

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens [www.john23rd.com](http://www.john23rd.com)

Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time  
06 — 07 February 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](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Robert William ✉ [FrRobert@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrRobert@john23rd.org.au)  
**Deacon:** Nicephorus Tan ✉

## 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!

It is quite amazing that we are already into the second month of the New Year, with Ash Wednesday and Lent a few days away! I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and enjoyed the New Year festivities with family and friends.

Being the last Sunday before the advent of Lent, we launch Project Compassion this weekend, and I encourage as many as possible to get on board this year so that the poor and the needy will receive from our abundance.

Please note that the times for Ash Wednesday masses are: 9am in the Church, with some school students present; 10am at Holy Cross School; and 7:30pm in the Church (with music and incense!). With Fr. Robert on annual leave it is not possible to have another school mass on that day.

There is a lot of information about events and happenings in this week's bulletin, as well as some spiritual reflection and theological information. Our first Catholic Outlook for 2016 is also available: one per family. The Bulletin is also on the parish website each week for those who would prefer an electronic newsletter.

One thing in particular I would like to mention is the establishment this month of an 18-35 Young Adults evening. It is hoped that every third Sunday evening after the 6pm Mass that we will have a guest speaker and time for discussion, prayerful reflection and supper. The name chosen by the Youth Leadership Team is IGNITE! I look forward to the first evening on 21st February when Fr. Paul Roberts, the Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Pastoral Planning, who heads the Diocese's Institute for Mission, will speak and facilitate the discussion. Please note all further details on the Notice Boards and flyers after Mass.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish David Sebastian all the best as he commences his Seminary training for the priesthood this weekend. Let us keep David in our prayers. We keep his family in our prayers as well. And, indeed, we continue to pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life.

And finally, but by no means least, we welcome Deacon Nicephorus Tan to our Parish Team. Deacon Tan is known to many of you as he ministered in the early days of the parish when Mass was celebrated in the Holy Cross School Library. Tan is a Police Chaplain and also Chaplain at Westmead Hospital on most Sundays, so he will only be able to help us liturgically on the fourth Sunday of the month at the 10:30am Mass and celebrate the Baptisms afterwards. And he will assist with the RCIA process and Baptism programmes, as well as celebrate Weddings and Funerals that are Services. I am sure you will make him very welcome at St. John XXIII Parish.

## Evangelicum

Pope Francis noted today that a true Christian must give witness to Christ since giving testimony is one of the peculiarities of Christian behaviour.

“The mystery of God is light,” the Pope said, drawing from today’s Gospel.

“And this is one of the traits of a Christian who has received the light in Baptism and must give it. That is, the Christian is a witness. Testimony. One of the peculiarities of Christian behaviour. A Christian who brings this light, must show it because he is a witness.”

A Christian who does not give witness to Christ isn’t a true Christian, Francis continued.

“When a Christian would prefer not to show the light of God but prefers his own darkness, this enters his heart because he is afraid of the light. And the idols, which are dark, he likes best. So he lacks: he’s missing something and is not a true Christian. Witness: a Christian is a witness. Of Jesus Christ, the Light of God. He has to put that light on the lampstand of his life.”

The Bishop of Rome also considered the phrase from the Gospel, “The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.”

“Another trait of the Christian,” he reflected, “is magnanimity, because he is the child of a magnanimous father, of great heart.”

“The Christian heart is magnanimous. It is open, always. It is not a heart that is closed in on its own selfishness. Or one that’s calculating: ‘up to this point, up to here.’ When you enter this light of Jesus, when you enter into Jesus’ friendship, when you let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit, the heart becomes open, magnanimous... The Christian, then, does not gain, but loses. But he loses to gain something else, and in this — quote — ‘defeat’ of interests, he gains Jesus; he gains by becoming Jesus’ witness.”

## Pastor’s Desk ..con’t

I hope and pray that 2016 will be a year in which we will experience the Mercy of God and make God’s mercy and forgiveness present through our words and actions. Let this Jubilee Year of Mercy soak into our daily prayer so that, both as individuals and as Christian Community, we will be missionaries of Mercy to all with whom we come in contact.

God bless you all, now and always.

Fr. John

## Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

## Communion Antiphon

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

*Here am I! Send me.*

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way,

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 137:1-5, 7-8*

**R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

All earth's kings shall thank you when they hear the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the Lord's ways: 'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **R.**

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.*

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you - believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at

the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:19

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people.

**Alleluia!**

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*

## Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

*They left everything and followed him.*

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Gospel Reflection

*All three Readings from Scripture for this weekend speak to us of God's Call.*

Isaiah maintains that he is a man of 'unclean lips', that is, he has not been someone who spoke with respect and dignity. Yet God refused to listen to the excuse and insisted on Isaiah becoming a Prophet of the Most High. "See, now, (the coal) has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged". Isaiah went on to become one of the greatest of the canonical prophets of the Old Testament.

Peter was similar character to Isaiah in that he insisted the Lord leave him as "I am a sinful man". Again, like the Father, Jesus refused to listen to the excuse and insisted on Peter becoming one of his Apostles. Indeed, Peter went on to become the leader of the Apostles, so that the Pope is termed the Successor of Peter.

And St Paul had to change his direction in life, even when he was sure he was doing God's Will; God intervened and through a dramatic spiritual experience on the Road to Damascus, called him to be Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul's constant striving to be obedient to God's Will in Jesus Christ cost him dearly, but he remained faithful despite all that befell him.

In the week ahead, let's take the time needed to reflect on how we're living God's Call in our lives. Are we indeed listening to the Father? Is Jesus wanting us to change our

## 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

### **08 Mon 5th week in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading 1 Kings 8:1-7. 9-13

Psalm Ps 131:6-10

Gospel Mark 6:53-56

### **09 Tues 5th week in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading 1 Kings 8:22-23. 27-30

Psalm Ps 83:3-5. 10-11

Gospel Mark 7:1-13

### **10 Wed Ash Wednesday**

1st Reading Joel 2:12-18

Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17

2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6. 16-18

### **11 Thurs Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

1st Reading Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm Ps 1:1-4. 6

Gospel Luke 9:22-25

### **12 Fri Friday after Ash Wednesday**

1st Reading Isaiah 58:1-9

Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 18-19

Gospel Matthew 9:14-15

### **13 Sat Saturday after Ash Wednesday**

1st Reading Isaiah 58:9-14

Psalm Ps 85:1-6

Gospel Luke 5:27-32

## Gospel Reflection con't

direction and do something we would  
really prefer not to do? Let us do what  
is needed to remain open to the Holy  
Spirit and strive to respond to the Call  
of the Lord when it comes. God's grace  
is never fruitless; indeed, God will lead  
us into ways that we never expected!

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Marianito Abarra, Owen Jacob,  
Sebastian, Cinderella Manalang,  
Emelyn Gavaness Moyano,  
Sylvia Ring, Imelda Magat.

### Deceased:

Sammy Formosa, Fomosa Family,  
Mifsud Family, Jeffrey Turner

### Anniversary:

Guy Falzon, Emmanuel Francica,  
Emanuel Cremona, Antiona,  
Victoria, Victor, Angelo Cremona,  
Britto D'Costa, Kristan Cala,  
Thomas Ouseph, Estrella Jimenez,  
Lily & Antony Fernandez,  
Frank Barbara, Domina Fernades,  
Horauio Villaluz, Tess Rehac,  
Roberto Matoza, Lawrie Noronha,  
Charles Briffa, Rodolfo Alberto

### Sick:

John Jerome De Guzman, Naneth  
Bernardo, Edwin Rizon,  
Malouvy Que De Dios

### Thanksgiving:

Mr & Mrs C Pereira, R & J Santos  
& Family, Ronald, Kristine, Maria,  
Ramon, Vincenzo Zamora

## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**2nd Collection: \$ 5,726.85**

*Loose* \$ 2,275.45

*PG Envelopes* \$ 1,891.40

*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.**



## Parish News

### CAKE ANGELS

The Cake Angels will be holding their next cake stall on Sunday 21 FEB after the 9am Mass. Their fundraising cause will be confirmed next week.

### Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer who is able to give a parishioner with special needs a ride to and from Mass on the weekends.

If you live in Glenwood and are able to offer a ride to/from Mass, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the parish office or email us at

[admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au).



## Acknowledgments

Thank you to the team who produced our **parish Christmas card** and all the parishioners who helped distribute the cards in their suburb.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time at the gardening **working bee**. A huge clean-up was achieved. Our next working bee is scheduled for **Saturday 12 March**.



## Diocesan News

### Mass for World Day of the Sick on 11 February

Including the Sacramental Rite of Anointing of the Sick and Prayers for Healing. In acknowledgement of carers and those for whom they care.

Mass at 10.30am in St Patrick's Church, 51 Allawah Street, Blacktown. A light lunch will be served afterwards. All welcome.

To assist with catering it would be appreciated if you could send your parish numbers to Michelle Davis today: [Michelle.Davis@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michelle.Davis@health.nsw.gov.au)

### New app for Year of Mercy

A new app has been developed for the Jubilee Year of Mercy to assist with daily reflection and prayer practice aimed at supporting attentiveness to the movement of Mercy and the many ways that we receive and respond to this movement in the everyday circumstances of our lives. The app is an initiative of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta, Australia & PNG and NZ. Download the app from iTunes or get in on Google Play.

### Registrations now open for World Youth Day Pilgrimage

Full travel details, including pricing, of World Youth Day 2016 Diocese of Parramatta pilgrimages to Poland are now available online. Young people aged 16-35 are invited to register via the webpage: <http://parrawyd.org/the-pilgrimage/>

For more information contact:

Mark Tuffy [mtuffy@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mtuffy@parra.catholic.edu.au)

James Camden [JCamden@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:JCamden@parra.catholic.org.au)

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## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

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*Through the institution of Lent, the Church desired to lead her children not to simple, exterior practices, but rather to the serious task of love and generosity for the good of one's brothers and sisters, in the light of the ancient teaching of the prophets. – St. John XXIII, 27 February 1963*

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### **Council Matters**

*Meetings:* First PPC Executive Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th Feb, from 7:30pm at the Parish Office Conference Room.

First PPC General Council meeting to be scheduled in April 2016

### **Community Building Team**

*Parish Events:* On Tuesday, 9th Feb, we celebrate Shrove (or Pancake) Tuesday after the Novena Mass and we invite all parishioners to join us on this occasion.

### **Liturgy Team**

*Parish Events:* Wednesday, the 10th Feb, is Ash Wednesday, and the bulletin contains all the masses for the day to commence the Lenten season.

*Meetings:* Given the early onset of Lent, we will be holding a meeting to plan the Holy Week liturgies on Tuesday, 16th Feb at the Church following the Novena Mass. Invitations will have been sent out to ministry leaders and all those involved in Lenten liturgical preparations.

*Training Courses:* The OFW Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for Readers, EMCs, Senior Servers and Acolytes commence on 22nd Feb 2016. Enrolment forms are located inside the Church foyer and these must be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, 16th Feb.

### **Faith Formation Team**

*Parish Events:* Lenten discussion groups start week commencing 8 February, and if you wish to participate in this wonderful formation program, please contact Rose Franco or the Parish Office to enrol yourself or your group. There are sign up sheets in the foyer.

*Family Lenten/ Easter Program* Are you looking for something you can do at home as a family to prepare for Easter? We have 20 free booklets of a Lenten/Easter Program developed for the Year of Mercy by the Parramatta Family and Life Office entitled "Cleanse our Hearts with your Mercy". This program is designed for families with primary school age children but may also be of interest to families with older children.

Please sign up on a "first come, first served basis" for your booklets at the church foyer after Mass. We will also be entering this program on our Facebook page on a weekly basis should you wish to follow online.

## Pastoral & Sacramental Programs

Enrolment is now open for all children in Year 4 and above who have received Reconciliation. To enrol, please complete an enrolment form available from [www.john23rd.com](http://www.john23rd.com) or the Parish office.

Please bring the completed form to any of the Enrolment Ritual Masses on **Saturday 12 March 6pm/Sunday 13 March, 9am, 10.30am & 6pm.**

Please note this is **NOT** a first come first serve. All received enrolments will be processed at the same time. For all enquiries, please contact Jill on 9852-

0583 or [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

## Fundraising Programs

We will launch this year's Parish Fundraising Grand Raffle Draw on the 1st Sunday of Lent, 14th Feb. The first prize will be a brand new car and this will be drawn on Sunday, 5th June 2016 coinciding with our Church Dedication 9th Anniversary. Please extend your usual support to this major fundraising effort for our parish.

Please continue to support our 2016 World Youth Day pilgrims by buying \$2 tickets to the Diocesan WYD fundraising raffle!

## Diocesan News -

**Executive Assist to the Private Secretary of the Archbishop of Sydney:** For further information and a copy of the job description, please visit [www.catholicjobsonline.com.au](http://www.catholicjobsonline.com.au)

**Applications close on 10 February.**

**Graphic Designer – three-month contract** The Diocese of Parramatta is seeking an experienced graphic designer to assist the in-house designer for a three-month period. For further details visit [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au) and select “About Your Diocese” then “Employment”.

**Apps close Friday 12 February**

## Positions Vacant

**Chief Executive Officer – Jesuit Mission** - The Chief Executive Off is the delegated leader of Jesuit Mission's operations who works actively with the Board, the staff of the Jesuit Mission Office and the various supporters and recipients of the org's work nationally and internationally for the continued growth, development and welfare of the Jesuit Mission enterprise. For further details and to apply online, visit [www.pathwaysic.com.au](http://www.pathwaysic.com.au) (positions). For more info contact Dennis Doherty, Principal Consultant, Pathways Int'l Consulting, tel 1300 722076, [dennis@pathwaysic.com.au](mailto:dennis@pathwaysic.com.au)

**Apps close Monday 15 February**

## 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

**February 9** Athaide Family

**February 16** available onwards

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

### Shrove Tuesday



**Shrove Tuesday** occurs the first Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, usually February 2nd or March 9th. It officially ends the season

of Epiphany and is the vigil for the starting of Lent.

Traditionally viewed as a day of repentance, Shrove Tuesday has become the last day for celebration and feasting before the period of fasting required during the Lenten season. The name "Shrove Tuesday" is derived from the word "shrive", which means to confess and receive absolution. The name denotes a period of cleansing, wherein a person brings their lusts and appetites under subjection through abstention and self-sacrifice.

The concept behind this practice is found in 1 Corinthians 9:27, where the Apostle Paul states: "I buffet my body and make it my slave..." Ironically, Shrove Tuesday has evolved into a day of frivolity and indulgence, during which people participate in as much pleasure and self-gratification as they can before Lent begins.

### The Origins of Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday originated during the Middle Ages. As in contemporary times, food items like meats, fats, eggs, milk, and fish were regarded as restricted during Lent. To keep such food from being wasted, many families would have big feasts on Shrove Tuesday in order to consume those

items that would inevitably become spoiled during the next forty days. The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday began. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras.

Originally beginning on Sunday, Shrove Tuesday was a three-day celebration that culminated in large feasts on Tuesday night. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, the event was restricted to the Tuesday observance. Carnival became associated with Shrove Tuesday, in part from the Spring Equinox celebrations that were practiced by the Romans and the ancient tribes of Europe. The word "carnival" comes from the Latin *carnem levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh". However, in the New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro celebrations, public revelry and carousing have become the tradition for Carnival around the world. It was mostly as a result of the Carnival celebrations that the Church restricted the observance to a single day.

### Shrove Tuesday Traditions

Shrove Tuesday has a variety of customs that have derived from different regions around Europe and the Americas. As previously mentioned, England began the tradition of serving pancakes and for this reason the day is known as "Pancake Day". In addition, there

are the annual Pancake Day Races, where contestants dress in aprons and scarves and race down a course flipping a pancake in a frying pan or skillet.

In Eastern Europe, the Carnival celebrations include boisterous processions where people in large masks parade around and play jokes on bystanders. The masks are often caricatures of individuals from traditional folklore. Men and women will dress as one another and engage in gendered mimicry. The day is filled with eating, drinking, fortune telling, and practical jokes.

Perhaps the most prominent customs are the balls and pageants in New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro. Like Eastern European celebrations, participants wear masks and costumes, many of which are quite flamboyant and elaborate. Rio has a parade of multi-colored feathers, which include hundreds of dancers dressed in costumes decked with feathers, all dancing the samba. In New Orleans, Mardi Gras includes a variety of parades featuring grand floats and giant effigies of eccentric characters. There is much eating, drinking, and dancing, as well as practical jokes and humorous street plays.

For many Protestant believers, Shrove Tuesday holds no particular significance. For Catholics and Anglicans, however, the day is still observed with confession and absolution, in addition to modest feasting and rejoicing.

[http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/origins\\_of\\_shrove\\_tuesday.html](http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/origins_of_shrove_tuesday.html)

## Carnival/Shrove Tuesday in Australia

*Shrove Tuesday is known as Pancake Day in Australia. It is the last day before Lent for many Christians. The day may fall close to or within the dates for an annual Mardi Gras festival in Sydney.*

### What Do People Do?

Many Australians make and share pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Selling pancakes to raise money for charity is a popular activity. Some churches, businesses and charities hold Pancake Day events by making fresh pancakes and selling them. Proceeds from these events go towards various causes, such as support for low-income families who are experiencing tough times. Pancake Day events may also include pancake tossing races.

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras may fall around the time of (but does not necessarily coincide with) Shrove Tuesday. International celebrities and pop groups have flown to Sydney to sing at the event. Sydney's Mardi Gras parade, which features elaborate costumes and dance music, is one of the city's highlights. However, it has attracted political opposition from various conservative Christian groups.

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/shrove-tuesday>



## Youth Corner

### GTK Youth Group

*(Getting to Know)*

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/>

**GTK will resume on the 14th Feb 2016**

### CRL

*(Community of the Risen Lord)*

Praise & worship

**When:** 2nd & 4th Saturdays

**Where:** Church

**Time:** after 6:00pm vigil mass

### YFC

*(Youth for Christ)*

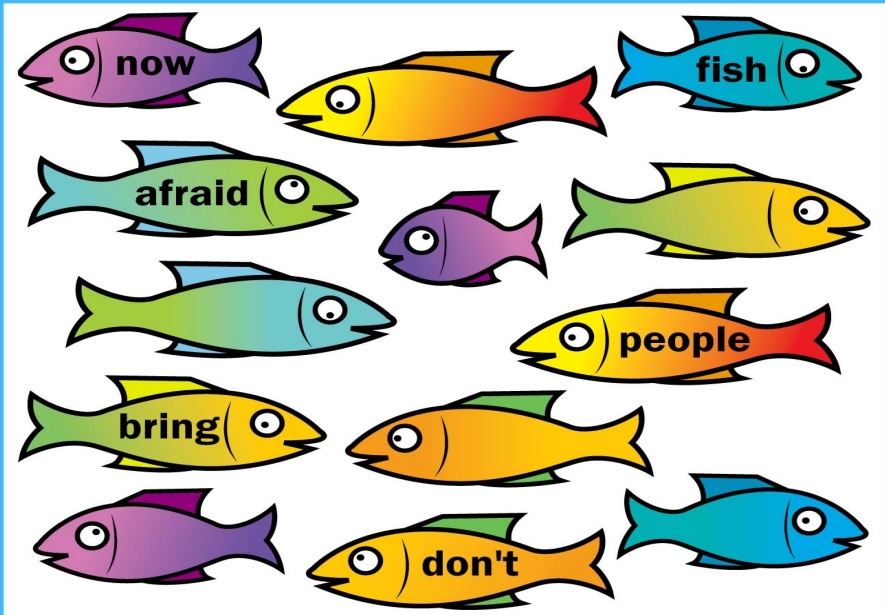
**When:** Meets every 3rd Sunday

**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

**Time:** 1:00pm for Break open the word

6.00pm Youth Mass

**Use the words in the fish to complete the sentence below....**



\_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_! From \_\_\_\_\_ on you  
will \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Word Find

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

*Find these words*

Boats    catch    fishermen    full    master    nets    ripping    shore  
              sink    sinner    speaking    Zebedee





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