

PENTECOST
 23 - 24 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
Assistant Priest: Fr Robert William ✉ FrRobert@john23rd.org.au

Mass Times

Monday to Friday 9:00am
Also Wednesday 9:00am Holy Cross
 Primary during school term
Saturday 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
 6:00pm (Youth)

Baptism 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

Reconciliation (First Rite)

Saturday 5:00 - 5:45pm
And after any weekday masses

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 8.30 - 4.00pm

Parish Office Contacts

☎ (02)9852 0580 📞 0403 766468 AH
 Secretary: Tanya Gatt
 ✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au
 Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)
 ✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au
 Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thurs)
 ✉ admin@john23rd.org.au
 Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

Devotions & Prayers

Novena Masses

Tuesday 7:30pm
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
First Friday 7:30pm
 Sacred Heart of Jesus

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30pm
First Friday 6:30pm followed by
 7:15pm Benediction
Saturday 8:00 - 9:00am (*Vocations*)

Sacrament of the Sick

First Saturday 9:00am Mass or upon request

Divine Office

Friday 12:00pm with Adoration
Sunday 8:15am

Praise & Worship

3rd Saturday 7:30pm
 led by SJ23rd Prayer Group
2nd & 4th Saturday 7:30pm
 led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

Prayer Group

Friday 7:00pm at the Church kitchen
 led by Pauline Camilleri 📞 0407 417039
Sunday after 7:30am mass

From the Pastor's desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers

With today's Celebration of Pentecost Sunday we reach the culmination of our Easter Ceremonies. Christ is Risen; Christ has Ascended; and the Spirit is Sent to a waiting world!

We also celebrate First Holy Communion for 170 of our younger parishioners this weekend.

As you know, the Sacramental Programme is now *Parish-based*. That is, it is the responsibility of the parents of each child (as *the primary educators of their children in the ways of Faith* - as promised by them on the day of their child's baptism) to prepare the children for the Sacraments; and so the Parish Community supports the parents in this key role. Thus, the children do not have a separate First Communion Mass; rather, they receive the Eucharist within the normal Sunday Mass, thereby joining the adult community of believers.

Let's keep these boys and girls and their families in our prayers over the next few months.

Also, as mentioned last week, the Confirmation programme will commence in Term Three. More details in the Bulletin and on the websites (Parish and Schools) soon. Confirmation will be for Year 6 students from now on. The extra year of maturity will aid the process of comprehending the Spiritual gifts given through Confirmation, and will also allow this Sacrament to become a Rite of Passage, as the children are on the cusp of progressing from Primary to High School.

Two dates to remember:

- Sunday 7th June, 10:30am Mass, there will be a 'High Mass' to celebrate the Dedication of our Church.
- Sunday 14th June, 10:30am Mass, there will be a 'High Mass' to remember the First Anniversary of Fr. Dave's passing.



God bless you all! Have a great week!

Let's continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John

(More on the Pope's announcement of the Year of Mercy, and his reflection on the concept of Mercy)

The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person. The Spouse of Christ must pattern her behaviour after the Son of God who went out to everyone without exception. In the present day, as the Church is charged with the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action. It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.

The Church's first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.

We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord's words: Merciful like the Father. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (*Lk6:36*). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus's command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (*cf. Lk6:27*). In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God's mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.

The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us. The Lord Jesus shows us the steps of the pilgrimage to attain our goal: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (*Lk6:37-38*). The Lord asks us above all not to judge and not to condemn. If anyone wishes to avoid God's judgement, he should not make himself the judge of his brother or sister. Human beings,

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Galatians 5:16-25

The fruit of the Spirit.

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealous, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desire.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God,
how great you are, How many are your
works, O Lord! The earth is full of
your riches.

**Lord, send out your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth.**

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they
came. You send forth your spirit, they
are created; and you renew the face of
the earth.

**Lord, send out your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth.**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works! May
my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find
my joy in the Lord.

**Lord, send out your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth.**

Gospel

John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

*The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the
truth.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes, whom I
shall send to you from the Father, the
Spirit of truth who issues from the
Father, he will be my witness. And
you too will be witnesses, because
you have been with me from the
outset.

'I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you
now. But when the Spirit of truth
comes he will lead you to the
complete truth, since he will not be
speaking as from himself but will say
only what he has learnt; and he will tell
you of the things to come. He will glorify
me, since all he tells you will be taken
from what is mine. Everything the Father
has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells
you will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your
faithful and kindle in them the fire of
your love.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Reading

The Season of Easter reaches its culmination in today's Feast of Pentecost. And we thank God for his many gifts, foremost among which is the gift of the Spirit. Pentecost is the crowning achievement of God's victory in Christ:

- Jesus died and rose again
- He ascended into Heaven
- And now the Spirit of Father and Son is sent to a waiting world

The Readings have much to offer us.

1. The Acts of the Apostles offers us the Lucan account of the First Pentecost, which saw the transformation of frightened disciples who cowered behind closed doors into apostles filled with strength and conviction. They break out of their self-imposed prison, and proclaim the life and message of Jesus Christ to all.

This scene is played out over and over again in the Church. The peoples of every nation come together on the Day of Resurrection (the Lord's Day, Sunday) to speak the one language of praise and thanksgiving in the Liturgy of the Church

2. Paul encourages the Galatians not to live in the realm of self-indulgence and self-centredness, but to live in the realm of the Spirit.

Self-absorption leads to all kinds of aberrations and disharmony in the community; and Paul takes pains to list all these vices: immorality, impurity, lust, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outburst of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasion of envy, bouts of drinking,

orgies, and the life.

On the other hand, for the person who allows the Spirit to be Lord of their life, then the Spirit gifts that person with what Paul calls the 'fruit of the spirit': love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

3. And John's Gospel offers a description of the Spirit as Paraclete or Advocate – the one who pleads our cause before the Father.

As the Spirit of Truth, the Paraclete leads us into self-awareness and self-understanding. Thus, we can accept the truth about ourselves, and thus are strengthened and enabled to lead others to the Truth.

Each of these Scriptural texts help us reflect on the importance of this great day of Celebration. As both Church and as an individual Christian, we need to make certain that we

- Speak one language of praise and thanksgiving to God always (and especially for the great gift of Eucharist in our lives!)
- Live in the realm of the Spirit rather than the realm of self-indulgence, and
- Be Open to the Spirit's action in our lives, so that we will be led to the complete Truth

Let's take these three readings in the coming week, and let them permeate whatever quiet times of prayer we can carve out of our busy lives.

The apostle of Christ, who lives in the light of God, does not give in to feverish agitation or discouragement when confronted with difficulties. With their eyes fixed on eternity, the apostle progressively acquires a serene comprehension of the value and of the limits of every activity that unfolds in the world of time here below. – St. John XXIII, 21 January 1962

As we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles after the ascension of our Lord to Heaven, let us reflect on how we can continue their ministry through the sharing of our time and many talents evangelizing or helping those that are on the fringes of our Christian community. They may be a total stranger, or a friend or colleague, but they are beloved by Jesus and we pray that the Holy Spirit descend on us to make a difference in their lives.

On this holy day, we also encourage all liturgical ministers to reflect on how they can, in the words of St. John 23rd, “become docile instruments of God’s grace, instruments that do not

seek the passing words of human praise and affirmation, but prepare a way for the Lord to pass along”.

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.

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

Have a blessed week! *Bart*

Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Tuesday nights beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, sung Benediction Mass 7.30pm and Novena prayers at 7:40pm.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue visit you in your home contact Bart Sarlabus. Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

Rosary Statue Family Roster

26 May	D’Cruz Family	16 June	<i>still open</i>
2 June	Thiagarajah Family	23 June	Musca Family
9 June	Viola Family	30 June	<i>still open</i>

Nicene Creed

Readings for next Week

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.

25 Mon 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 19:1-8

Psalm Ps 67:2-7

Gospel John 16:29-33

26 Tues 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 20:17-27

Psalm Ps 67:10-11, 20-21

Gospel John 17:1-11

27 Wed Bernadine of Sienna

1st Reading Acts 20:28-38

Psalm Ps 67:29-30, 33-36

Gospel John 17:11-19

28 Thurs Christopher Magallanes

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

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

Gospel John 17:20-26

29 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

30 Sat 7th week of Easter

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

Psalm Ps 10:4-5, 7

Gospel John 21:20-25



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

Weekly collections

1st Collection: \$ 2,458.50

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

2nd Collection: \$ 5,992.05

Loose \$ 2,050.05

PG Envelopes \$ 1,901.00

PG by EFT \$ 2,041.00

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

Please contribute more on the 2nd Collection as this helps the parish community

If you would like to be a part of the church's plan giving program, a **green form** is available at the church foyer or contact the church's parish secretary, Tanya Gatt *secretary@john23rd.org.au*

Mass Cards are now available for purchase at the parish office

Special intentions

Born to eternal life:

Vicente Antonio, Arturo, Eduardo Del Rosario, Cobarrubias Sr, Frank Barbara, Rosemary & Parents.

Anniversary:

Rick Krawczyk, Sammy Formosa, Victoria Agbayani Agra.

For the sick:

Mark De Jesus, Helen Hill.

Thanksgiving:

Ronald Hertz Alvarez, Andrea Chesca Reyes, Darrell Fontanilla.

For the Souls: Juanito Songco, Elle Nunes.

Weekday Mass intentions - May

Mon Riolene & Aeldred Weber/
Rae Elbert (Rec Dec)

Tues Michelle Uy (Rec Dec)
Helen Hill (Sick)

Wed Jorge Chanco Sir (Rec Dec)

Thurs Tomas Ferino Sr/Mario
Ferino (Anniv)

Fri Mrs Clara Anthony (Anniv)

Sat Mark De Jesus (Sick)

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* 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.

Spend a day with the Notre Dame Folk Choir on 30 May

Join inspirational musicians from The University of Notre Dame in the US for a day of live singing and workshops! On their first visit to Australia from the US, the Notre Dame Folk Choir's 50 choristers and instrumentalists will come to St Patrick's Cathedral and will demonstrate how good liturgical music can inspire and nurture faith through a day of workshops, prayer and a concert. From 11.30am-4.30pm.

Cost: \$5 per person (cash only, to be collected on the day)

Register at: www.parra.catholic.org.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

St Philomena Association Holy Mass on 30 May

St John Vianney was very devoted to St Philomena. Pope Gregory XVI called her "the great wonder worker". Mass at noon with Confession from 11.30am. St John Vianney's Church, 17 Cameron St, Doonside (a short walk north from Doonside station, the one after Blacktown). Please bring a snack to share. RSVP Elizabeth tel or text 0423 15 44 63 or epeoples9@gmail.com

Vocation Discernment Afternoon on 31 May

All young men who feel God might be calling them to the priesthood are invited to the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's Vocation Discernment Afternoon. The afternoon starts at 2pm and concludes with a shared meal at 6pm. Holy Spirit Seminary is at 31-33 Allen Street, Harris Park.

To find out more about priesthood in the Diocese of Parramatta contact the Director of Priestly Vocations, Fr Warren Edwards, tel 0409 172 700 or send an email to:

vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

For further information visit:

www.parra.catholic.org.au/vocations

www.parra.catholic.org.au/holyspiritseminary

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

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whenever they judge, look no farther than the surface, whereas the Father looks into the very depths of the soul. How much harm words do when they are motivated by feelings of jealousy and envy! To speak ill of others puts them in a bad light, undermines their reputation and leaves them prey to the whims of gossip. To refrain from judgement and condemnation means, in a positive sense, to know how to accept the good in every person and to spare him any suffering that might be caused by our partial judgment, our presumption to know everything about him. But this is still not sufficient to express mercy. Jesus asks us also to forgive and to give. To be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God. To be generous with others, knowing that God showers his goodness upon us with immense generosity.

Merciful like the Father, therefore, is the “motto” of this Holy Year. In mercy, we find proof of how God loves us. He gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. He comes to our aid whenever we call upon him. What a beautiful thing that the Church begins her daily prayer with the words, “O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me” (*Ps70:2*)! The assistance we ask for is already the first step of God’s mercy toward us. He comes to assist us in our weakness. And his help consists in helping us accept his presence and closeness to us. Day after day, touched by his compassion, we also can become compassionate towards others.

In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates. How many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today! How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich! During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!

It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover

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Why Dress Appropriately for Church?

Often I hear from people, “God doesn’t care what I wear, long as I come as I am.” Ultimately this is true, God does want us to come as we are, however, there is something to be said about wearing our Sunday best every time we come together to worship our Lord. In this post I would like to discuss why it’s important for us to strive to wear our Sunday best.

One of the things we lack most in our society is a sense of formality. Not only applying to dress we can also apply this to everyday life. Today in many places teachers invite their students to refer to them by their first name. In some cases even children are calling their parents by their first name as well. This results in a breakdown between the parent/child, student/teacher relationship. Yes, what really matters ultimately is what is inside ones heart, however externals are important. Everything we do and say conveys something. Externals are important because they can convey an interior reality. What does that mean exactly? Take for example the creed we profess every Sunday. In the creed there is a section which asks us to bow while saying the word, “by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.” Why does the Church ask us to bow during those words? The reason is those words are a central mystery and teaching of our faith. When we bow it causes us to highlight and reflect on the meanings of those words rather than just say them off the

top of our head. Not only are externals important, they are also necessary.

With that said we return our focus to proper attire for Church. What would our Sunday best consist of? Does that mean I have to wear dress, suit and tie every weekend? No of course not although it would be appropriate for Christmas and Easter. We ought to want to give God our very best. I see for men a buttoned down shirt, polo shirt, dress slacks, for ladies a casual dress or blouse, skirt or slacks as appropriate dress for Church. Especially in the current economic situation people should not be made to go out and buy fancy clothes. If we believe Jesus Christ was truly present in the Eucharist we would want to come before Him with our best. Sadly today people dress up better to go out to eat than they do when they come to Church. As mentioned in the last paragraph soon as we drop our formality the faster we lose respect for authority. Parents and teachers who allow their children to refer to them on a first name basis lose respect for the authority that the parents and teachers have to guide them.

Soon as we lose a sense of formality at the Sunday liturgy then we begin to lose sight of the devotion and respect we should have every time we gather to worship. Externals eventually convey an interior reality. Lose the externals than it will eventually erode our internal belief. That is why externals are important. We shouldn’t dress when we come to Church as we were going to the beach or to a movie

12 theater. Again why is that? When we go to a beach or a movie theater we go and let our minds relax. Speaking for myself when I go to the beach I let my mind relax to the point where I don't focus on anything. You and I when we come to Church should be focusing; we should be focusing on our Lord Jesus Christ and the Sacred Mysteries we celebrate. Dressing appropriately for Church has an effect on how we approach our faith.

Yes God wants us to come as we are! Absolutely, however we should keep in mind the formality of the occasion. Every time we gather together each Sunday or throughout the week you and I encounter the risen Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist. Dressing appropriately for the occasion helps us to come as we are. Just think about it!

Posted by Father Keith Michael Carroll at Thursday, October 21, 2010

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

11 these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead. We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (*cf. Mt25:31-45*). Moreover, we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer. In each of these "little ones," Christ himself is present. His flesh becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us. Let us not forget the words of Saint John of the Cross: "as we prepare to leave this life, we will be judged on the basis of love". *(more next week)*

Youth Corner

GTK Youth Group

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

A typical session includes: Gospel reflection, music, Mass, games and food!

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

When: 2nd (choir) and 4th Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Contact: gkyouth@gmail.com

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

CRL

(Community of the Risen Lord)

Praise & worship

When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays

Where: Church

Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

YFC

(Youth for Christ)

When: Meets every 3rd Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 1:00pm for Break open the word

6.00pm Youth Mass

Unscramble the words



WNID

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3

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SEKPA

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

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* > *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.

Could anyone who has done a Working With Children Check please call the office to make sure their paper work is complete. Thank you

To advertise in this space, please contact the parish office



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