

**32nd Sunday Ordinary Time**  
**7 — 8 November 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 Saturday* 7:30pm led by CRL

(*Community of the Risen Lord*)

**Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group**

held in Ktichen every Friday evening at 7pm.

## From the Pastor's desk

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Widows in both the First Reading from the Book of Kings and the Gospel of Mark did not hesitate to give all they had as an act of Faith and Surrender to God. They could have kept something back – a piece of food, one of the coins – but they did not. They gave everything they had to God. For both women, Love was the most important virtue: to give everything out of loving trust in the goodness of God, despite the real possibility of no security, no food.

This challenges us all to reflect on how and what we give to the Lord and His Church. Interestingly, this is an appropriate theme for the third week of our Stewardship programme. The actions of the widows in the Scriptures encourage us not to hold back from giving of ourselves and our time and our money. The rewards of giving of ourselves and our gifts will be beyond our wildest imaginings; and such generosity will lead us to a complete freedom that we never knew existed!

- I would really love it if the School Hall was filled to overflowing this Wednesday night (from 7:30-9:00pm) when we have our Parish Gathering for the Stewardship Programme. It is important that every member of this loving parish do whatever we can to support the up building of our Community and its services in this area of the Diocese. **Please make an attempt to be present on Wednesday evening!!**
- The Spring Fair for John XXIII Primary and St. Mark's College will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (as the signs around the area tell us). This is another opportunity to support the important ministry of education in our parish community.
- Again, please take note of the Pilgrimage that Fr. Robert has organized for next year. It looks an exciting journey of Faith.

God's blessings be upon you all in this coming week.

*Fr. John*

## Evangelicum

*Pope Francis' Homily at the Closing Mass of the Synod (continued)*

It is beautiful to see how Christ admires Bartimaeus' faith, how he has confidence in him. He believes in us, more than we believe in ourselves.

There is an interesting detail. Jesus asks his disciples to go and call Bartimaeus. They address the blind man with two expressions, which only Jesus uses in the rest of the Gospel. First they say to him: "Take heart!", which literally means "have faith, strong courage!". Indeed, only an encounter with Jesus gives a person the strength to face the most difficult situations. The second expression is "Rise!", as Jesus said to so many of the sick, whom he took by the hand and healed.

His disciples do nothing other than repeat Jesus' encouraging and liberating words, leading him directly to Jesus, without lecturing him. Jesus' disciples are called to this, even today, especially today: to bring people into contact with the compassionate Mercy that saves. When humanity's cry, like Bartimaeus', becomes stronger still, there is no other response than to make Jesus' words our own and, above all, imitate his heart. Moments of suffering and conflict are for God occasions of mercy. Today is a time of mercy!

There are, however, some temptations for those who follow Jesus. The Gospel shows at least two of them. None of the disciples stopped, as Jesus did. They continued to walk, going on as if nothing were happening. If Bartimaeus was blind, they were deaf: his problem was not their problem. This can be a danger for us: in the face of constant problems, it is better to move on, instead of letting ourselves be bothered. In this way, just like the disciples, we are with Jesus but we do not think like him. We are in his group, but our hearts are not open. We lose wonder, gratitude and enthusiasm, and risk becoming habitually unmoved by grace. We are able to speak about him and work for him, but we live far from his heart, which is reaching out to those who are wounded. This is the temptation: a "spirituality of illusion": we can walk through the deserts of humanity without seeing what is really there; instead, we see what we want to see. We are capable of developing views of the world, but we do not accept what the Lord places before our eyes. A faith that does not know how to root itself in the life of people remains arid and, rather than oases, creates other deserts.

There is a second temptation, that of falling into a "scheduled faith". We are able to walk with the People of God, but we already have our schedule for the journey, where everything is listed: we know where to go and how long it will take; everyone must respect our rhythm and every problem is a bother. We run the risk of becoming the "many" of the Gospel who lose patience and rebuke Bartimaeus. Just a short time before, they scolded the children (cf. 10:13), and now the blind beggar: whoever bothers us or is not of our stature is excluded. Jesus, on the other hand, wants to include, above all those kept on the fringes who are crying out to him. They, like Bartimaeus, have faith, because awareness of the need for salvation is the best way of encountering Jesus.

In the end, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on his path (cf. v. 52). He did not only regain his sight, but he joined the community of those who walk with Jesus. Dear Synod Fathers, we have walked together. Thank you for the path we have shared with our eyes fixed on Jesus and our brothers and sisters, in the search for the paths which the Gospel indicates for our times so that we can proclaim the mystery of family love. Let us follow the path that the Lord desires. Let us ask him to turn to us with his healing and saving gaze, which knows how to radiate light, as it recalls the splendour which illuminates it. Never allowing ourselves to be tarnished by pessimism or sin, let us seek and look upon the glory of God, which shines forth in men and women who are fully alive.

## First Reading

1 Kings 17:10-16

*The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.*

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

THE WORD  
OF GOD

**"So faith comes from  
hearing, and hearing through  
the word of Christ."**

**Romans 10:17**

## Second Reading

*1 John 3:1-3*

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

**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 12:38-44*

*This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

**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

### **9 Mon The dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

1st Reading Ezekiel 47:1-2. 8-9. 12

Psalm Ps 45:2-3. 5-6. 8-9

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 3:9-11. 16  
-17

Gospel John 2:13-22

### **10 Tues Saint Leo the Great (M)**

1st Reading Wisdom 2:23 - 3:9

Psalm Ps 33:2-3. 16-19

Gospel Luke 17:7-10

### **11 Wed Saint Martin of Tours (M)**

1st Reading Wisdom 6:1-11

Psalm Ps 81:3-4. 6-7

Gospel Luke 17:11-19

### **12 Thurs Saint Josaphat (M)**

1st Reading Wisdom 7:22 - 8:1

Psalm Ps 118:89-91. 130. 135.  
175

Gospel Luke 17:20-25

### **13 Fri 32nd week ordinary time**

1st Reading Wisdom 13:1-9

Psalm Ps 18:2-5

Gospel Luke 17:26-37

### **14 Sat 32nd week ordinary time**

1st Reading Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-  
9

Psalm Ps 104:2-3. 36-37. 42-  
43

Gospel Luke 18:1-8



## Gospel Reflection

All three Readings from Sacred Scripture for this Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist speak to us of SURRENDER.

The Widows in both the First Reading from the Book of Kings and the Gospel of Mark did not hesitate to give all they had as an act of Faith and Surrender to God. They could have kept something back – a piece of food, one of the coins – but they did not. They gave everything they had to God. For both women, Love was the most important virtue: to give everything out of loving trust in the goodness of God, despite the real possibility of no security, no food.

And, as we hear so often, this is exactly what Jesus did throughout His Life. He gave up everything (including and especially his human existence) out of love for those around Him. Indeed, this is exactly what the Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us of.

Perhaps one of the greatest tragedies in our Church is that we who call ourselves imitators of Christ (Christians) pick and choose what aspects of Faith we wish to embrace. It is a tragedy that there are parts of ourselves that we do NOT give to Christ. Somehow, there is always something we hold back. We rarely surrender all to Jesus.

We have excuses that seem to justify our choices... I'm sure the widows in the stories today would have had legitimate reasons for not giving all to God as well. But for them – Faith, Trust, Love, Surrender to God... were paramount.

On other occasions we can feel that we have nothing to contribute to the Community; we have so little to offer. Neither Widow had much to offer either. We may feel that we have not much in the way of material gifts or personal gifts to give to Christ and His Community, but if we put as much as we can at His disposal, then He can do things with it and with us that we never dreamed of!

And so, let us never forget that God is a loving God who has our best interest at heart. If we give all to Him, and place our trust in His Love, then He will not fail us. Indeed, the rewards of Surrender will be beyond our wildest imaginings, and such generosity will lead us to a complete freedom that we never knew existed!

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Jerry Camillerri, Mario John Dias,  
Tess F Rehac, Lucinda Policarpio,  
Clarke Farrell, Salud Villarico,  
Sue Fuller, Lucy & Anthony D'Cruz,  
Aurora Abalos, Diego Chan,  
Felipe Tagalog, Jannie Charles,  
Sebastian (Devassy) & Family

### Deceased:

Eufracio Villafuerte, Leonardo Salas,  
Margarita Tabula, Demetrio Espiritu,  
Arcadia Espiritu, Sammy Formosa,  
Maria Victoria Bautista,  
Aurora Abalos

### Anniversary:

Riolene & Aledred Weber,  
Emilia Catabay, Solferino Agra Sr,  
Victonina, Ruby Agra Thomson

### 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, Antoine Said-Pullicino,  
Guy Austria, Mariano Antonio  
Jon Villaraza

### Thanksgiving:

Rebecca Reynolds, R & J Santos

## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**1st Collection: \$ 2,316.60**

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

**2nd Collection: \$ 5,381.85**

*Loose \$ 1,967.85*

*PG Envelopes \$ 1,854.00*

*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

**10 November** Higaonna Family

**17 November** available onwards



## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*Charity is indeed like precious and refined gold. And whoever possesses it, is enriched and made thankful in the measure in which it is given. – St. John XXIII, 6 January 1956*

We recently launched “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 invite all parishioners to learn more about the Stewardship Program and strongly recommend that everyone attend the Parish Meeting next Wednesday, 11 November at St. Mark’s College Staff Room from 7:30 pm to 9 pm. See you there!

We are also 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. More details are available in this parish bulletin.

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 17 onwards, so please contact me if you are interested to host our Mother in your home.

We will be holding the young Altar Servers’ training course during 2 Saturdays in November (21 & 28), and enrolment forms are available in the church foyer for those interested in becoming altar servers for the parish.

The Institute for Mission (IFM) of the Parramatta Diocese is now accepting enrolments for the 2016 Certificate in Pastoral Formation course as well as the 2016 Beginning Theology (BT) program. Those who would like more information on these courses may attend the Nov. 30 IFM Info & Advent Reflection Night at the IFM office at Marion St., Blacktown or go to [ifm.org.au](http://ifm.org.au) for online queries.

Have a blessed week! *Bart*

## Parish News

This weekend we are invited to consider the **SERVICE** we can provide in this parish. What are your gifts that you would like to cultivate and share with others in Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens?

OUR PARISH Stewardship Program 2016 and the renewal of our parish begins **today!**

It is a time for us to look at Christian Stewardship as a way of living. To nurture the many gifts and talents we have been given and return them with thanks to the Lord. Each of us has something to offer. All sections of the parish can help in some way: youth, older, school families, singles, new parishioners and long term members.



*Service*

**What will your contribution be?** Join a Parish group, serve in some way, contribute financially? Participate more fully in the liturgy!

Might it be as:  
Acolyte, senior server, altar server, reader, Communion minister, minister to the sick, catechist (SRE), children's Sunday liturgy, music ministry, youth groups, hospitality, social justice e.g. St Vincent de Paul, welcomer, RCIA program, church cleaning/garden angels, Over 55's group, baptism, communion, confirmation preparation, community outreach e.g. bereavement, single parents.

Or perhaps you have skills and would be able to assist the parish with: Maintenance, plumbing, electrical, building/construction, finance, fundraising, lawn mowing, communication e.g. social media, catering, cleaning, office admin/secretarial, gardening and other.

We would love to hear from you. If you did not complete this on the census card in July sign on the clip boards at mass today or drop into the Parish Office or write us an email. ([secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au))

Did you receive a parish brochure this week? It showcases our parish.....

See you all on Wednesday in the school hall for our parish gathering at 7.30pm!

There will be a very important **PARISH INFORMATION** gathering on Wednesday November 11 at 7.30pm where we will come together as a community to look at a vision for our parish. Please put this date in your diary!

### 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.

## Parish News

### LOST & FOUND

A Honda car key has been handed in. We also have a number of other items of lost property. Please ask at the sacristy after mass this weekend.

### PILGRIMAGE - SPIRITUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY

12 days departing 10th October 2016 returning 21 October 2016 From AU\$3,985 per person twin share.

Includes:

- Personally assisted by Spiritual Chaplain Fr Robert
- Return airfares from Sydney & taxes
- Transfer
- 12 day Tour
- Prepaid Gratuities
- Daily Buffet breakfasts and many meals.

For more information contact Western City Travel on 02 8883 3017 or 0423 128 252



**President** Bart Sarlabus

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

### Council Team Leaders

<i>Community Bldg</i>	Techie Sarlabus
<i>Comms &amp; Media</i>	John McCartney
<i>Faith Formation</i>	Rose Franco
<i>Fundraising</i>	Rodi Orantia
<i>Liturgy</i>	Ray Samonte
<i>Social Justice</i>	Qwayne Guevarra

## Diocesan News

### 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.

### 14 November

### Suicide Bereavement Support Reflection Day:

A day to honour and celebrate those loved ones who have taken their lives. There will be some information sessions, small group sharing, quiet reflection time and celebration of the Eucharist. Facilitators: Fr Stan Lim SJ, Sr Eileen Quade RSM, Philippa Ford, Ann O'Brien. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. From 10am-4pm at St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living, 64 MacKillop Dve, Baulkham Hills. Registrations essential: CatholicCare Parramatta tel (02) 9933 0222, [enquiries@ccss.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ccss.org.au)

**Mass cards available at the parish office.**

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

### **Continuing on with our Sacraments.....**

**The Sacrament of Holy Orders** is the continuation of Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles; thus, the Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the Sacrament of Holy Orders as "the sacrament of apostolic ministry."

"Ordination" comes from the Latin word *ordinatio*, which means to incorporate someone into an order. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a man is incorporated into the priesthood of Christ, at one of three levels: the episcopate, the priesthood, or the diaconate.

#### **The Priesthood of Christ**

The priesthood was established by God among the Israelites during their exodus from Egypt. God chose the tribe of Levi as priests for the nation. Their primary duties were the offering of sacrifice and prayer for the people.

Christ, in offering Himself up for the sins of all mankind, fulfilled the duties of the Old Testament priesthood once and for all. But just as the Eucharist makes that sacrifice present to us today, so the New Testament priesthood is a sharing in the eternal priesthood of Christ. While all believers are, in some sense, priests, some are set aside to serve the Church as Christ Himself did.

#### **The Ordination of Bishops**

There is only one Sacrament of Holy Orders, but there are three levels. The first is that which Christ Himself

bestowed upon His Apostles: the episcopate. A bishop is a man who is ordained to the episcopate by another bishop (in practice, by several bishops). He stands in a direct, unbroken line from the Apostles, a condition known as "apostolic succession."

Ordination as a bishop confers the grace to sanctify others, as well as the authority to teach the faithful and to bind their consciences. Because of the grave nature of this responsibility, all episcopal ordinations must be approved by the Pope.

#### **The Ordination of Priests**

The second level of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is the priesthood. No bishop can minister to all of the faithful in his diocese, so priests act, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as "co-workers of the bishops." They exercise their powers lawfully only in communion with their bishop, and so they promise obedience to their bishop at the time of their ordination.

The chief duties of the priesthood are the preaching of the Gospel and the offering of the Eucharist.

#### **The Ordination of Deacons**

The third level of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is the diaconate. Deacons assist priests and bishops, but beyond the preaching of the Gospel, they are granted no special charism or spiritual gift.

In the Eastern Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, the permanent diaconate has been a constant feature.

In the West, the office of deacon was reserved to men who intended to be ordained to the priesthood. The permanent diaconate was restored in the West by the Second Vatican Council. Married men are allowed to become permanent deacons, though, once a married man has accepted ordination, he cannot remarry if his wife dies.

### **Eligibility for the Sacrament**

The Sacrament of Holy Orders can be validly conferred only on baptized men, following the example set by Christ and His Apostles, who chose only men as their successors and collaborators. A man cannot demand ordination; the Church has the authority to determine eligibility for the sacrament.

While the episcopate is universally reserved to unmarried men, the discipline regarding the priesthood varies in East and West. The Eastern Churches allow married men to be ordained priests, while the Western Church insists on celibacy. Once a man has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, however, he cannot marry, nor can a married priest remarry if his wife dies.

### **The Form of the Sacrament**

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes:

The essential rite of the sacrament of Holy Orders for all three degrees consists in the bishop's imposition of hands on the head of the ordinand and in the bishop's specific consecratory prayer asking God for the outpouring

of the Holy Spirit and his gifts proper to the ministry to which the candidate is being ordained.

Other elements of the sacrament, such as holding it in the cathedral (the bishop's own church); holding it during Mass; and celebrating it on a Sunday are traditional but not essential.

### **The Minister of the Sacrament**

Because of his role as a successor to the Apostles, who were themselves successors to Christ, the bishop is the proper minister of the sacrament. The grace of sanctifying others that he receives at his own ordination allows him to ordain others.

### **The Effects of the Sacrament**

The Sacrament of Holy Orders, like the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of Confirmation, can only be received once for each level of ordination. Once a man has been ordained, he is spiritually changed, which is the origin of the saying, "Once a priest, always a priest." He can be dispensed of his obligations as a priest (or even forbidden to act as a priest); but he remains a priest forever.

Each level of ordination confers special graces, from the ability to preach, granted to deacons; to the ability to act in the person of Christ to offer the Mass, granted to priests; to a special grace of strength, granted to bishops, which allows him to teach and lead his flock, even to the point of dying as Christ did.

*[http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/p/Sac\\_Holy\\_Orders.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/p/Sac_Holy_Orders.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

### Spot the difference

Can you spot the seven differences between these two pictures?



## Show your generosity and faith

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

### WORD SEARCH

Coins gave money more offering pennies

People poor rich sitting temple widow

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