

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**25 - 26 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**  
**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](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*

## From the Pastor's desk

*Dear sisters and brothers in Christ*

This Sunday is traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday, as the Gospel speaks of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. And this has been chosen as Vocations Sunday in our Diocese.

Please pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, as well as praying for happy and wholesome marriages, and blessedness for those who choose a single life as a vocation in the Church.

Jesus invited the Disciples to follow him. Let's never be afraid to imitate the Master and invite young people to follow the Lord as a Religious brother or sister, or as a priest of Jesus Christ!

On Monday (by date) it is one year since the Canonization of our Patron, St. John XXIII. On this day let's offer thanks and praise for Pope St John – and ask for his continued intercession for this Parish Community and for the ongoing renewal of the Church.

The first of **three 3-night Bible Study Series** kicks off in the Church this Wednesday (29th April) at 7:30pm with An Introduction to the Gospel of St. Mark (the Gospel text for this liturgical year, Year B). I will offer some insight into the structure, theology and idiosyncrasies of the first Canonical Gospel to be written. All are welcome. Please bring your Bibles!

And we keep our neighbours, the parishioners of **Our Lady of the Angels Rouse Hill**, in our thoughts and prayers on Friday evening, as their new Church is blessed and consecrated by our former bishop, Archbishop Anthony Fisher Op.

May the Risen Lord continue to bless you all. Have a great week!

*Fr. John*

*(Opening of Misericordiae Vultus – the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy)*  
FRANCIS, BISHOP OF ROME, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD  
TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy" (*Eph* 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (*Ex* 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the "fullness of time" (*Gal* 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. *Jn* 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person [1] reveals the mercy of God.

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church; a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

The Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. So he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. *Eph* 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a *Door of Mercy* through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.

On the following Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome – that is, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran – will be opened. In the following weeks, the Holy Doors of the other Papal Basilicas will be

## First Reading

*Acts 4:8-12*

*This is the only name by which we can be saved.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*John 3:1-2*

*We shall see God as he is.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29*

**R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men: it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

**R.**

I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

**R.**

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **R.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 10:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!



## Gospel

John 10:11-18

*The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Reflection on the Reading

Despite the beauty that exists in our world and the goodness that is inherent in the majority of human beings, much that occurs in the modern world can sometimes lead people to despair: terrorism, violence, religious persecution, hedonistic self-absorption – the list goes on!

Yet, in the midst of the 'bad news' that humanity brings upon itself, the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd is always present, calling us to follow him to pastures that offer protection and nourishment.

His voice is a reassuring voice that is rock-solid, for it flows from the firm foundation of divinity become human for our sake!

His is a voice of Hope in the mists of a confused and confusing world.

His is a voice of reassurance which enables us to believe in the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

His is a voice that inspires us to create this Kingdom of Love on earth as we await final salvation on another plane of existence.

In our prayer times this week, let's strive to listen to the Voice of the Good Shepherd. Let's try to remain silent in God's presence, and not clutter up our time with the Lord with our chattering. Let's reflect on the Word of God for this Fourth Sunday of Easter, and, in prayer, let's allow the Good Shepherd to enable us to fully embrace our vocation as the new People of God, so that we will bring the Message of Salvation to all with whom we interact through our words and actions!

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, consubstantial with the  
Father; through him all things were  
made.

For us men and for our salvation he  
came down from heaven,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and  
became man', all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was  
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and  
became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and  
was buried, and rose again on the third  
day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead and his  
kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father and the Son, who with the  
Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the  
prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins and I look forward  
to the resurrection of the dead and the  
life of the world to come.

Amen.

## Readings for next Week

### **27 Mon 4th week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 11:1-18

Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4

Gospel John 10:1-10

### **28 Tues Saint Peter Chanel**

1st Reading Acts 11:19-26

Psalm Ps 86:1-7

Gospel John 10:22-30

### **29 Wed Saint Catherine of Siena**

1st Reading Acts 12:24-13:5

Psalm Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8

Gospel John 12:44-50

### **30 Thurs 4th week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 13:13-25

Psalm Ps 88:2-3. 21-22. 25. 27

Gospel John 13:16-20

## May

### **1 Fri 4th week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 13:26-33

Psalm Ps 2:6-11

Gospel John 14:1-6

### **2 Sat Saint Athanasius**

1st Readings Acts 13:44-52

Psalm Ps 97:1-4

Gospel John 14:7-14



## Paying our debt together

### Weekly donations

**1st Collection: \$ 3,001.25**

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

**2nd Collection: \$ 6,934.05**

*Loose* \$ 2801.05

*PG Envelopes* \$ 2,092.00

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



## Special intentions

Mass Cards are now available for purchase at the parish office

### Born to eternal life:

Doreen Bocks, Jaime Bernardo, Sr.  
Benito Barrozo

### Anniversary:

S.Liudlsi, W. Krawczyk, A.Liudlsi,  
Maureen Peterson, Jerry Camilleri

### For the sick:

Jun Batongbacal

### Weekday Mass Intentions– April

**Mon** Eulalia Dabu Carlos (*Rec Decd*)

**Tues** Victor Kimble (*Rec Decd*)

Nela Serrato (*Death Anniv*)

**Wed** Ernesto R Ribargos (*Anniv*)

**Thurs** George Kiddle (*Anniv*)

**Fri** Alfredo Pangilinan Jr. (*Anniv*)

**Sat** Salud Geronimo



## Evangelicum (con't)

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opened. On the same Sunday, I will announce that in every local Church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area – or, alternatively, at the co-cathedral or another church of special significance, a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year. At the discretion of the local ordinary, a similar door may be opened at any Shrine frequented by large groups of pilgrims, since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion. Every Particular Church, therefore, will be directly involved in living out this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal. Thus the Jubilee will be celebrated both in Rome and in the Particular Churches as a visible sign of the Church's universal communion.

I have chosen the date of 8 December because of its rich meaning in the recent history of the Church. In fact, I will open the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way. It was a new phase of the same evangelization that had existed from the beginning. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction. The Church sensed a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father's love in the world.

We recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the Council, he indicated the path to follow: "Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity ... The Catholic Church, as she holds high the torch of Catholic truth at this Ecumenical Council, wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children." [2] Blessed Paul VI spoke in a similar vein at the closing of the Council: "We prefer to point out how charity has been the principal religious feature of this Council ... the old story of the Good Samaritan has been the model of the spirituality of the Council ... a wave of affection and admiration flowed from the Council over the modern world of humanity. Errors were condemned, indeed, because charity demanded this no less than did truth, but for individuals themselves there was only admonition, respect and love. Instead of depressing diagnoses, encouraging remedies; instead of direful predictions, messages of trust issued from the Council to the present-day world. The modern world's values were not only respected but honoured, its efforts approved, its aspirations purified and blessed ... Another point we must stress is this: all this rich teaching is channeled in one direction, the service of mankind, of every condition, in every weakness and need." [3]

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With these sentiments of gratitude for everything the Church has received, and with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy.[4]

The Jubilee year will close with the liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King on 20 November 2016. On that day, as we seal the Holy Door, we shall be filled, above all, with a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity for having granted us an extraordinary time of grace. We will entrust the life of the Church, all humanity, and the entire cosmos to the Lordship of Christ, asking him to pour out his mercy upon us like the morning dew, so that everyone may work together to build a brighter future. How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God! May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!

## Diocese News

### Position Vacant

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is inviting applications for the position of Assistant Financial Accountant, Diocesan Development Fund (DDF). This position will assist in the financial reporting framework, implement and coordinate the new product initiatives, regulatory, risk management and policy implementation activities in the DDF. Inquiries to Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, Tel: 0402 210 055. Or visit the **Employment** page on: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)

**Applications close 26 April.**

### SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

If you are trying to work through the crisis, blocks, challenges and opportunities associated with the breakdown of your marriage and family unit then you will find support and assistance at “Stepping Beyond”, run by **CCSS Solo Parent Services** on Tues May 25<sup>th</sup> 7. 30pm. Blacktown.

Further details ring Rita or Eileen  
on 99330205 or

email [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*Easter speaks to us of everlasting youth: it represents the absolute victory of Christ. We will all participate in this triumph. – St. John XXIII, 18 April 1962*

An excerpt from the **Easter Message** of the Very Rev. Fr. Peter G. Williams, Diocesan Administrator:

“Yet the story of ANZAC, whether our families were directly connected or not, is part of our national story and is in the common possession of all Australians, no matter their origin.

Needless to say there are parallels with the Easter story – self-sacrifice for the lives of others, extraordinary acts of courage and strength, and triumph through death.

But, of course, in the case of Jesus Christ the triumph was the defeat of death and the new life afforded to all who believed in Him on Easter morning when the tomb was found empty.” (*Catholic Outlook, April 2015*)

This **4th Sunday in Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday**, is celebrated in the Church as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. On this day, the faithful are encouraged to pray for men who feel called to give their lives in dedicated service to God and the Church, and that the Holy Spirit will guide them in their discernment.

All young men who feel that God might be calling them to the priesthood are invited to the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta’s Vocation Discernment Afternoon on Sunday 26 April 2015, which starts at 2pm at

Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park and concludes with a shared meal at 6pm. For inquiries about the Vocation Discernment Afternoon or to find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, contact the Director of Priestly Vocations, Rev. Fr. Warren Edwards, tel. 0409 172700 or send an email to [vocations@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@parra.catholic.org.au).

In response to popular demand, the first of a three-part scripture study series on **“The Gospel of Mark”** hosted by Fr. John will commence on Wednesday, 29 April from 7:30 pm at the Church. We invite everyone to attend these highly anticipated sessions.

Thanks to those who responded to our call for hosting of the **Rosary Statue** this month. We now need host families from June onwards.

*Have a blessed week! Bart*

### 2015 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

#### Executive (*Council leaders*)

20 May    22 Jul    18 Nov    16 Sep

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

Aug        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.



**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

**Our School  
Communities**

**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

***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***

28 Apr Lusica Family

05 May Gorkic Family

12 May Da Silva Family

19 May Torroba Family

26 May D'Silva Family

## What we do why we do.....

### How to Receive the Eucharist

REV. ADRIAN J. PARCHER, O.S.B.

Often in modern liturgy, the sense of reverence, of dignity, of awe, seems to have disappeared. When you talk about what I'm going to talk about, people say, "Oh, my goodness, Father has me directly in mind, I know he's directing what he's saying at me." People become self-conscious or even offended. Recently I spoke to a congregation about the reception of Holy Communion. I began by saying, "There are no flagrant violations or extreme problems here, but it's good always to remind ourselves of what happens when we receive the Eucharist and how we should receive it." Then I continued in this vein:

We have the adage "Familiarity breeds contempt." Not that we have contempt for the Eucharist, but we receive it so often that we can become slovenly. Even priests can become slovenly in the way they say Mass. As anyone who's been a superior of a community of priests knows, it's a delicate thing to approach the priest and say, "Father, look, you're saying Mass too fast; you're saying Mass too irreverently; you're doing this or that and you ought to correct it." Several years ago a Jesuit published a book called *How Not to Say Mass*, and when we read it in refectory in the monastery one of the old monks said, "How strange that a Jesuit should write a book on how not to say Mass." Well, here we go.

If you were to ask me what two dispositions are absolutely necessary to approach the table of the Lord, I would say without hesitation that the first is faith - deep belief in our Lord who is truly present, body and soul, humanity and divinity who becomes present at the words of consecration and who comes into our lives, into our very beings, assimilates us into himself, through the reception of the Eucharist. That is whom we are receiving. We celebrate what Jesus enacted at the Last Supper and on Calvary. We represent that act to the Father and bring its benefits upon ourselves.

The Eucharist like all the great mysteries of our faith, is not something that one can explain rationally. How can Jesus, how can God, be contained in what appears to be a small wafer of bread? But that's our strong belief, that Jesus is truly present on our altars. Once we have received him in the Eucharist, he is present in our very persons, in our bodies. We believe that by the reception of the Eucharist we become tabernacles, with our Lord contained within our very selves. That is a marvelous mystery, and that's the first quality that we have to come with, that deep awareness, that deep faith, that deep belief. That's what really makes Catholics Catholic. Take away the Eucharist, and we're like everyone else. There's no difference. I think it was one of the French revolutionaries who said, "If I truly believed what the Church wants me to believe, that Christ truly becomes present on the altar at the moment of consecration, I would not walk to the communion rail - I would crawl on my belly. That is how deep my faith and my humility would be." Now we certainly don't expect anyone to crawl, but there has to be that depth of faith. Out of that faith there has to come a devotion. You know each of

us is baptized into the priesthood of Jesus, and one of the ways in which ordinary baptized Catholics exercise that priesthood is by receiving Holy Communion. That is the exercise of a power we have from Christ. It's an act of worship and so we do it. We come with devotion, we come with humility. We come - how should I put it? - with great reverence and respect. I think that's what many people complain about in our modern liturgy, the fact that the sense of reverence, of dignity, of awe, has disappeared. But that's more in our disposition than in anything else.

Now there are two ways in which Communion is received in the Latin Church: We receive either on the tongue or in the hand. The priest holds up the Host and says, "The Body of Christ," and the communicant answers, "Amen." That is not an English word; it's an Aramaic word. It really is pronounced "Ahmeen," and it means, "So be it" "I agree." "I believe." "It is the Body of Christ." That's what the "Amen" means: "I honestly believe that when I receive, it is Christ, and so I say Amen."

No one can dictate how one is to receive Holy Communion. A priest can't say, "I'm only going to give the Eucharist on the tongue." Nor can a priest demand that everyone who comes to Communion receive in the hand. Who decides how one is to receive Holy Communion? The communicant and only the communicant. It is the individual who decides how he is going to receive. (*The option applies only in countries whose national bishops' conferences have applied for and been granted permission to authorize Communion in the hand, of course*) Often I run into priests who say, "I'm only going to give it in the hand." And I have to say, "Father, you cannot demand that" If you are going to receive on the tongue, you should keep certain things in mind. First, the head should be bent back slightly, and the head should be held erect, but kind of tilted back. The tongue should come out over the bottom teeth, equal with the bottom lip, so that the priest has someplace to put the Host. Sometimes people come up with their teeth clenched, and you wonder, "How am I going to get our Lord into that mouth?"

There are certain things that we priests talk about among ourselves (*I'm telling the tricks of the trade now*), comments we make about certain kinds of communicants. We say, "That one was a snapping turtle," because he closes his mouth so quickly that the priest is afraid his fingers are going to be cut off by the teeth. You look down sometimes and wonder, "Has blood been drawn?" Many a time, I've had the scar of the teeth on my knuckles. There are also the plungers; they sort of leap forward. Or you have the toe dancers, who come up on their toes, and you never know where they're going to light. Others receive on the run; they don't stand squarely in front of you but they stand as if they can't wait to get away. Come straight forward, face the priest, and don't be too far away, because it's awfully difficult at times to reach.

If you're going to receive in the hand, the best way is to put one hand down and put the other hand on top of it and make, as Tertullian used to say, a kind of throne for the Lord. When the priest puts the Host on your hand, you say,

## What we do why we do....(con't)

"Amen." Take a step or two to the side to make way for the next communicant, then receive our Lord. Communion should not be received on the run, as you're walking back to your place; it should be consumed before you leave the area below the altar.

I would like to remind people to indicate clearly how they wish to receive. Sometimes communicants come up with their hands out and their mouths open, and the priest doesn't know which way to give the Host. How does this person wish to receive? If you indicate clearly, it's easier. If you're going to receive in the hand, be clear about where the Host should be placed so that it doesn't accidentally fall. By the way, if it should fall on the floor, indicate it to the priest. Sometimes the priest or extraordinary minister doesn't see it. That should be the overwhelming disposition with which we approach Holy Communion: "It is the Lord!"

If you're going to kneel for Communion - and it's all right to kneel - remember that, when you rise, you have people behind you. Sometimes those who kneel to receive take a step or two back when they rise. I've seen at times when an older person stands just behind the one who is rising. A person who uses a cane to steady his walk may come close to being knocked over by someone rising up. So remember to rise straight up, thinking about the person right behind you. Some people ask me at times, "Father, I see on television the Masses that come from Birmingham, from Mother Angelica, and I see the sisters genuflecting. Should I genuflect before or after?" Only as a sign of piety; it's not necessary to genuflect, but it is necessary to make some gesture of reverence before receiving the Eucharist. It may be kneeling, bowing, crossing oneself or some other act. What is necessary is to receive with reverence and dignity. I don't think there should be any genuflections after receiving Holy Eucharist. I don't mean to sound facetious, but, at that moment, you don't want to genuflect to the tabernacle, because the Lord is within you; you are the tabernacle.

Let me sum up by saying the two main dispositions that we need - faith and devotion. Remember that scene, in the Fourth Gospel, that occurs after the Resurrection. The disciples are out fishing, and the boats are coming toward the shore. Peter, as usual, is completely immersed in what he is doing; he's got his outer clothes off so he can work more easily. The beloved disciple sees someone standing on the shore and says to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter jumps into the water.

That disposition of John, "It is the Lord" - that's what our faith demands. It is the Lord that we are worshiping. It is the Lord that we are receiving into ourselves. It is the Lord who is giving us in the Eucharist a special way to participate in divine life. It is the Lord who is sanctifying us. That should be the overwhelming disposition with which we approach Holy Communion: "It is the Lord!"



## BREAK OPEN THE WORD SERIES

With Fr. John McSweeney

### PART 1 - Gospel of St Mark

If you have ever wanted to grow more familiar with “the Word of the Lord”, we invite you to join us as Fr. John brings to life the Gospel of St. Mark.

**When:** April 29, May 06 and May 13  
(Wednesday nights)

**Where:** St. John XXIII Parish Church,  
Perfection Ave., Stanhope Gardens

**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00pm

Please bring your bibles. Bring along your spouse, relatives and friends too.

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

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

### Church cleaning and upkeep

After many years of dedicated service, Ray Mandla is retiring. Ray looked after the cleaning and upkeep of a number of areas of the church and we now need someone to take his place. If you have 1-2 hours spare each week please contact the parish office for more information.

### 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.

The Parish Council for **Social Justice** is looking for people who would like to join this dynamic group. If interested, please contact the parish office.

### First Eucharist Children's Sessions

The Children's Sessions for First Holy Communion will begin next weekend on 2nd & 3rd May at the St. John's/Mark's school classrooms.



For more information, please contact  
Jill on **9852 0583** or email  
**admin@john23rd.org.au**

### Cake Angels

Thank you to all who supported our Cake Stalls. We raised \$750 for our Early Learning School here in Stanhope Gardens.

Our next cake stall will be on Saturday 6 June after the 6pm evening mass. If you're interested in joining us, please e-mail Jill at **jill.franco@bigpond.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

## Fill in the blanks

I am the \_\_\_\_\_.  
I know my own \_\_\_\_\_ and they  
\_\_\_\_\_ me, just as the \_\_\_\_\_  
knows me and I know the Father.  
I lay down my \_\_\_\_\_ for my sheep.

Use the following words to find out what Jesus said his disciples.

shepherd

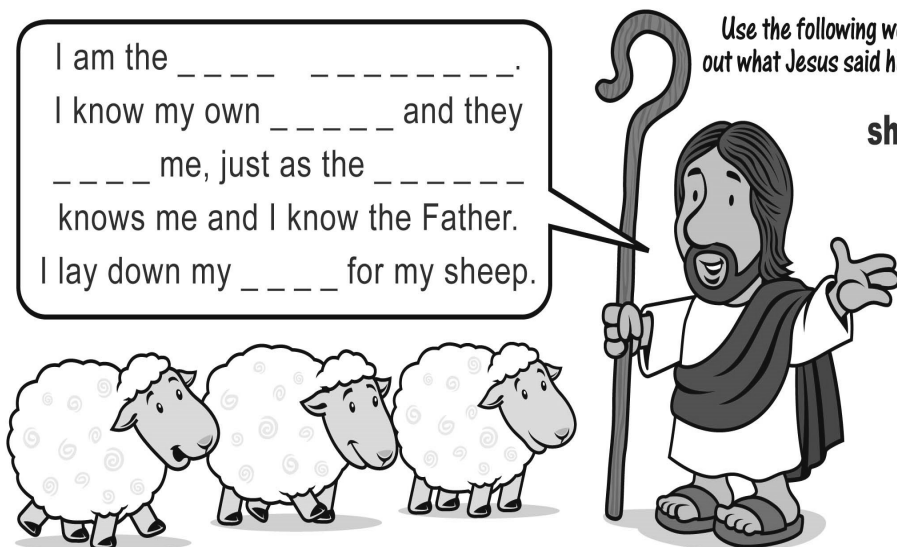
Father

life

good

sheep

know





## Jesus is the good shepherd

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

### WORD SEARCH

Flock	hear	know	life	one	run	scatter
sheep		shepherd		together	voice	wolf

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