

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

Third Sunday of Advent  
12 - 13 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

Today's texts from the Word invite us to Rejoice! Christian Joy is not a passing enthusiasm which is aroused by the Word and quickly withers when the going gets rough (cf. Mark 4:16). Rather, it is an abiding quality that allows the followers of the Lord to endure with equanimity the ups and downs of life.

It is something deeper than the intense pleasure of the moment; it is something deeper than transitory happiness. It is that quality (a gift or grace from God) which allows the Christian believer to rejoice and be glad even in the midst of trials and tribulations. Hence the saints could speak of the 'joy of the Cross'!

And so, let's ask the Lord to gift us this day and for the coming Christmas Season with that Christian Joy which lasts forever!

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- The traditional '**rooster masses**' commence this **Wednesday at 6am** followed by breakfast. All welcome. These masses are in addition to the regular timetable. Masses at Holy Cross are now suspended until Ash Wednesday (10/2/16).
  - Please note the **Christmas Mass times in the Bulletin**: all masses are at the Church this year.
  - There will also be **a Midnight Mass (at 12:00am) on New Year's Eve; and a Midday Mass on New Year's Day**.
  - There will be **two Deanery Second Rites of Reconciliation** (Community celebrations with individual Confession) before Christmas. They are **Kellyville on Friday 18/12/15 at 7:30pm and at Richmond on Monday 21/12/15 also at 7:30pm**. I invite everyone to attend these, as there will only be our First (individual) Rites on Saturday afternoons (albeit starting earlier at 4:30) for the next two Saturdays. So, if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I encourage you to attend one of the Deanery Second Rites!
  - You may have noticed that the **Wise Men** are over near the Wall of Remembrance. They are not yet at the Manger. They are making a journey and will arrive for the Feast of the Epiphany in January. The Baby is missing, and will be placed in the Crib after the Midnight Mass!!
  - Don't forget the **St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers** – and the delivery day of 14<sup>th</sup> December. See the Bulletin for more details.
  - **World Youth Day** (WYD) are tickets still on sale after Masses. This weekend Krispy Kreme donuts for sale to help raise funds for those going to WYD.

Let us continue to pray for one another – especially in this busy time!

God bless you all.

*Fr. John*

## Where does Jubilee come from? What does it mean?

The ancient prophet Isaiah heard the call to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour; to bring radical mercy into the lives of the broken-hearted, the captive, the imprisoned and the oppressed. (Isaiah 61)

Later, Jesus himself was anointed for and moved by this same mission of mercy! (Luke 4:18-19)

And today, all of us men, women and young people who form the Church, are again being called to make this mission real, as Pope Francis reminds us:

"Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers: Nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love."

(Pope Francis – *Misericordiae Vultus* #10)

The old testament text from Leviticus Chapter 5 can help us to understand the meaning of a *jubilee* for the ancient people of Israel. Every fifty years a trumpet or jobel was sounded, calling them to a holy year. It was to be a time of reconciliation, of renewing good relations with God, with each other and with creation. It was to be done gratuitously .. hence spontaneously, without particular reason or judgement, but because it was good and wholesome. Both then and now, to act that way is to image the nature and abundance of God! Many things could be enabled by this special focus of gratuitousness, including the freeing of slaves, restoring of relations, newness of hope where poverty had struck as well as the forgiveness of debt.

The following words from Pope Francis' message ahead of the Krakow World Youth Day 2016 summarise something of what we are called both to receive and to be in this holy year: "Jesus Christ came to proclaim and bring about the Lord's everlasting time of grace. He brought **good news to the poor, freedom to prisoners, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed** (cf. Lk 4:18-19). In Jesus, and particularly in his Paschal Mystery, the deeper meaning of the jubilee is fully realized. When the Church proclaims a jubilee in the name of Christ, we are all invited to experience a wonderful time of grace. The Church must offer abundant signs of God's presence and closeness, and reawaken in people's hearts the ability to look to the essentials. **In particular, this Holy Year of Mercy is a time for the Church to rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter: to be a sign and an instrument of the Father's mercy.**"

## First Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14-18*

*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD  
OF GOD

**When God speaks, faith has  
to connect to His Word  
because if you allow only  
your feelings to connect no  
root can be formed."**

*Mary Litz*

## Responsorial Psalm

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and  
Holy One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

## Second Reading

*Philippians 4:4-7*

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Luke 4:18*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

*Luke 3:10-18*

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

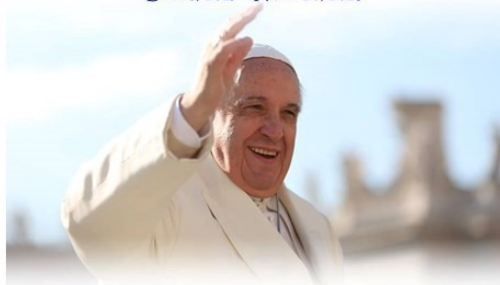
A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



**"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."**

-POPE FRANCIS

That the opening of the Door of Mercy at Parramatta Cathedral this weekend will anticipate wonderful possibilities for the people of our diocese. May we each delight in the special means of receiving God's unconditional love for us over the coming year. And may be enthused to be the face of mercy, agents in God's mission throughout all creation.

**We pray to the Lord.**

## 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

### 14 Mon *Saint John of the Cross*

1st Reading Numbers 24:2-7. 15-17  
Psalm Ps 24:4-9  
Gospel Matthew 21:23-27

### 15 Tues *3rd week of Advent*

1st Reading Zephaniah 3:1-2. 9-13  
Psalm Ps 33:2-3. 6-7. 16. 18-  
19. 23  
Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

### 16 Wed *3rd week of Advent*

1st Reading Isaiah 45:6-8. 18. 21-26  
Psalm Ps 84:9-14  
Gospel Luke 7:19-23

### 17 Thurs *3rd week of Advent*

1st Reading Genesis 49:2. 8-10  
Psalm Ps 71:1-4. 7-8. 17  
Gospel Matthew 1:1-17

### 18 Fri *3rd week of Advent*

1st Reading Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 12-13. 18-19  
Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

### 19 Sat *3rd week of Advent*

1st Reading Judges 13:2-7. 24-25

## 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)



**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

*Pastoral Care* Jill Franco

## Gospel Reflection

Today is Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing as we reach the half-way point in our Advent preparation for Christmas.

The First Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah is all about the joy that will exist in the hearts of God People when the days of Exile and Oppression are over.

The Gospel from Luke has the preaching of John the Baptism about

Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire – burning away all evil so that all that remains is the joy of the Holy Spirit.

And St. Paul tells the Philippians that “the Lord is very near”, and thus there is “no need to worry”. The joy of believing in Christ and living the Gospel is at the heart of the Message.

So, ultimately, today we are invited to “rejoice! Again, I say, Rejoice!”

## 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:

Jannie Charles, Ariana Anderson,  
Rosa Musumeci, John Spencer

### Anniversary:

Polin & Victor Marry Terres,  
Emilia Rogger Testaferrath,  
Fibicio Cruz Lascano

### 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

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

Thank you.

## Paying our debt together

**2nd Collection: \$ 5,452.75**

*Loose* \$ 2,014.10

*PG Envelopes* \$ 1,878.65

*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**

**December 15** Sebastian Family      **December 22/29** Lee Family

**January 5** *available onwards*

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*The coming of Jesus at Christmas established, in flesh and blood, the first contact of divinity with humanity, and effected the first transfusion between the two. Through this, humanity received new life and was lifted up towards its final and eternal glorification. – St. John XXIII, 25 July 1957*

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 8 heralded the start of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis last April 11 – “Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought of how the Church may render more clear her mission to be a witness to mercy; and we have to make this journey. It is a journey which begins with spiritual conversion. Therefore, I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!”.

Jubilee years are important as they allow the faithful to receive special indulgences, the highest form of forgiveness. Indulgences grant a full pardon from the temporal punishment for sins that have already been forgiven in confession. That translates as a shorter penance for the faithful to atone or a shorter time his or her soul will have to spend in purgatory. This Extraordinary Jubilee concludes on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

We ask everyone to participate in the daily Novena Mass of the Rooster from Dec. 16 to 24 at 6 am. We also need host families for the Rosary statue for January and February 2016, so please contact me if you are interested to host our Mother in your home then.

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 go to [ifm.org.au](http://ifm.org.au) for online queries. Also, the IFM Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses commence on 22 February 2016, so you may contact the Parish Office, Bob Agbulos or myself for enrolment forms.

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!

Have a blessed week! 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

### Vinnie's Christmas Hamper Appeal

Every year, during the Christmas Season, the St. Vincent de Paul Society brings some cheer to families in need in our community by providing them with Christmas hampers. Please help fill up these hampers by picking up a star or stars from under the Christmas tree and purchasing the items indicated on it. Bring your donations back before the **14<sup>th</sup> of December.**

Thank you for your kind generosity.

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

"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

### "Suddenly Single Again ? "

Feeling low, lost, overwhelmed by the idea of having to socialise again after Separation, Divorce or Bereavement ?

All your friends are married or no longer include you ?

Just need a chat/Coffee with someone else in the same situation or would love to venture back into socialising again.....but lost your confidence ?

For more information please email **Parish office** on [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au) or call the Parish Office.....we are working on a new group to enrich our growing parish and provide mutual support to Separated, Divorced and Bereaved parishioners.

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	Sponsor
Maggie	He Shen
Jessica	Rebecca
Patrick	Joshua
Ben	Raymond
Nicole	Priscilla
Hanna	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.*



## 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.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to help with the parish's Christmas letter drop off during the 2nd and 3rd weekends of December for the following areas:

- Glenwood
- Stanhope Gardens
- Kellyville Ridge
- The Ponds

If you live in these areas and are interested to help, please contact Jill Franco on 0402 172 346 or email her at [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

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

## WYD Tickets

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

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

### **ABOUT MISA DE GALLO:**

- Spanish for "rooster's mass", also Misa de los Pastores, "shepherd's mass"; Portuguese: Missa do Galo  
- is the Roman Catholic name for the Mass celebrated around midnight of Christmas Eve.

Misa de Gallo in different countries:

**SPAIN** - Spain, locals begin Christmas Eve by lighting small oil lamps in every home, then proceed to church to hear Midnight Mass. The most popular of these holy services is in the Basílica de Montserrat also known as Santa Maria de Montserrat, a Benedictine monastery built on the steep cliffs of the Montserrat mountain range. The Escolania de Montserrat, Europe's oldest boys' choir known for their angelic voices, graces the celebration.

**BOLIVIA** - Bolivians attend Christmas Eve mass, and the celebration is followed by a sit-down meal featuring a traditional bowl of picana del pollo. It is a stew made of chicken with peas, carrots, and potatoes.

**PHILIPPINES** - Simbáng Gabi (Tagalog for "night Mass"), is the Filipino version of the Misa de Aguinaldo and traditionally begins on December 16 and ends on December 24. The celebration is held at around four o'clock in the morning. Pope Sixtus V ordered that Mass be heard before sunrise since it was the harvest season, and the farmers needed to be in the fields right after the celebration. White is the liturgical

colour authorised solely for Masses celebrated within the context of the novena; violet is used for any other Masses said during the day, as these are still considered part of the Advent season. A well-known folk belief among Filipinos is that if a devotee completed all nine days of the Simbáng Gabi, a request made as part of the novena may be granted. Similar to the Spanish tradition of lighting small oil lamps on Christmas Eve, Filipinos adorn their homes with paról, which are colourful star-shaped lantern. This is believed to have originally been used by worshippers to light their way to church in the early morning, as well as to symbolise the Star of Bethlehem. Paróls continue to be popular yuletide decorations in the Philippines, as iconic and emblematic as Christmas trees are in the West. After Mass, Filipinos buy and eat holiday delicacies sold in the churchyard for breakfast. Bibingka, (rice cakes cooked above and below) and puto bumbong (steamed purple rice pastries, seasoned with butter, grated coconut, and brown sugar) are popular, often paired with tsokolate (hot chocolate from local cacao) or salabát (ginger tisane).

**PUERTO RICO** - In Puerto Rico, the Misa de Gallo is only one of a series of masses during dawn called "Misa de Aguinaldo". The name comes from the Spanish word for "Christmas box". The masses are held for nine days and culminate on Christmas Eve. Puerto Ricans celebrate the mass by singing Christmas songs, which

## 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.



## What is a Working With Children Check?

*A Working With Children Check is a requirement for people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It involves a national criminal history check and a review of findings of workplace misconduct.*

*The result of a Working With Children Check is either a clearance to work with children for five years, or a bar against working with children. Cleared applicants are subject to ongoing monitoring and relevant new records may lead to the clearance being revoked.*

*The Working With Children Check is fully portable so it can be used for any paid or unpaid child-related work in NSW for as long as the worker remains cleared.*



## Why we do...cont'd

they also call aguinaldos. The more religious versions of these songs are called villancicos and the ones with a Criollo inspiration are called décimas navideñas.

[holymassimages.blogspot.com.au/2014/12/misa-de-gallo-dec-16-dec-24.html](http://holymassimages.blogspot.com.au/2014/12/misa-de-gallo-dec-16-dec-24.html)

## 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

## Word Find

**Water is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of life and purity. Below there are clues to six hidden words that are all symbols used in Baptism and Mass**



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

## The Lord is at your side

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

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