

Baptism of the Lord
09—10 January 2016

**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
Assistant Priest: Fr Robert William * 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
Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)
✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au
Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thurs)
✉ admin@john23rd.org.au
Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)
✉ 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*)

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them,' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch our the heavens like a tent. **R.**

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **R.**

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. **R.**

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **R.**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

**THE WORD
OF GOD**

*My soul is weary with sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word*

Ps 119:28

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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

11 Mon 1st week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:1-8
Psalm Ps 115:12-19
Gospel Mark 1:14-20

12 Tues 1st week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:9-20
Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1. 4-8 Gospel Mark 1:21-28

13 Wed 1st week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10. 19-20
Psalm Ps 39:2. 5. 7-10
Gospel Mark 1:29-39

14 Thurs 1st week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading 1 Samuel 4:1-11
Psalm Ps 43:10-11. 14-15. 24-25
Gospel Mark 1:40-45

15 Fri 1st week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading 1 Samuel 8:4-7. 10-22
Psalm Ps 88:16-19
Gospel Mark 2:1-12

16 Sat 1st week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading 1 Samuel 9:1-4. 17-19; 10:1
Psalm Ps 20:2-7
Gospel Mark 2:13-17



President Bart Sarlabus
✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

Council Team Leaders

<i>Community Bldg</i>	Techie Sarlabus
<i>Comms & Media</i>	John McCartney
<i>Faith Formation</i>	Rose Franco
<i>Fundraising</i>	Rodi Orantia
<i>Liturgy</i>	Bob Agbulos
<i>Music</i>	Ray Samonte
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Jill Franco
<i>Social Justice</i>	Qwayne Guevarra

Youth Corner

GTK Youth Group

(Getting to Know)

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

When: 2nd (choir) and 4th Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Contact: gtkyouth@gmail.com

Info: <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

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

January 12 Tiong Family

January 19 Olan Family

January 26 Musca Family

February 2 Sebastian Family

February 9 *available onwards*

Why we do what we do.....

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts, though, throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things. Epiphany comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man.

Epiphany celebrates the visit of the three wise men to the Christ Child, signifying the extension of salvation to the Gentiles. When is Epiphany?

How Is the Date of the Feast of the Epiphany Determined?

The date of Epiphany, one of the oldest Christian feasts, is January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Because Epiphany is one of the most important Christian feasts, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. However, in most countries, including the United States, the celebration of Epiphany is transferred to the Sunday that falls between January 2 and January 8 (inclusive).

Type of Feast: Solemnity. (See *Is Epiphany a Holy Day of Obligation?* for more details.)

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (full text here)

Prayers: Collect for the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (from the Mass of St. Pius V): "O God, Who by the guidance of a star didst this day reveal Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we, who know Thee now by faith, may be so led as to behold with our

eyes the beauty of Thy majesty. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen."

Other Names for the Feast: Theophany, Three Kings Day

History

Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning almost universally on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany—the revelation of God to man.

A Fourfold Feast

Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance: the Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi.

Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son; at the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity; at the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him; and at the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth.

The End of Christmastide

Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out, in the West, into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Wise Men.

Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide—the Twelve Days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany.

Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated in the West, and now the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, and the wedding at Cana is commemorated on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord.

Epiphany Customs

In many parts of Europe, the celebration of Epiphany is at least as important as the celebration of Christmas. In Italy and other Mediterranean countries, Christians exchange gifts on Epiphany—the day on which the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Christ Child—while in Northern Europe, it's not unusual to give gifts on both Christmas and Epiphany (often with smaller gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas in between).

<http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Epiphany.htm>

LOL



"I felt like you were preaching about me this morning ... especially your story about the 'ruggedly handsome chick magnet.'"

Our School Communities

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ 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

Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
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