God's word, listened to and celebrated, above all in the Eucharist, nourishes and inwardly strengthens Christians, enabling them to offer an authentic witness to the Gospel in daily life.... The preaching of the word, living and effective, prepares for the reception of the sacrament, and in the sacrament that word attains its maximum efficacy.” (EG, 174)

With respect to the sacraments, the church is a merciful mother with an open heart for all. The sacraments are medicine and nourishment for the weak; they are not only for the perfect, according to the pope. The church should be an open house with open doors. Francis seems to prefer the image of the church as a merciful mother, an image that was dear to the martyr-bishop Cyprian in his dispute with Novatian, in contrast to Novatian's image of the church as a pure and holy virgin. Against the rigorism of Novatian, Cyprian supported the cause of clemency and mercy for those Christians who had become weak during persecution (*lapsi*). Today Pope Francis says that he prefers a church that is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church remaining shuttered within its structures, while outside a starving multitude waits. With these and many other statements in the pope's daily homilies, it appears that the pope has laid the groundwork for allowing Christians in irregular situations, such as divorced and remarried individuals, after examination of their respective situations, to the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. The pope has responded that he was not thinking of such concrete

## Fr John's corner

On behalf of Fr. Robert and our Parish Team (Tanya, Mila, Jill), may I wish each and every one of you a Blessed and Happy Easter!

We have walked the road to Calvary with the Lord during our Lenten and Holy Week Liturgies. We now celebrate and rejoice in the Lord's Resurrection.

I would like to thank all those wonderful parishioners who have spent hours and hours preparing for and celebrating all our Liturgies over the past weeks, and especially since Palm Sunday. You are an inspiration to me and Fr. Robert, indeed, an inspiration to your fellow parishioners for your devotion to service. This is a marvellous parish community, one full of joy and willingness to serve; and I am privileged to minister among you!

### **Masses return to Normal Timetable from Easter Monday.**

Please note that we have a General Pastoral Parish Council Meeting this Wednesday (8<sup>th</sup> April) in St. Mark's Staffroom from 7:30pm. **All welcome.**

And we continue to wish Fr. Robert a Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday for last Saturday (28<sup>th</sup> March)!

God bless you all. Let us continue to pray for one another.

*Fr. John*

## Evangelicum (con't)

situations when he made his general statement in *Evangelii gaudium*. Until there is a decision about this pastorally pressing yet still contentious question, he wants, in the exercise of his office of unity, first to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches (see Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29, etc.) and then decide.



## First Reading

*Acts 10:34, 37-43*

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23*

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

## Second Reading

*Colossians 3:1-4*

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mark 16:1-7

*Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.*

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you." 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.



## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*The salvation we hope for is primarily the fruit of a great outpouring of charity. We refer to that Christian charity which sums up the entire Gospel. That charity which is always ready to spend itself in the interest of others and which is the surest remedy against worldly pride and immoderate self-esteem. St. Paul the Apostle described the characteristics of this virtue when he said: 'Charity is patient, is kind; is not self-seeking; bears with all things, endures all things' (1 Cor 13:4-7) – St. John XXIII, 26 April 1959*

Happy Easter to everyone! We hope that you are spiritually refreshed with new hope and joy in our Risen Lord.

We thank all who participated in our Lenten liturgies, from the ladies who initiated Shrove Tuesday, to the Lenten discussion groups who broke open the Word every week, to the acolytes who led the Friday Stations of the Cross, to all ministers who served in the Holy Week ceremonies, to the Youth and parishioners who staged the Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross, to the choirs who rehearsed to the wee hours of the night to get the music flowing beautifully and to all organizers, cleaners, arrangers and especially our priests who made certain that our parish was blessed with a solemn and beautiful place to remember and celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Please note that the **Tuesday Novena** to our Lady of Perpetual Help **resumes this week on 7 April**. Hope to see you all there.

Next week, on Divine Mercy Sunday, the 12th of April, we will be drawing the prizes on our Parish Grand Raffle. At this stage, we are about \$10k short of breaking even for this fundraising. We are therefore making a big sales push during these last two weekends to collect receivables and sell more tickets so that we are able to make a good return on this event to put towards our parish debt. We ask you to keep on selling tickets and remit payment of the allocated tickets soonest. The deadline for this will be at 10:30 am on 12 April, so please provide your prayers and support for a successful last-minute push for this fundraiser!

*Have a great week! Bart*

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### ***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	Torroba Family



**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

**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**

**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](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney** is inviting applications for two positions:

\* **Operations Officer, Catholic Development Fund**, closing Tuesday 14 April 2015;

\* **Research and Project Officer, Justice and Peace Office**, closing Wednesday 15 April.

Both positions are full time and based at the Polding Centre, Sydney CBD. Inquiries to Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, tel 0402 210 055. For further details and a copy of the position description please visit [www.catholicjobsonline.com.au](http://www.catholicjobsonline.com.au)

**Easter Message**

In his Easter Message the Diocesan Administrator, Very Rev Peter G Williams, reflects on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and its parallels with the Easter story – self-sacrifice for the lives of others, extraordinary acts of courage and strength, and triumph through death.

Watch the video at [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)



## Readings for Holy Week

### 6 Mon Octave of Easter

1st Reading Acts 2:14. 22-33

Psalm Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11

Gospel Matthew 28:8-15

### 7 Tues Octave of Easter

1st Reading Acts 2:36-41

Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22

Gospel John 20:11-18

### 8 Wed Octave of Easter

1st Reading Acts 3:1-10

Psalm Ps 104:1-4. 6-9

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

### 9 Thurs Octave of Easter

1st Reading Acts 3:11-26

Psalm Ps 8:2. 5-9

Gospel Luke 24:35-48

### 10 Fri Octave of Easter

1st Reading Acts 4:1-12

Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 4. 22-27

Gospel John 21:1-14

### 11 Sat Octave of Easter

1st Readings Acts 4:13-21

Psalm Ps 117:1. 14-21

Gospel Mark 16:9-15

## Paying our debt together

### Weekly donations

**1st Collection: \$ 3,095.00**

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

**2nd Collection: \$ 6,203.85**

*Loose \$ 2,560.60*

*PG Envelopes \$ 1,602.25*

*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](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

**Mass Cards are now available for purchase at the parish office**

## Special intentions

**Born to eternal life:** Tomas Perez, Arturo Cobarrubias, Maria Avedillo.

**Anniversary:** Ernesto R Ribargoso, Roland Fernandes, Domina Fernandes.

**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 Quiranee.

**Thanksgiving:** R & J Santos.

### Weekday Mass intentions - April

**Mon** Roland & Domina Fernandes *(Anniv)*

**Tues** Ernesto R Ribargoso *(Aniv)*  
Tomas Perez *(RecDecd)*

**Wed** Marius Roshnal Perera *(Decd)*

**Thurs** Maria Avedillo *(Rec Decd)*

**Fri** Angela Svircevic *(Recently Decd)*

**Sat** R & J Santos *(Thanksgiving)*





## Reflection on the Liturgy of the Word

How would we feel if a loved one we have lost walked through the door of our dining room tonight and said 'Hi!'. How would we react?

This is what confronted Mary and the disciples gathered in the upper room that first Easter day! There is the loved one they had lost: dead, but alive; the same, but different! Joy! Ecstasy! Overwhelming love!

The Easter story is all of this and more: the one who was crucified is alive; He is risen!

Yet for many in our world today, the lack of experiential 'proof' causes them to doubt the indemonstrable, to downplay the Christian message. The empty tomb proves nothing to them: 'A lot of things could have happened', they say. The witness of the disciples proves nothing as well: 'Wishful thinking, nothing more!'.

But for us who have received and accepted the gift of faith, who have had our own unique experience of the Risen Lord's presence in our lives, the bleating of an unbelieving world can be dismissed. Indeed, we pray that the gift of faith may be granted to those who refuse to entertain possibilities beyond the restrictions of scientific method, beyond hypotheses that are purely reflective of observed phenomena.

The Easter message is all about NEW LIFE for those who believe.

As we leave the church today let's take the message and spirit of Easter with us, not just for our own benefit, but for those many others whom we will meet in the days and weeks ahead.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia!



## Diocese News (con't)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.elcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://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**



STREET 160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768  
WEBSITE [www.elcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.elcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

PHONE +61 2 9852 0500  
FAX +61 2 9836 4234

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

## 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.

**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

### First Eucharist Enrolment Forms Deadline

All First Eucharist enrolment forms must be submitted to the Parish Office by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**.

If your child has not yet enrolled in this year's First Eucharist Sacrament, please call Jill on 9852 0584 or e-mail [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

Lent is over but it doesn't mean it's the end! Discussion/prayer group will continue! Every Friday evening at 7pm in the kitchen. Any questions?

Call Pauline 0407 417 039

*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.

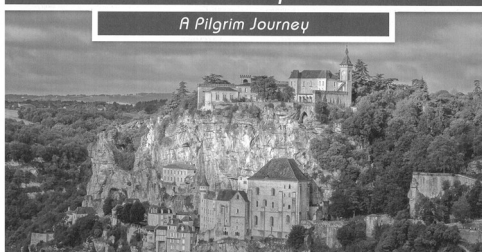
Please support this endeavour and buy or sell raffle tickets. We only have four weeks to go before the raffle date, 12 April, Divine Mercy Sunday. We only have one week to go.

**Tickets & payment deadline - 10:30am mass 12 April 2015.**



### Paris to Compostela

*A Pilgrim Journey*



## **What does the word "Easter" mean?**

The origins of the word "Easter" are not certain, but probably derive from Estre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. The German word Ostern has the same derivation, but most other languages follow the Greek term used by the early Christians: pascha, from the Hebrew pesach (Passover). In Latin, Easter is Festa Paschalia (plural because it is a seven-day feast), which became the basis for the French Pâques, the Italian Pasqua, and the Spanish Pascua. Also related are the Scottish Pask, the Dutch Paschen, the Danish Paaske, and the Swedish Pask.

## **Religious Observances on Easter Sunday**

Common elements found in most Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant religious Easter celebrations include baptism, the Eucharist, feasting, and greetings of "Christ is risen!" and "He is risen indeed!"

In Roman Catholicism, and some Lutheran and Anglican churches, Easter is celebrated with a vigil that consists of "the blessing of the new fire (a practice introduced during the early Middle Ages); the lighting of the paschal candle; a service of lessons, called the prophecies; followed by the blessing of the font and baptisms and then the mass of Easter." The traditional customs of the Catholic church are described in detail in the online Catholic Encyclopedia.

In Orthodox churches, the vigil service is preceded by a procession outside the church. When the procession leaves the church, there are no lights on. The procession conducts a symbolic fruitless search for Christ's body, then joyfully announces, "Christ is risen!" When the procession returns to the church, hundreds of candles and lamps are lit to symbolize the splendor of Christ's resurrection, and the Easter Eucharist is taken.

Protestant observances also include baptism and the Eucharist (or Lord's Supper), and often a sunrise service (to commemorate Mary Magdalene's arrival at the empty tomb "early, while it was still dark") and special hymns and songs.

## **Easter Eggs and Christianity**

What do eggs have to do with Easter? Over the centuries, Easter Sunday has been supplemented by popular customs, many of were incorporated from springtime fertility celebrations of European and Middle Eastern pagan religion. Rabbits and eggs, for example, are widely-used pagan symbols for fertility. Some Christians disassociate themselves entirely from Easter eggs because of their pagan connotations. Other Christians view Easter eggs, or other candies and treats, as symbols of joy and celebration (as they were forbidden during the fast of Lent) and as a "taste" of new life and resurrection that they have in Jesus Christ. A common custom is to hide brightly colored eggs for children to find.

*<http://www.religionfacts.com/>*

## 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](mailto: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

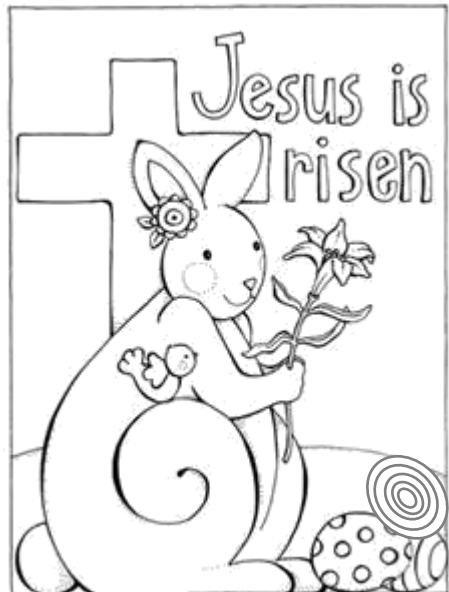
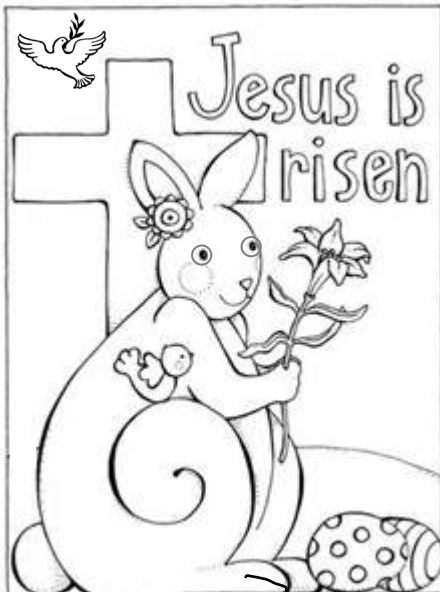
**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

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

6.00pm Youth Mass

## Spot the difference

5 differences to be found



## Jesus Christ is risen !

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

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Mary	Peter	Scriptures	stone	taken	tomb

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