The Catholic Parish of Stjonn Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

30th Sunday Ordinary Time 24 - 25 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."

Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney Assistant Priest: Fr Robert William

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



FrJohn@john23rd.org.auFrRobert@john23rd.org.au

Devotions & Prayers

Novena Masses

Tuesday7:30pm
Our Lady of Perpetual HelpFirst Friday7:30pm
Sacred Heart of JesusExposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday6:30 - 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 Brothers & Sisters

In today's Gospel, the blind Bartimaeus met Jesus and his prayer was. "Lord that I may see." It is a prayer which we can make our own, to be happy and to see the truth around us.

- We welcome Fr John back from holidays.
- Don't forget the **Parish Zumba Night** this Saturday at 7.30pm at St Marks College Hall. Tickets are \$15.00 each.
- Stewardship Program is on for the next few weeks. Kindly pray for the good outcome. Your avid support will be greatly appreciated.
 Please save the date Wednesday the 11th November at 7.30pm, for every member of our Parish to hear about our New Stewardship Programme. See more details in bulletin.
- We would like to thank everyone that attended the Reconciliation night on Wednesday, we pray for the children and their families.





With Love and Prayers Father Robert



Parish News

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 <u>admin@john23rd.org.au</u>.

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



Mass cards available at the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

St John XXIII Parish will be participating in a Stewardship Program over the coming weeks. It will be a comprehensive parish renewal as we all reflect on our faith and the life of the parish.

We will be encouraged to renew our personal commitment to:

- the way we celebrate the Eucharist together,

- be involved in parish life by participating in a parish group or ministry and

- make a financial pledge of support for our parish.

Take home the postcard and please join with us in praying for the success of the program.

Pray this stewardship prayer with family during this week.

Stewardship Prayer:

Generous and loving God,

You call us to be disciples of your son Jesus and good stewards of all your many gifts.

Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.

Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return ten-fold the gifts entrusted to us.

Bless our Parish with a deepening devotion to prayer, a growing commitment for service and increasing levels of generosity as we work to advance the mission of both our parish and diocese. We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



First Reading Jeremiah 31:7-9

I shall lead them back in mercy - both the blind and the lame.

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout!

'The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel!'

See, I will bring them back from the land of the North and gather them from the far ends of earth; all of them: the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labour: a great company returning here.

They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R**.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R**.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Hebrews 5:1-6

You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation 2 Timothy 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mark*: 10:46-52

Master, grant that I may see.

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

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

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

26 Mon 30th ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 8:12-17 Ps 67:2. 4. 6-7. 20-21 Psalm Luke 13:10-17 Gospel 27 Tues 30th ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 8:18-25 Psalm Ps 125 Gospel Luke 13:18-21 28 Wed Saints Simon & Jude 1st Reading Ephesians 2:19-22 Ps 18:2-5 Psalm Luke 6:12-19 Gospel 29 Thurs 30th ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 8:31-39 Psalm Ps 108:21-22, 26-27, 30 -31 Gospel Luke 13:31-35 30 Fri 30th ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 9:1-5 Psalm Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Gospel Luke 14:1-6 31 Sat 30th ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 11:1-2. 11-12. 25 - 29Psalm Ps 93:12-15, 17-18 Gospel Luke 14:1. 7-11





Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel we hear the blind Bartimaeus tell Jesus, "Lord that I may see." Facing reality is difficult for all human beings. But, he says it with great conviction and a willingness to accept the consequences.

A prayer should be also, "Lord, that I may see." To pray is to be in an open, honest and sincere relationship with ourselves, with one another and with the God; it is a relationship that demands that all areas of our life to be open for scrutiny.

Jesus wants us to say honestly in the silence of our hearts, "Lord, that I may see." Jesus wants the prayer of Bartimaeus to come from a sincere heart that asks not only for the gift of sight so that we can see the world around us, but also for the gift of seeing - of seeing the truth, or the lack of it in the depths of our being, and then of taking the action necessary to reverse our blindness.

This Gospel story also tells us that we need to see the possibility and grasp the opportunity. Jesus is surrounded by blindness – the confusion of the twelve, the cruel reaction of the crowd, who "scolded Bartimaeus and told him to keep quiet", the blindness of those in Jerusalem determined to destroy him.

In contrast to those around Jesus, Bartimaeus has openness. He is the first person in the gospel accounts to address Jesus publicly with the messianic title, "Son of David" – a title Jesus avoided because of the political overtones it had assumed in his time. He throws off his cloak and hurries forward to ask for the miracle that had been promised as a sign of the messiah of Israel's hopes. His readiness is instantly rewarded, and he joins the company of Jesus' disciples.

Bartimaeus may have been blind but he "saw" in Jesus someone who could heal him. He "saw" the possibility and grasped his opportunity. Even though those around him did not see as he did and tried to quieten him, Bartimaeus trusted to his "vision" and continued to call out to the one he "saw" and who he knew could restore his sight.

Let his faith encourage us to believe in Jesus because it results in a happy and fulfilled life.



Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Amada Abellana, Alona Galang, David Buttigieg, Elvira Pascual, Mario John Dias, Tess F Rehac, Clarke Farrell, Salud Villarico, Flora Ferino, Lucinda Policarpio, Sue Fuller, Aurora Abalos, Diego Chan, Varkey & Family, Sebastian (Devassy) & Family, Felipe Tagalog

Deaceased:

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

Anniversary:

Bert Chan Sr, Eugenio Aquino, Peter Fernandes, Nicanor Reynolds, Felina Maglaya, Apolinario Maglaya

For the sick:

Mark de Jesus, Laura Z Faelnar, Elizabeth Newnes, Peter O'Leary, Jackson Tate, Ernesto Coronel, Helen Hill, Maria Bellia, Edwin Rizon, Nigel Reynolds, Guy Austria

Thanksgiving:

Elsa Ramirez, Maria Cobarrubias, Ronaldo Antonio Zamora, R J Santos & Family, Neville Reynolds,

Paying our debt together

Weekly collections 1st Collection: \$ 2,050.95

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

2nd Collection: \$ 5,485.95 Loose \$ 2,239.45 PG Envelopes \$ 1,686.50

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

20 October Houghton Family	27 October	Lim Family
3 November Manalo Family	10 November	available onwards

St John XXIII Catholic Church



Parish Pastoral Council Corner

Faithful Christians, who are members of a living organism, cannot remain closed inside themselves believing that they have exhausted their duty by providing for their own spiritual needs. Each one has their own contribution to the growth and expansion of God's kingdom on earth. – St. John XXIII, 28 November 1959

This weekend, we launch "**Our Parish Stewardship Program 2015**" which is a comprehensive parish renewal wherein we all reflect on our faith and the life of our parish community. Over the next few weeks, we will all be encouraged to renew our personal commitment to:

- the way we celebrate the Eucharist together,
- be involved in parish life by participating in a parish group or ministry and
- make a financial pledge of support for our parish.

We are looking for parishioners who wish to join the Parish Stewardship team that will oversee this crucial formation activity. If you are willing to give generously of your time to assist in this essential initiative for our parish, please contact Fr. John, John McCartney or myself before 31 October. More details are available in this parish bulletin.

Speaking of Fr. John, we welcome him and our parishioners back from their recent pilgrimage tour from Paris to Santiago de Compostela. Can't wait to hear the stories.....

We thank everyone who participated or contributed to making our Parish Zumba Night fundraiser this weekend a sweaty, fun-filled tremendous success. Special thanks to Rudi Yap and his merry band of Zumba instructors who volunteered generously to lead us through the calorie busting dance sessions!

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!

We still need host families for the **Rosary statue** from November onwards, 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⁾ (02) 9629 8742

Molycross@parra.catholic.edu.au
John XXIII and St Mark's College
160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens
Principal: Dr Peter Webster

⁽⁰²⁾ (02) 9852 0500

Stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens(02) 9852 0585

Lestanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au www.celestanhope.catholic.edu.a



Diocesan News

6 November

COUPLE EVENING

CatholicCare Social Services is holding its final "Couple Evening' for 2015 at 7.30pm on Friday, 6th 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*

10 November

Thanksgiving Mass for Sacrament & RCIA teams:

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.



PASTORAL CARE COURSE

The Diocese of Parramatta is offering a 40 hour Pastoral Care Course to its people, endorsed by the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee. This very experiential course, comprising of five evenings (and recommended reading in your own time) will provide life skills that are not only relevant to Chaplaincy but to all human interactions; places are limited.

All enquiries and to ensure your seat, please email: *JBoen@parra.catholic.org.au*

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 14 Ralph St, Westmead

When: Wednesday evenings 7th, 14th, 21st, 27th, Oct; 4th Nov

175th Anniversary of St Matthew's Church: 1 & 18 November

Everyone is welcome to join the community of St Matthew's Parish, Windsor, as they celebrate this historic milestone.

Sunday 1 November.

Parish Picnic Festivities. Mass at 9.30am in the schools grounds followed by morning tea; lunch and activities for all the family, young and old. Chisholm Catholic Primary, 30 Collith Ave, Sth Windsor.

Wednesday 18 November.

Thanksgiving High Tea at 10.30am for 'seasoned citizens' of the parish (aged 60 and over). St Matthew's Church Hall, 12 Tebbutt St, Windsor.



Positions Vacant

The **Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney** is seeking applications for:

Director, Property and Infrastructure. For further information and a copy of the Assignment Specification relating to this role, please contact Andrew Horsley, Horsley and Company, *andrew@horsley.com.au*

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@reachbr.com.au*

Applications close Friday 30 October.

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





Why we do what we do.....

Continuing on with our Sacraments.....

Confession is one of the least understood of the sacraments of the Catholic Church. In reconciling us to God, it is a great source of grace, and Catholics are encouraged to take advantage of it often. But it is also the subject of many common misunderstandings, both among non-Catholics and among Catholics themselves.

Confession Is a Sacrament

The Sacrament of Penance, commonly called Confession, is one of the seven sacraments recognized by the Catholic Church.

Catholics believe that all of the sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ himself. In the case of Confession, that institution occurred on Easter Sunday, when Christ first appeared to the apostles after his Resurrection. Breathing on them, he said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained" (John 20:22-23).

The Marks of the Sacrament

Catholics also believe that the sacraments are an outward sign of an inward grace. In this case, the outward sign is the absolution, or forgiveness of sins, that the priest grants to the penitent (the person confessing his sins); the inward grace is the reconciliation of the penitent to God (which is why the sacrament is also sometimes called the Sacrament of Reconciliation).

The Purpose of Confession

That reconciling of man to God is the purpose of Confession. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God's grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God's forgiveness.

Why Is Confession Necessary?

Non-Catholics, and even many Catholics, often ask whether they can confess their sins directly to God, and whether God can forgive them without going through a priest. On the most basic level, of course, the answer is yes, and Catholics should make frequent acts of contrition, which are prayers in which we tell God that we are sorry for our sins and ask for His forgiveness.

But the question misses the point of the Sacrament of Confession. The sacrament, by its very nature, confers graces that help us to live a Christian life, which is why the Church requires us to receive it at least once per year. (See The Precepts of the Church for more details.) Moreover, it was instituted by Christ as the proper form for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, we should not only be willing to receive the sacrament, but should embrace it as a gift from a loving God.



Why we do .. (cont'd)

Church funnies

What Is Required?

Three things are required of a penitent in order to receive the sacrament worthily:

- 1. He must be contrite—or, in other words, sorry for his sins.
- 2. He must confess those sins fully, in kind and in number.
- 3. He must be willing to do penance and make amends for his sins.

While these are the minimum requirements, here are Seven Steps to Making a Better Confession.

How Often Should You Go to Confession?

While Catholics are only required to go to Confession when they are aware that they have committed a mortal sin, the Church urges the faithful to take advantage of the sacrament often. A good rule of thumb is to go once per month. (The Church strongly recommends that, in preparation for fulfilling our Easter Duty to receive Communion, we go to Confession even if we are aware of venial sin only.)

The Church especially urges the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Confession frequently during Lent, to help them in their spiritual preparation for Easter.

http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/p/ Why_Confession.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: gtkyouth@gmail.com

Info: <u>http://www.gtkyouth.com/</u>

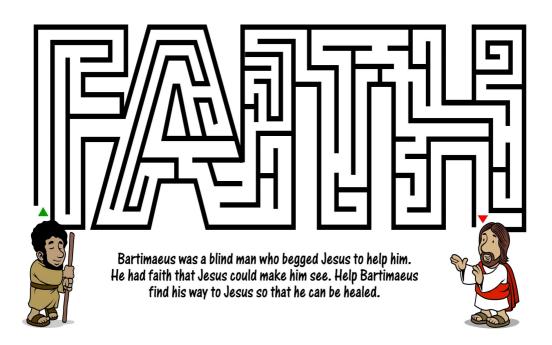
CRL

(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 path



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WORD SEARCH

Afraid Bartimaeus beside coat David eyes Faith Jericho ran see shout stop

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St John XXIII Catholic Church