

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
19—20 December 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*)

✉ [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

## 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*)

Friday evenings 7:00pm church kitchen

(*Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group*)

## From the Pastor's desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

As we move closer to our Celebration of Christ's Birth let's try to allow our lives to be guided by the girl from Galilee who responded to God's Word without hesitation; who shared the Good News with others; and who trusted in the goodness of our loving God in all circumstances.

Let us be guided in our Christian Living by Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, who gave birth to the One who is Son of God and Lord of all!!!

- The final opportunity for Reconciliation before Christmas is Monday evening at Richmond at 7:30pm when the priests of the Deanery will celebrate the Second Rite of Reconciliation.
- This will be the last 'normal' Bulletin until the end of January; there will be sheets that offer basic details and the Readings during the Holiday period.
- Please note that all Christmas Masses this year will be in the Church. We hope to overcome recent difficulties and return to Holy Cross for an outdoor Family Mass next year, but this year all Masses will be in the Parish Church.
- Times are in the Bulletin, but I will list them here as well:

### Christmas Mass Times

**Dec 24** 6:00pm Children's Mass  
9:00pm Family Mass

**We expect parking to be at a premium for some Christmas masses. Please consider our neighbours and park appropriately.**

**Dec 25** 12:00am Midnight Mass  
9:00am 10:30am  
No evening mass

**Dec 26** 9:00am  
6:00pm Vigil Mass

**Dec 27** 7:30am 9:00am  
10:30am 6:00pm



May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderfully Blessed Christmas and all the best for 2016. It is a privilege to be a member of such an active and faith-filled community. I look forward to our continued working together in the New Year as we strive to bring about the Kingdom in this place.

God bless you all!

*Fr. John*

## What is a Jubilee *INDULGENCE*? And how can I receive it?

In our faith we believe that the Church is more than a good idea among other good ideas. We might belong to various excellent groups such as clubs or associations but a distinction regarding the Church is that it has divine origins in addition to its human origins and it has Christ as its leader. Likewise, Christ is more than one priority among the other good and excellent priorities of our lives:

“He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” (Col 1:18-20)

Indeed the story of the Church through the ages includes sin and inertia mixed with faithfulness and courage. In light of all the realities of our story as Church, it's a great testimony to God's hope and trust in humanity that Christ's Church is entrusted to our human stewardship and is an assured, key channel for God's grace and favour. One of the expressions of such grace and favour is through the granting of *indulgences*, which Pope Francis encourages us to receive in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. In the Church's tradition an *indulgence* is a gift of God to free us. (In the most formal language, it is the ‘remission of temporal punishment for sin.’) It is given to us for the parts of our lives where sin, even though forgiven, might leave us still needing to make amends after our earthly lives.

The following steps, combined into a sequence of action, are a way to receive the gift of the *indulgence* in the Year of Mercy.

- Visit a place of pilgrimage, entering through its designated Door of Mercy, and with a genuine desire for an on-going conversion of life in faith and love
- Celebrate the healing renewal of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Sincerely receive the gift of Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist
- Pray for the Pope and his intentions, along with praying the Profession of Faith and the Lord's Prayer
- Commit to carrying out a concrete action of mercy. It might be a visit to someone in genuine need, whether sick, living alone or in difficulty, as if visiting Christ. It might be the giving of conscious, priority time to join with others in a work of mercy or making a felt financial priority towards an effort that shows the face of God. Or it might be other great actions that express our potential and faith in new and courageous ways.

## First Reading

*Micah 5:1-4*

*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

## Evangelicum

The tradition is to complete this action of steps either in one day or spread across several days. The tradition also is that people can receive the indulgence more than once during the Holy Year by freshly participating in such steps as a sequence of action. And further, we can even participate in this beautiful and powerful tradition asking that the indulgence be granted for a person who has already died and is in the time of purification and transition to the heart of God. Clearly, these steps are intended not to be like a race to score points! Rather, the receiving of the indulgence holds the potential to renew and free us in God's merciful love and at the same time, to ensure that real and active mercy is multiplied through us, in mercy-filled action for the world.

With friendship in God's mercy as together we each bring to life our diocesan motto of the jubilee: Mercy has a Face.

## Second Reading

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Luke 4:18*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

*Luke 1:39-44*

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE WORD  
OF GOD

*"The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for."*

— Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty*

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died and was buried; he descended  
into hell; on the third day he rose again  
from the dead; he ascended into  
heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty; from  
there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and life  
everlasting. Amen.

## Readings for Next Week

### 21 Mon 4th week of Advent

1st Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18  
Psalm Ps 32:2-3. 11-12. 20-21  
Gospel Luke 1:39-45

### 22 Tues 4th week of Advent

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:24-28  
Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1. 4-8  
Gospel Luke 1:46-56

### 23 Wed 4th week of Advent

1st Reading Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24  
Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14  
Gospel Luke 1:57-66

### 24 Thurs 4th week of Advent

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14.16  
Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29  
Gospel Luke 1:67-79

### 25 Fri The Nativity of the Lord Vigil

1st Reading Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29  
2nd Reading Acts 13:16-17. 22-25  
Gospel Matthew 1:1-25

### 26 Sat Saint Stephen

1st Reading Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Psalm Ps 30:3-4. 6. 8. 16-17  
Gospel Matthew 10:17-22

## Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel from Luke tells us so much about Mary's Faith and Action; but it also invites us to reflect on how well or otherwise we are imitating Mary, the Perfect and Obedient Disciple of the Lord.

Let's look at three aspects of Mary's Faith and Action, and relate them to ourselves:

1. Mary responded to the Angel's Message quickly and without hesitation. She went to visit her Cousin Elizabeth; she wanted to share her 'good news'. Jesus calls us to respond to His love without hesitation, without every excuse we can think of. If we baulk, if we refuse to move forward along our Faith journey, then we fail to imitate Mary and we fail to follow Him who calls us.
2. Mary not only displayed a readiness to receive God's Word and respond to it totally, but Mary is seen actively proclaiming the Good News. All of us are invited to give witness to others what God has done and is doing in our lives.

## Gospel Reflection

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We should never be afraid of sharing with others what's been going on in our lives. Indeed, the action of God in our everyday and ordinary existence can be Good News! We need to share our 'good news' with each other!

3. Mary trusted in the Lord completely! Elizabeth proclaimed her 'blessed' because she believed that "the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled". This is the hardest aspect of Mary's Faith and Action to imitate. We can readily say 'yes' to God, but cynically expect nothing ever to happen. We feel it's all up to us: the sin of Control! Mary's action challenges us to let go and let God; to trust in our loving God who has our best interests at heart!

So, this Christmas let's try to allow our lives to be guided by the girl from Galilee who responded to God's Word without hesitation; who shared the Good News with others; and who trusted in the goodness of our loving God in all circumstances. Let us be guided in our Christian Living by Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, who gave birth to the One who is Son of God and Lord of all!!!

## Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Ariana Anderson, Rosa Musumeci,  
John Spencer, Maria Bella

### Anniversary:

Irene Cherry, Jesusa Lacerona

### For the sick:

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

### Thanksgiving:

R & J Santos, Melva Paguinto

**When putting Mass Intention  
for the recently deceased, could  
you please put date of death for  
the recently deceased person.  
Thank you.**

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

## Paying our debt together

**2nd Collection: \$ 5,539.85**

*Loose* \$ 2,179.85

*PG Envelopes* \$ 1,800.00

*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.



### Our Stewardship Programme - Planned Giving

Thank you to everyone who has  
pledged financially for the first time, or  
renewed/increased their pledge.

For those **new members** to the  
envelope system please collect your  
envelope packs from the church foyer  
marked with your names. Thank you

## ***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**

**December 22/29** Lee Family      **January 5** Padilla Family

**January 13** *available onwards*



## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*All that we have comes from that baby, the baby who is given to each one of us by his Mother, and offered to the entire world. — St. John XXIII, 19 Dec. 1962*

Let us reflect on these Christmas message excerpts from three wise Popes:

### **From Pope St. John XXIII: (December 1959)**

*The Pope's task is to prepare for God a perfect people (Luke 1:17) which is exactly like the task of (John) the Baptist, who is his patron and from whom he takes his name. And it is not possible to imagine a higher and more precious perfection than that of Christian peace, which is the peace of hearts, peace in the social order, in life, in prosperity, in mutual respect and in the brotherhood of all nations.*

*Venerable brethren, dear children, for this peace of Christ, the abundant and enlightening peace of Christmas, it is Our delight once more to express Our wishes and to impart Our blessing.*

### **From Pope St. John Paul II: (December 2004)**

*Everywhere peace is needed!*

*You, Prince of true peace, help us to understand that the only way to build peace is to flee in horror from evil, and to pursue goodness with courage and perseverance.*

*Men and women of good will, of every people on the earth, come with trust to the crib of the Saviour! "He who bestows the Kingdom of heaven does not take away human kingdoms" (cf. Hymn for Vespers of Epiphany). Hasten to meet him; he comes to teach us the way of truth, peace and love.*

*May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Saviour has been born for us.*

### **From Pope Francis: (December 2013)**

*Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit today enlighten our hearts, that we may recognize in the Infant Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, the salvation given by God to each one of us, to each man and woman and to all the peoples of the earth.*

*May the power of Christ, which brings freedom and service, be felt in so many hearts afflicted by war, persecution and slavery.*

*May this divine power, by its meekness, take away the hardness of heart of so many men and women immersed in worldliness and indifference, the globalization of indifference.*

*May his redeeming strength transform arms into ploughshares, destruction into creativity, hatred into love and tenderness. Then we will be able to cry out with joy: "Our eyes have seen your salvation".*

With these thoughts I wish you all a Happy Christmas!

*Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas! Bart*



## Parish News

### 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  
ar.medina@westerncitytravel.com.au  
or FrRobert@john23rd.org.au

### WYD Tickets

Parishioners who have acquired tickets for WYD to please return their ticket stubs and payment as soon as possible.

"Please do not put notices on the **church noticeboards** or place notes or articles around the church without speaking to me (Fr John) first."

### Mass of the Rooster (*Misa de Gallo*)

**When:** Dec. 16 to 24, 2015

**Time:** 6:00a.m.

**Where:** St. John 23<sup>rd</sup> Parish, Perfection Ave., Stanhope Gardens

Please join us for this beautiful Christmas tradition. Bring your family and friends!

Bring a plate to share for breakfast

### SRE TEACHERS NEEDED

If you are available for 1 hour a week, and would love to volunteer your time to teach the Ponds High School. Your time and help will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested to please call the Parish Office.

If any one would like to purchase **Liturgy of the Word**, to please contact Parish Office and we can order them.



### Working with Children Check

For anyone who is volunteering to work in a child related area in our Parish, please ensure that you have done your Working with Children Check. Once you have received your confirmation letter from Services NSW, please submit this to the Parish Office.

This is a government legislation we need to follow and will be submitted as well to the Parramatta Diocese. Thank you.

Mass cards available at the parish office.

## Parish News

With great joy we **welcome our new catechumens** who are now preparing for their initiation into the Christian faith by baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. We also thank their sponsors who have committed to accompany them in their journey of faith.

### Catechumen

Maggie  
Jessica  
Patrick  
Ben  
Nicole  
Hanna

### Sponsor

He Shen  
Rebecca  
Joshua  
Raymond  
Priscilla  
Caroline

Let us continue to pray...

*God of power, look upon these your servants as they deepen their understanding of the Gospel.*

*Grant that they may come to know and love you and always heed your will with receptive minds and generous hearts.*

*Teach them through this time of preparation and enfold them within your Church, so that they may share your holy mysteries both on earth and in heaven.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



### President

Bart Sarlabus

✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

### Council Team Leaders

Community Bldg

Techie Sarlabus

Comms & Media

John McCartney

Faith Formation

Rose Franco

Fundraising

Rodi Orantia

Liturgy

Bob Agbulos

Music

Ray Samonte

Pastoral Care

Jill Franco

Social Justice

Qwayne Guevarra



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

### The Importance of Lighting Candles <http://www.sepulchre-candles.com>

The practice of lighting candles is an important tradition in Catholic churches, communities and families. Its origins may be traced back in the Old Testament times where an oil lamp is lighted to “keep a flame burning perpetually” (*Exodus 27:19-20*), as “perpetual incense before the Lord from generation to generation” (*Exodus 30:7-8*) and as a “lamp stand in the Tent of Meeting...set up before the Lord as He has commanded Moses” (*Exodus 40:24-25*).

The New Testament further highlights the sanctity of this light in Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews. “A first tent was prepared with the lamp stand, the table and the bread of the presence; this is called the Holy Place” (*Hebrews 9:2*). In today’s Catholic tradition, this light has a very special place because it symbolizes Christ who said, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life” (*John 8:12*).

In most every part of Catholic celebrations and rituals, lighting of candles play a very significant role. Candles are lighted during the celebration of the Mass, on liturgical and funeral processions and evening prayer ceremonies. Candles are lit before the Tabernacle to signify the Lord’s presence in the Blessed Sacrament and to call for reverence on the part of the faithful.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, as a person is initiated into the Church, a

candle is lit from the Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ’s Paschal Mystery – His passion, His death and His resurrection. The person receives the Light of Christ that he may live and walk the path of God’s children and keep the flame of faith burning alive in his heart. And as he receives this indelible baptismal mark, he shall meet the Lord and be one with all the saints in Heaven when the right time comes.

Candles are lighted before an image of our Lord and before the saints. Catholics practice this not to honor the image itself but the one it truly represents. The lighted candle symbolizes a prayer offering where we present our petitions to the Lord and ask the saints to pray with us and to pray for us during our most dire need. This light, as it is kept burning, also shows our desire to remain in God’s presence as we go through our daily duties at home and in the workplace.

Candles lighted before Christ’s image also shows our reverence to Him who deserves our adoration and thanksgiving and who alone can forgive our sins and bring us back into a deeper relationship with Him.

Let us then bear in mind that as we celebrate our sacred liturgies, our sacraments and our special prayers, Christ, the Source of all Light, shall come to us to be ever present to strengthen us, instruct us, inspire us and give us hope that His Light will never burn out as long as we live in faith without a shadow of doubt that darkness will ever defeat us.

## Why Do Catholics Light Candles in Church? *By Marie Baptiste*

The Roman Catholic tradition of lighting candles serves as a distinctive religious expression of theological and doctrinal mysteries. Catholic priests use candles during ceremonies. Other uses of candles also play important roles in a variety of Catholic rituals.

### *History of Catholic Candle Lighting*

During Jesus' life, Romans used candles to please the gods and show the divinity of Roman emperors. Jewish texts provided instructions for lighting a lamp at the ark. This practice may have influenced the Catholic practice of placing a lit candle near the Blessed Sacrament to show the presence of God. Catholics continue early Christian uses of candles or oil lamps during rituals, including liturgical processions, the Mass, and in tombs of saints and martyrs.

***Catholic Uses of Candles*** The light of candles represents the light of Christ as described in such biblical passages as the prologue to the Gospel of John and the light of creation. Priests light baptismal candles to symbolize Christ enlightening the newly baptized individual. Lit red votive candles in Catholic chapels symbolize Catholics' prayers for themselves and others. Lighting a votive candle represents the belief that Jesus shines his love on these prayerful intentions. Catholics also light a candle in front of an image of Jesus or a saint to symbolize the light of faith that Jesus hears prayers, or that a saint will bring the intention before the Son of God.



## Our School Communities

### **Holy Cross Primary**

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

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

## 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

## Decode Elizabeth's Message

Use the key below to find out what Elizabeth said to Mary.

A - 20	E - 18	I - 9	M - 14	Q - 26	U - 5	Y - 23
B - 12	F - 25	J - 24	N - 11	R - 2	V - 4	Z - 16
C - 6	G - 1	K - 19	O - 7	S - 15	W - 13	
D - 10	H - 3	L - 22	P - 17	T - 8	X - 21	

20 15 15 7 7 11 20 15 9 3 18 20 2 10

23 7 5 2 1 2 18 18 8 9 11 1 '

14 23 12 20 12 23 12 18 6 20 14 18

3 20 17 17 23 20 11 10 14 7 4 18 10

13 9 8 3 9 11 14 18 '

## The Lord will keep his promise

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

### WORD SEARCH

Baby believed blessed Elizabeth greeting happy

Heard hurried loud Mary moved woman





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