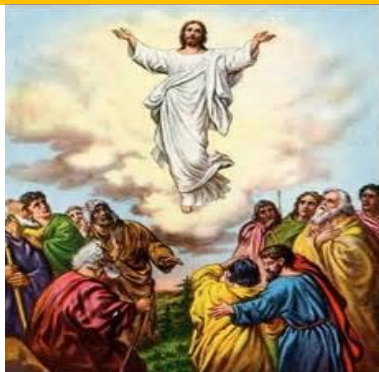


**THE ASCENSION**  
 16 - 17 May 2015

**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*

## From the Pastor's desk

With today's Feast of the Ascension begins the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*.

Last week I spoke of the all-encompassing love of Jesus Christ that, as Christians, we are called to emulate. To be like the Lord demands that we ignore distinctions, and that we make certain our love is offered to all. During this *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, let's make certain that we pray for all those who try to follow Jesus and His Gospel in their lives.

In the future, we should aim to build on the good relationship that already exists between St. John XXIII Parish and Quakers Hill Uniting Church. Let's make certain that, in twelve months' time, we host an Ecumenical Prayer event for all Christians in our local area, so that the words of Jesus in John 17 may become a reality: "Father, that they may all be ONE"!

We pray in a particular way this week for all the children in the Sacramental Programme who will be making their First Communion during all masses next weekend. As already mentioned, there will be an extra Parish Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 12:00 midday. Furthermore, next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, when we pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us all.

One final point. The children are being trained in the correct way of receiving Communion in the Hand (or on the tongue if they prefer). Let's make certain we re-look at our own physical practice of Reception of the Blessed Eucharist. Let's make certain we are receiving the host correctly. If we receive on the hand, let's place our primary hand under the other so that AFTER THE PRIEST or MINISTER has placed it on our hand, we can then pick it and consume the host BEFORE RETURNING to our seat. If on the tongue, then please truly stick your tongue out so that the Priest or minister has something to place the host on! Furthermore, everyone in the Church is welcome to receive a Blessing from the Priest if you can't, for whatever reason, receive the Lord in the Eucharist at this time. The minister can make the Christian's Sign of the Cross on your forehead as we do at Baptism. The blessings offered by Fr. Robert or myself at the end of Communion time are for the children who have NOT yet made their First Communion.

God bless you all.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

Have a great week!

Fr. John



*(We continue with the Pope's announcement of the Year of Mercy, and his reflection on the concept of Mercy)*

Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love. The Church "has an endless desire to show mercy." Perhaps we have long since forgotten how to show and live the way of mercy. The temptation, on the one hand, to focus exclusively on justice made us forget that this is only the first, albeit necessary and indispensable step. But the Church needs to go beyond and strive for a higher and more important goal. On the other hand, sad to say, we must admit that the practice of mercy is waning in the wider culture. In some cases the word seems to have dropped out of use. However, without a witness to mercy, life becomes fruitless and sterile, as if sequestered in a barren desert. The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

Let us not forget the great teaching offered by Saint John Paul II in his second Encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia*, which at the time came unexpectedly, its theme catching many by surprise. There are two passages in particular to which I would like to draw attention. First, Saint John Paul II highlighted the fact that we had forgotten the theme of mercy in today's cultural milieu: "The present-day mentality, more perhaps than that of people in the past, seems opposed to a God of mercy, and in fact tends to exclude from life and to remove from the human heart the very idea of mercy. The word and the concept of 'mercy' seem to cause uneasiness in man, who, thanks to the enormous development of science and technology, never before known in history, has become the master of the earth and has subdued and dominated it (cf. Gen 1:28). This dominion over the earth, sometimes understood in a one-sided and superficial way, seems to have no room for mercy... And this is why, in the situation of the Church and the world today, many individuals and groups guided by a lively sense of faith are turning, I would say almost spontaneously, to the mercy of God".

Furthermore, Saint John Paul II pushed for a more urgent proclamation and witness to mercy in the contemporary world: "It is dictated by love for man, for all that is human and which, according to the intuitions of many of our contemporaries, is threatened by an immense danger. The mystery of Christ... obliges me to proclaim mercy as God's merciful love, revealed in that same mystery of Christ. It likewise obliges me to have recourse to that mercy and to beg for it at this difficult, critical phase of the history of the Church and of the world". This teaching is more pertinent than ever and deserves to be taken up once again in this Holy Year. Let us listen to his words once more: "The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy – the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer – and when she brings people close to the sources of the Saviour's mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser".

## First Reading

*Acts 1:1-11*

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 46:2-3, 6-9*

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**



## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:17-23*

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 28:19, 20*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

*Mark 16:15-20*

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 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

### **18 Mon 7th week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 19:1-8

Psalm Ps 67:2-7

Gospel John 16:29-33

### **19 Tues 7th week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 20:17-27

Psalm Ps 67:10-11, 20-21

Gospel John 17:1-11

### **20 Wed Bernadine of Sienna**

1st Reading Acts 20:28-38

Psalm Ps 67:29-30, 33-36

Gospel John 17:11-19

### **21 Thurs Christopher Magallanes**

1st Reading Acts 22:30, 23:6-11

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

Gospel John 17:20-26

### **22 Fri 7th week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 25:13-21

Psalm Ps 102:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

Gospel John 21:15-19

### **23 Sat 7th week of Easter**

1st Readings Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Psalm Ps 10:4-5, 7

Gospel John 21:20-25



## Paying our debt together

### Weekly donations

**1st Collection: \$ 2,139.00**

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

**2nd Collection: \$ 6,029.15**

*Loose \$ 2,081.75*

*PG Envelopes \$ 1,906.40*

*PG by EFT \$ 2041.00*

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:

Riolene Weber, Aeldred Weber, Rae Ebert, Arturo Cobarrubias Sr, Michelle I Uy, Eduardo Del Rosario, Maria Benilda Nuguid Esprit, Bea, Feliciano Suarez Jr, Alicia Villanueva

### Anniversary:

Pacita Delgado Jones, Anna Perrone, Frank Leema, Sofija Janezic, Felix Teddoro Sr, John Fernandez, Raymond Francis Bayfield, Feliciano Suarez Jr, Benito Barrozo, Monica R Cobarrubias

### For the sick:

Melchor Batongbacal Jr, Helen Hill, Jun Batongbacal, Mark De Jesus

### Thanksgiving:

Josh Reddy, Deandra Prgaram, J Reddy



## Parish Notices

### 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.

### 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.

### BE PART OF THE TEAM!

Are you interested in learning about Catholic social teaching and taking action on justice issues? Get involved with the Social Justice Committee! Email [sj.john23rd@gmail.com](mailto:sj.john23rd@gmail.com) and provide your name and phone number. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the Month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Parish Kitchen.

## Reflection on the Reading

Today's Feast of the Ascension celebrates the 'turning point' between Jesus' Mission on earth in His own person and the mission continued by his followers in the Church. This is a mission which involves the proclamation of the Words and Deeds of the Lord, in the hope that they will lead to the conversion necessary for all human beings to encounter the Risen Jesus.

### What does the Ascension mean for us today?

The Ascension is Good News indeed! We believe that we will experience Resurrection after Death. The Ascension tells us that this experience of New Life will involve being with the Father and the Son forever. It speaks to us of our FUTURE.

But, beyond this Truth, the Ascension speaks to us of another truth that is live out in our day-to-day lives: in coming to a closer relationship with God, we are more often than not SENT to others!

We are reborn in Baptism, and from that point onwards our whole life's journey is a continuous experience of Ascension to God and Return from Him in the Spirit to be of service to our brothers and sisters. Our New Life in Christ is thus not just modelled on the Resurrection, but on the Ascension as well! In prayer and in our daily tasks we 'ascend' to the Father: that is, we offer ourselves and our experience up to God as a pleasing sacrifice (just like

Jesus offered His life to the Father). But, as St. John says: 'it is for your own good that I am going because unless I go, the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) will not come to you' (John 16:7ab). Thus, the consequence of these 'Ascension' experiences in life is the further experience of being 'sent back' to our neighbour with the strength of the Holy Spirit to express the unconditional love of Jesus Christ to them!

Perhaps in this week of preparation for Pentecost, we can reflect on the Ascension experiences in our lives, and prepare for the Pentecost even of being sent out to all for the renewal of the whole world!!



**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



*We are all called to walk with Jesus, but that does not in any way mean that we are to leave our material duties unfulfilled, or to neglect the advantages derived from a more elevated way of life that we enjoy, since, in fact, through our relation with Jesus we are called upon to permeate relations between individuals, families and nations with his heavenly light. – St. John XXIII, 21 January 1962*

We hoped that everyone enjoyed the three-part scripture study series on “The Gospel of Mark” hosted by Fr. John over the last three Wednesday nights at the Church. We invite you then to attend the next three sessions continuing the focus on Mark’s Gospel in August.

We invite everyone to join the SJ23 Prayer Group in its monthly Praise and Worship Night this Saturday, 16 May from 7:30 to 9 PM. The theme is “Don’t Become Bitter” and the guest speaker is Fr. Bong Pamintuan.

Catholic Youth Parramatta is inviting interested youth participants to its World Youth Day Krakow 2016

Pilgrim Information Evenings & WYD Group Leaders Information Night in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta.

The WYD Group Leaders Information Night will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary St Marys Parish on Monday 25 May from 7pm to 9pm.

The Pilgrim Information Evenings will be held at several Parishes throughout the Diocese between Tuesday 12 May and Tuesday 16 June. For full details, visit the new Catholic Youth Parramatta World Youth Day site.

We remind all Parish Council team leaders that the next Executive Committee team meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 May, from 7:30 pm at the Parish Office Conference room. Hope to see you all there!

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*

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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**

19 May	Torroba Family	9 June	Viola Family
26 May	D’Cruz Family	16 June	<i>still open</i>
2 June	Thiagarajah Family	23 June	Musca Family

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

### What Does the Bible Say About Church Giving? - *con't* The Widow's Offering

I see at least three important things about giving in this story of the widow's offering:

#### 1 **God values our offerings differently than men do.**

In God's eyes, the value of the offering is not determined by the amount of the offering. The text says that the wealthy gave large amounts, but the widow's offering was of much higher value because she gave all that she had. It was a costly sacrifice. Note that Jesus did not say she put in more than any of the others; he said she put in more than all the others.

#### 2 **Our attitude in giving is important to God.**

The text says Jesus "watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury." Jesus observed the people as they gave their offerings, and he watches us today as we give. If we give to be seen by men or with a stingy heart toward God, our offering loses its value. Jesus is more interested and impressed by how we give than what we give.

We see this same principle in the story of Cain and Abel. God evaluated Cain and Abel's offerings. Abel's offering was pleasing in God's eyes, but he rejected Cain's. Rather than giving to God out of thankfulness and worship, Cain may have presented his offering with evil or selfish intent. Maybe he had hoped to receive special recognition. Regardless, Cain knew the right thing to do, but he didn't do it. God even gave Cain an opportunity to make things right, but he chose not to.

This illustrates again that God watches what and how we give. God not only

cares about the quality of our gifts to him, but also the attitude in our hearts as we offer them.

#### 3 **God doesn't want us to be overly concerned with how our offering is spent.**

At the time Jesus observed this widow's offering, the temple treasury was managed by the corrupt religious leaders of that day. But Jesus did not mention anywhere in this story that the widow should not have given to the temple.

Although we should do what we can to ensure that the ministries we give to are good stewards of God's money, we can't always know for certain that the money we give will be spent correctly. We should not be overly burdened with this concern, nor should we use this as an excuse not to give.

It's important for us to find a good church that is wisely managing its financial resources for God's glory and for the growth of God's kingdom. But once we give to God, we don't need to worry about what happens to the money. This is God's problem to resolve. If a church leader or a ministry misuses its funds, God knows how to deal with them.

#### ***We rob God when we fail to give offerings to him.***

*Malachi 3:8 - Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. (NIV)*

This verse speaks for itself, don't you think?

#### ***The picture of our financial giving simply reveals a reflection of our lives surrendered to God.***

*Romans 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)*

10 When we truly recognize all that Christ has done for us, we will want to offer ourselves wholly to God as a living sacrifice of worship to him. Our offerings will flow freely from a heart of gratitude.

### A Challenge

In conclusion, I'd like to explain my personal convictions and offer a challenge to my readers. As I've already stated, I believe tithing is no longer the law. As New Testament believers, we are under no legal obligation to give a tenth of our income. However, my husband and I feel strongly that the tithe ought to be the starting point of our giving. We see it as the minimum to give, a demonstration that everything we have belongs to God.

We also believe most of our giving should go to the local church (the storehouse) where we are fed God's Word and nurtured spiritually. *Malachi 3:10* says, "'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'"

If you're not currently giving to the Lord, I challenge you to start by making a commitment. Give something faithfully and regularly. I'm certain God will honour and bless your commitment. If a tenth seems too overwhelming, consider making it a goal. Giving may feel like a huge sacrifice at first, but I'm confident you'll eventually discover its rewards.

God wants believers to be free from the love of money, which the Bible says in *1 Timothy 6:10* is "a root of all kinds of evil." Giving honours the Lord and allows his work to go forward. It also helps build our faith. We may experience times of financial hardship when we can't give as much, but the Lord still wants us to trust Him in times of lack. He, not our paycheck, is our provider. He will meet our daily needs.

A friend of my pastor once told him that financial giving is not God's way of raising money--it's his way of raising children.

## Our School Communities

### 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)

## 2015 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

### Executive (*Council leaders*)

20 May    22 Jul    18 Nov    16 Sep

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

18 Aug                      7:30pm - 9:00pm

St Marks College Staff room

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

## Diocese News

### **Mission – One Heart Many Voices from 18-20 May**

Organised by Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission this multi-sector dialogue on living the joy of the Gospel and leading mission will be held at the SMC Conference & Function Centre, Goulburn St, Sydney. Mission – One Heart Many Voices will explore Pope Francis' vision for mission and is set within the spirit of *Ad Gentes* and *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, documents that celebrate their 50th and 40th anniversaries this year respectively.

### **Holy Hour for Vocations on 21 May**

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 7-8pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact the Director of Priestly Vocations, Fr Warren Edwards, Director: tel 0409 172 700 or send an email to [vocations@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@parra.catholic.org.au)

### **Annual Marian Pilgrimage on 24 May**

The Annual Marian Pilgrimage at Mt Schoenstatt begin at 10am with Holy Mass at 10.30am. The Eucharistic Procession and Benediction from the valley to the Shrine will commence at 2pm. There will be an alternative program for the sick and elderly at the Shrine. Please bring your own picnic chairs. Hot food will be available at

lunchtime. Mt Schoenstatt is at 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Details: tel (02) 4773 8338 or visit [www.schoenstatt.org.au](http://www.schoenstatt.org.au)

### **Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead**

Chisholm Cottage provides 'a home away from home' for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women's League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents. For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, Tel (02) 8382 6437, 0404 861523, email- [mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au](mailto:mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au)

### **Catholic Pastoral Care**

Did you know that the Diocese of Parramatta provides the ministry of a Catholic Chaplain as well as Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to all major hospitals? Teams of Catholic Pastoral Carers are professionally trained, provided especially for you by the Diocese of Parramatta, so as to support you in times of trauma, illness and uncertainty in a hospital setting. Care is given pastorally, emotionally, sacramentally and spiritually following your needs and wishes.

If you discern that you might be able to assist in the delivery of these pastoral services please ring for more information 0448 822625.

*Monsignor John Boyle* (02)9634 2622

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)**

**NOTE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS**

Anyone who is a member of the following Parish Groups **MUST** get a Working with Children Check (WWCC) from the RMS/Services NSW Registry.

Requirement applies for the following groups: Sacramental Team Members, Special Religious Education teachers and helpers (SRE), Sunday School Children's Liturgy teachers, Altar Ministers, Youth Leaders over 18 years of age, Choir members who have children/youth under 18, St Vincent de Paul team Members, Youth for Christ, Couples for Christ, etc.

If you belong to any of the above groups, please:

1. Go to the [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au) > *Working with children* and register
2. When you receive your letter/email notifying you of your registration number proceed to RMS/Services NSW Registry to apply for the WWCC#
3. When you receive the final confirmation of your number please take this letter to the Parish Office.

There is an **URGENT** need for some parishioners to catch up with our Parish Office to follow up on additional details required by the Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards in Parramatta:

1. A copy of their WWCC letter giving their WWCC number, age, expiry date of WWCC.
2. A required form (1/2 page) in the Parish Office.

The Parish Office needs the above completed and copy is sent to the Parramatta Diocese. This office will inform WWCC holders when renewal is needed in 5 years.

Our Parish chairman, Bart Sarlabus, will contact concerned parishioners shortly.

## 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:** [gtk youth@gmail.com](mailto:gtk youth@gmail.com)

**Info:** <http://www.gtkyouth.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

## Find the difference



5 differences to find

## Believe in me and you will be saved

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

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**0430 144008**