

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

28th Sunday Ordinary Time  
10 - 11 October 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."*

<http://www.newportnewlifechurch.org/in-family-responsibility.html>



**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 Saturday* 7:30pm

led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

## From the Pastor's desk

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ Jesus

The man seeking eternal life in the Gospel today is essentially a vocation story. It is the only story in Mark in which the individual called responds not by following, but by going away. It's our own vocation story too. Let us respond to the invitation of Jesus & to be happy always.

- As Year 12 students sit their exams, plan their courses and set out on career paths, let us pray that they keep the HSC in perspective as a set of exams marking the end of one stage of education and the beginning of the next, whether that is formal education or life education. We pray that each student will be calm, work hard to do their best and commit each exam to God. Please remember our students in prayer over the next few weeks.
- Don't forget that 24 October (Saturday) is our **Parish Zumba Night** fundraiser hosted by our own Rudi Yap and Fr. Robert! Tickets are available after the weekend Masses at \$15 each for a fun night of sweat and dancing for a very good cause!



Prayed for Parish in Santiago

Regards Fr Robert



Rose Franco practicing her Reading for the Pilgrims' Mass in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

## RECONCILIATION FACILITATORS NEEDED

We are in urgent need of facilitators. We are looking for parishioners who would like to assist in this year's Reconciliation sacramental programme. Facilitators will be given training before the programme commences.

If you think you can help, please contact **Jill** on **9852-0583** or at [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au).

There will also be a special facilitator's training session by Sr. Mary-Louise from the Office for Worship (OFW) for this programme.

Details are as follows:

**Reconciliation facilitator training session**

**Date:** Sat 24 October

**Place:** Institute for Mission

1-5 Marion St, Blacktown 2148

**Time:** 2.30-4.30pm

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## DIVORCED/SEPARATED SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Pastoral Care team is starting a social support group for those who have been through the pain of separation and divorce with friendly get togethers for coffee or meals.

If you are interested, please contact Jill on 98520583 or [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 2015

Children in Year 3 and who are 8 years old are invited to enrol in this year's Reconciliation programme. The Reconciliation calendar and enrolment form is available on the Parish website, [www.john23rd.org.au](http://www.john23rd.org.au), and at the parish. Enrolment forms are due at the ritual masses on the weekend of 10th & 11th OCTOBER 2015. If you have any queries, please e-mail Jill at [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au) or call her on 9852-0583.

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## HSC MASS

Mass on Sunday 11th October, 6.00pm will be offered to pray for all students sitting for their HSC exams. God Bless

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## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The parish is about to embark on a Stewardship Program. The focus of this program, previously known as Planned Giving, will be to renew our appreciation of all that God has given us in our personal lives and in our parish.

During this program people will be invited to consider contributing more of their time and service to the parish and also their money. As Bart notes in his column, we are looking for people to assist on the Stewardship Steering Committee. If you are able to assist for a few hours across the following two months please contact John McCartney (9899 2473).

## First Reading

*Wisdom 7:7-11*

*In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.*

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.

I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing.

I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud.

I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps.

In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 89:12-17*

**R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!**

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **R.**

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. **R.**

Show forth your works to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

## Second Reading

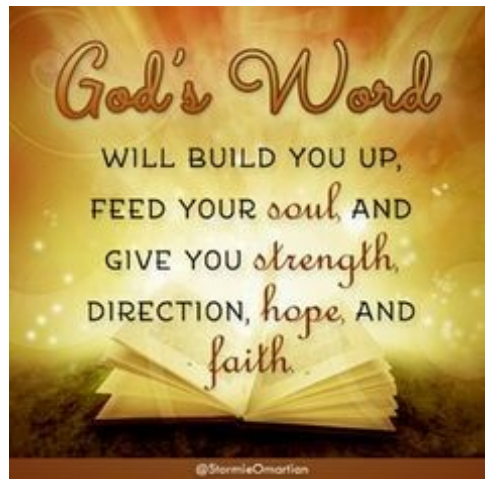
*Hebrews 4:12-13*

*The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 5:3*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

Mark 10:2-12

*Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### A Parish HSC Prayer

Heavenly Father, we bring before you our HSC students. Give them the gifts of wisdom, right judgement, knowledge and courage. Bless them with calm hearts and clarity of mind as they sit for their exams. May they be affirmed in their efforts and may they know that you are there with them. We pray that they will stay calm under pressure and work to the best of their ability. May they feel your loving presence in their lives, now and always, and may they be strengthened by the prayerful support of us, their parish community. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

### A Student's HSC Prayer

Lord, you have loved me into life and I thank you. In this exam period, give me a calm heart and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold me in the palm of your hand. Bless me with keen understanding and a retentive memory. Give me the ability to grasp things correctly, and express myself clearly. Help me to look beyond this time of exams and see clearly whatever you are calling me to be in life. Show me my gifts and talents and help me to have the courage to use them to love others, to give you glory and to leave this world a better place. Amen.

## 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

**12 Mon      28th ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 1:1-7

Psalm Ps 97:1-4

Gospel Luke 11:29-32

**13 Tues      28th ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 1:16-25

Psalm Ps 18:2-5

Gospel Luke 11:37-41

**14 Wed      28th ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 2:1-11

Psalm Ps 61:2-3. 6-7. 9

Gospel Luke 11:42-46

**15 Thurs      St Teresa of Jesus**

1st Reading Romans 3:21-30

Psalm Ps 129:1-6

Gospel Luke 11:47-54

**16 Fri      28th ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 4:1-8

Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11

Gospel Luke 12:1-7

**17 Sat      St Ignatius of Antioch**

1st Reading Romans 4:13. 16-18

Psalm Ps 104:6-9. 42-43

Gospel Luke 12:9-12

## Gospel Reflection

The man seeking eternal life in the Gospel today is essentially a vocation story. It is the only story in Mark in which the individual called responds not by following, but by going away. He went away because, in the Old Testament, wealth and material goods are considered a sign of God's favour (*Job 1:10; Psalm 128:1-2; Isaiah 3:10*). Religious Jews believed that wealth was a sign of God's blessing. Rich people were regarded as blessed by God and poor people were regarded as cursed by God.

The words of Jesus in Mark 10:23-25 provoke astonishment among the disciples because of their apparent contradiction with the Old Testament concept (*Mark 10:24,26*). Since wealth, power, and merit generate false security, Jesus rejects them utterly as a claim to enter the kingdom. The negative outcome of the man's choice to walk away strikes a note of realism.

Jesus uses the rich man's departure as a teaching moment to instruct his disciples about the dangerous snare that earthly possessions, success and prosperity can have. Total detachment from one's possessions is required of every authentic disciple. It becomes a blessing when it is shared with others, and it becomes an obstacle and a prison for those who do not have the wisdom to share it with others.

King Solomon, as seen in the first reading (*Wisdom 7:7-11*), realized that only true wisdom could bring happiness. He prayed for it and it alone, rather than power, riches, health or good looks. God gave him everything.

For us, Wisdom has become a person and his name is Jesus. Wisdom was born in a manger and died on a cross, and in between said that our only shot at ever being filled up is if we follow him in the life of self-emptying love.

Looking at Jesus, we see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say to each of us, "Come, follow me!" He does not say simply, "Do what I say." He says, "Come, follow me!"

In the end, Jesus looks intently and lovingly at each one of us and reminds us that life is to be had in its fullness not by accumulating things, honours, privileges, reputations, and prestige, but by letting go of things.

Initially, his invitation might surprise, upset, shock, and grieve us. With God's grace, may we realize Jesus' word is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart (*Hebrews 4:12-13*). Hopefully, we will not go away sad.

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Catalina (Nancy) Marteja Del Rosario, Tadea Cano, Miguel Chan, Diego Chan, Gloria Cabigting, Amada Abellana, Alona Galang, David Buttigieg, Tess F Rehac, Flora Ferino, Elvira Pascual, Sue Fuller, Aurora Abalos

### Deceased:

Eufracio Villafuerte, Leonardo Salas, Margarita Tabula, Demetrio Espiritu, Arcadia Espiritu

### Anniversary:

Susai Manikam

### For the sick:

Mark de Jesus, Laura Z Faelnar, Elizabeth Newnes, Peter O'Leary, Jackson Tate, Ernesto Coronel, Helen Hill, Maria Bellia

### Thanksgiving:

Ernie & Riza Angeles & Family, Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria, Ramon, Vincenzo Zamora, R J Santos & Family, TSE

## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**1st Collection: \$ 1,741.45**

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

**2nd Collection: \$ 4,664.25**

*Loose* \$ 1570.25

*PG Envelopes* \$ 1,534.00

*PG by EFT* \$ 1,560.00

*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, an **SJ23rd form** (white) is available at the church foyer or contact the parish office.



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

## *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

**6 October** Erasmo Family

**13 October** Sebastian Family

**20 October** Houghton Family

**27 October** *available onwards*



## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*What is life worth if we are only concerned with appearances? Comfort does not come in through the eyes, but through the heart. Our heart follows the great and luminous spirit to the land of true life – and our gaze must be fixed on that land, a land where the light never fades. – St. John XXIII, 17 October 1958*

**Happy Anniversaries!** This Sunday, October 11, we are celebrating the Feast day of our patron, St. John XXIII while also jointly commemorating our 13th Parish Formation anniversary. Join us for solemn mass celebrations at the 10:30 am Mass, followed by a food fiesta and the traditional birthday cake cutting (and eating). Thanks to those who brought donations of food or gave cash donations.

The month of October has many significant events related to our beloved patron. October 11 also marks the 53rd anniversary of the opening date of the Second Vatican Council, while October 28 is the date that St. John XXIII began his papacy.

Please continue to support our young parishioners joining the **2016 World Youth Day in Poland** by buying \$2 tickets to the Diocesan WYD fundraising raffle to be drawn next year!

The SJ23 Prayer Group will be celebrating its monthly Praise & Worship Night on Saturday, the 17th of October, after the Vigil Mass. Theme and guest speaker will be announced later.

Don't forget that 24 October (Saturday) is our **Parish Zumba Night** fundraiser hosted by our own Rudi Yap and Fr. Robert! Tickets are

available after the weekend Masses at \$15 each for a fun night of sweat and dancing for a very good cause!

We are looking for parishioners who wish to join the Parish Stewardship team. If you are willing to give generously of your time to assist in this fundraising initiative for our parish, please contact me or John McCartney before 31 October.

We still need host families for the **Rosary statue** from Oct. 27 onwards and the month of November, so please contact me if you are interested to host our Mother in your home.

Have a blessed week! *Bart*

## 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

✉ [lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

## Diocesan News

### 15 October

#### **Retirement Planning Seminars:**

Australian Catholic Superannuation presents 2 FREE seminars on how to optimise your savings for retirement and potentially save tax with an allocated pension. Two sessions: 4.30pm-6pm and 7pm-8.30pm at Parramatta Leagues Club, 13-15 O'Connell St, Parramatta. Partners and friends welcome. Book now tel 1300 658 776, [www.catholicsuper.com.au/seminars](http://www.catholicsuper.com.au/seminars)

### 16 October

#### **Parramatta Marist High School Old Boys Union dinner:**

Former students and teachers are invited to this annual event, which reunites schoolmates and raises funds for the Brother Coman Memorial Scholarships. The scholarships have raised tens of thousands of dollars to assist with education costs for some students. Starts 6.30pm in the Auditorium at Parramatta Leagues Club, O'Connell St, Parramatta. Cost: \$55 for buffet dinner (drinks not included). Contact: (02) 9635 7066. Book and pay by Friday 9 October at: <http://www.trybooking.com/HGRW>

### 18 October

#### **Diocesan Family Sunday:**

Theme: 'Love is Our Mission'. The afternoon family gathering from 2.30pm – 6pm will include: testimonies from our diocesan delegates to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, update on the Family Synod in Rome and a talk on Blesseds Louis and Zelig

Martin (parents of St Therese of Lisieux) who will be canonised on 18 October. Children's activities. Sausage sizzle at the end of the event. MacKillop Centre, cnr Swanston & Collins Sts, St Marys. Inquiries: (02) 8838 3440, [familife@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:familife@parra.catholic.org.au)

### 24 October

#### **Fr Eric Burton's 90th birthday celebration:**

You are cordially invited to join the parishioners of Christ the King Parish, North Rocks, to celebrate Fr Eric Burton's 90th birthday on Saturday 24 October, commencing with celebration of the Eucharist at 6pm followed by supper in the Mary MacKillop Hall. RSVP 2 October: (02) 9683 1752, [ctk.nrocks@bigpond.com](mailto:ctk.nrocks@bigpond.com)

### COUPLE EVENING

CatholicCare Social Services is holding its final "Couple Evening" for 2015 at 7.30pm on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

Mr Ben Smith, Director of the Family and Life Office will give a presentation on the body of work from St Pope John Paul known as "Theology of the Body". The Theology of the Body is a new teaching about the human body and sexuality, human relationships, marriage and celibacy.

All are welcome to attend this free event at St Paul the Apostle Church Hall, 40 Buckleys Rd Winston Hills.

Please RSVP to CatholicCare on 9933 0222 or email [marriage@ccss.org.au](mailto:marriage@ccss.org.au)

## Diocesan News

### POST SEPARATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

CCSS Solo Parent Services is offering its seven week Post Separation Recovery Program which has proven to be an excellent Program that guides and supports those whose marriage or long-term partnership has ended.

**Commencing:** 21<sup>st</sup> October for 7 Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.45pm.

**Venue:** Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown.

**Cost:** \$80.00

**Registration Essential:** Eileen or Rita on 99330205 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)



**President** Bart Sarlabus

✉ [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com)

#### Council Team Leaders

*Community Bldg* Techie Sarlabus

*Comms & Media* John McCartney

*Faith Formation* Rose Franco

*Fundraising* Rodi Orantia

*Liturgy* Ray Samonte

*Social Justice* Qwayne Guevarra

Mass cards available at the parish office.

## Positions Vacant

The Catholic Diocese of **Broken Bay** is seeking applications for:

***Assistant Director, Evangelisation and Catholic Formation Catholic Schools Office.***

For a confidential discussion and a copy of the Information Pack please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055 or [anthony@reachhr.com.au](mailto:anthony@reachhr.com.au)

**Applications close Friday 30 October.**

### Thanksgiving Mass for Sacrament & RCIA teams: 10 November

The annual Thanksgiving Mass for Sacramental and RCIA teams will be celebrated at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

This is a great opportunity for facilitators and volunteer teams to celebrate and enjoy one another's company through Mass followed by supper.

### 2015 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

#### Executive (*Council leaders*)

**18 Nov**

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

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.

## Why we do what we do.....

### **Confirmation is the Perfection of Baptism:**

Although, in the West, Confirmation is usually received as a teenager, several years after making First Communion, the Catholic Church considers it the second of the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism being the first and Communion the third). Confirmation is regarded as the perfection of Baptism, because, as the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation states:

by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

### **The Form of the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Many people think of the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, as the central act in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The essential element, however, is the anointing of the confirmand (the person being confirmed) with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop), accompanied by the words "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (or, in the Eastern Catholic Churches, "The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit"). This seal is a consecration, representing the safeguarding by the Holy Spirit of the graces conferred on the Christian at Baptism.

### **The Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out, "The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop." Each bishop is a successor to the apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation.

The Acts of the Apostles mentions the apostles imparting the Holy Spirit to believers by the laying on of hands (see, for example, Acts 8:15-17 and 19:6).

The Church has always stressed this connection of confirmation, through the bishop, to the ministry of the apostles, but She has developed two different ways of doing so.

### **Confirmation in the East:**

In the Eastern Catholic (and Eastern Orthodox) Churches, the three sacraments of initiation are administered at the same time to infants. Children are baptized, confirmed (or "chrismated"), and receive Communion (in the form of the Sacred Blood, the consecrated wine), all in the same ceremony, and always in that order.

Since the timely reception of Baptism is very important, and it would be very hard for a bishop to administer every baptism, the bishop's presence, in the Eastern Churches, is signified by the use of chrism consecrated by the bishop. The priest, however, performs the confirmation.

Confirmation in the West:

## Why we do ..(cont'd)

The Church in the West came up with a different solution—the separation in time of the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Sacrament of Baptism. This allowed infants to be baptized soon after birth, while the bishop could confirm many Christians at the same time, even years after baptism. Eventually, the current custom of performing Confirmation several years after First Communion developed, but the Church continues to stress the original order of the sacraments, and Pope Benedict XVI, in his apostolic exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, has suggested that the original order should be restored.

### **Eligibility for Confirmation:**

Even in the West, priests can be authorized by their bishops to perform confirmations, and adult converts are routinely baptized and confirmed by priests. All those who have been baptized are eligible to be confirmed, and, while the Western Church suggests receiving the sacrament after reaching the "age of reason" (around seven years old), it can be received at any time. (A child in danger of death should receive Confirmation.)

A confirmand must be in a state of grace. If the sacrament is not received immediately after Baptism, the confirmand should participate in the Sacrament of Confession before Confirmation.

### **The Effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

The Sacrament of Confirmation confers special graces of the Holy Spirit upon the person being confirmed, just as such graces were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost. Like Baptism, therefore, it can only be performed once, and Confirmation increases and deepens all of the graces granted at Baptism.

### **The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five effects of Confirmation:**

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation [as sons of God] which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

Because Confirmation perfects our baptism, we are obliged to receive it "in due time." Any Catholic who did not receive Confirmation at baptism or as part of his religious education during grade school or high school should contact a priest and arrange to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*<http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/p/Confirmation.htm>*

## Youth Corner

### GTK Youth Group

*(Getting to Know)*

GTK is the St John XXIII Parish youth group where our young people get to know God, the Catholic faith and each other through Gospel reflection, music, active participation at mass, games and food! So, if you are in years 4 - 9, come along to one of our sessions and let us grow together in our faith.

**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)*

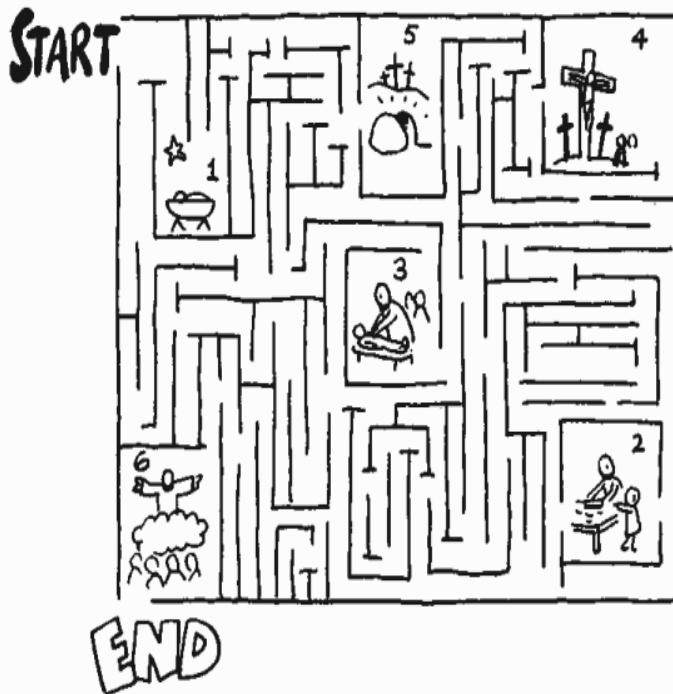
**When:** Meets every 3rd Sunday

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

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

6:00pm Youth Mass

## Can you find your way?



You must travel right through each event in Jesus' life in the right order!

1. Jesus is born at Bethlehem.
2. Joseph teaches Jesus to work as a carpenter.
3. Jesus heals a little girl.
4. Jesus is crucified.
5. Jesus is alive again.
6. Jesus ascends to heaven.

## Follow the Lord

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

## WORD SEARCH

Adam alone animals arms blessed children

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