

Epiphany of the Lord
2—3 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*)

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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

Readings for Next Week

3 Mon Monday after Epiphany

1st Reading 1 John 3:22-4:6
 Psalm Ps 2:7-88, 10-11
 Gospel Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

4 Tues Tuesday after Epiphany

1st Reading 1 John 4:7-10
 Psalm Ps 71:1-4,7-8
 Gospel Mark 6:34-44

5 Wed Wednesday after Epiphany

1st Reading 1 John 4:11-18
 Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 10-13
 Gospel Mark 6:45-52

6 Thurs Thursday after Epiphany

1st Reading 1 John 4:19-5:4
 Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 14-15, 17
 Gospel Luke 4:14-22

7 Fri Friday after Epiphany

1st Reading 1 John 5:5-13
 Psalm Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
 Gospel Luke 5:12-16

8 Sat Saturday after Epiphany

1st Reading 1 John 5:14-21
 Psalm Ps 149:1-6
 Gospel John 3:22-30

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 5	Padilla Family	January 12	Tiong Family
January 19	Olan Family	January 26	Musca Family
February 2	Sebastian Family	February 9	<i>available onwards</i>

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.

Parish News

PILGRIMAGE - SPIRITUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY

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 returning 21 October 2016
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 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.

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.



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

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	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.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

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: gkyouth@gmail.com

Info: <http://www.gkyouth.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

To advertise in this space, please contact the parish office



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