

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens www.john23rd.com

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 13 — 14 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
Asst Priest: Fr Robert William
Deacon: Nicephorus Tan

✉ FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
✉ 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*)

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Lent is upon us, and we have commenced our Penitential Season of preparation for Easter with good intentions and high hopes. Let us try to live up to those good intentions and high hopes by putting effort into our Lenten penances and prayerful occasions. With the abundant grace of God, we will be renewed and strengthened during this Lent so that we can celebrate with joy the glory of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. May our dying to self and selfish activities in this Lenten season enable us to be more present to the Lord in prayer and more willing to help our neighbour in whatever ways we can. If you have not picked up your Project Compassion boxes yet, today would be a great time to start your Lenten 'almsgiving' (giving to the poor). May the Holy Spirit pour out abundant joy on all your endeavours during Lent this year; let us strive both individually and as a Parish Community to 'repent and believe the gospel' every day!

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- * We welcome Fr Robert back from Annual Leave and trust that he is refreshed and rested after his time with his family in India.
 - * The launch of the Parish Fundraising has had to be delayed until next weekend due to the tickets not being printed in time for this weekend!
 - * We keep the Catechumens and Candidates in our Parish RCIA programme in our prayers in a particular way over these next few weeks as they prepare for their Baptism and/or Reception into the Church during the Easter Vigil. This Sunday (14 Feb) is the Rite of Election in the Cathedral for the 6 people who are to be baptised.
 - * There is a Liturgy Meeting on Tuesday evening this week (16 Feb) for all those who are usually involved in the Preparation and Celebration of Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. I hope that on this evening we can organise things way in advance so that everyone knows what is needed and what they are doing. Please feel free to come along even if you would simply like to offer your services to the Community for whatever needs there are.
 - * Next weekend the Conventual Franciscan Friars from Kellyville will be preaching at all masses on the Year of Mercy and the Shrine of the Holy Innocents, which is one of the three Pilgrimage destinations in our Diocese for the Jubilee Year. I will be more absent that present next weekend as it is the first Formation weekend for those training to be Permanent Deacons in the Diocese, and, as Priest Responsible for Deacons I have quite a bit to do there. Let us pray for those men and their wives who are embarking on this ministry in the Church of Parramatta.
 - * Next Sunday evening (21st Feb) the Young Adults group, Ignite!, is being launched after the 6pm Mass. All young adults between 18 and 35 (or so!) are invited to enjoy an evening with Fr Paul Roberts and other younger parishioners and friends. Please see the notice in the Bulletin for more details.

I pray that you will all have a blessed and growthful Lent this year. Let us continue to pray for each other.

God bless.

Fr. John

Evangelicum

“If the Jubilee does not come out of your pockets, it’s not a true Jubilee. You understand?” Pope Francis said this during his General Audience in St. Peter’s Square on Ash Wednesday. The Jubilee, the Pontiff highlighted, is — “as salvation throughout history teaches us” — a time for us to open our hearts, really be His children, and help our struggling brothers and sisters. Right away, the Holy Father recalled that today is Ash Wednesday and wished those gathered a good Lenten journey, and noted that today we recall the ancient institution of the jubilee, that appears in Sacred Scripture in the Book of Leviticus. A jubilee, the Jesuit Pontiff explained, was a time of pardon, “kind of a ‘general amnesty,’” which allowed everyone to get back into their original situation. With the idea that land belongs to God and is entrusted to man, Francis said, over history, this concept required and propelled the faithful to combat poverty and inequality. This is why the jubilee often meant debts cancelled, land restituted, and God’s people able to enjoy their freedom again. Today, Francis stressed, we must ask ourselves what we have and what we can give to those who have nothing. “Ten percent, fifty percent,” he said, adding, “Let the Holy Spirit inspire each of you.” “If I’m not mistaken,” the Pope went on to say, “More or less, I’m not certain about the figures, but about 80% of humanity’s wealth is in the hands of less than 20% of the population.”



How many fruits, the Pope exclaimed, are born from donating to those in need. The Pope recalled how the Bible always tells us to help others in need, without making petty calculations or demanding impossible interest from them. The Holy Father condemned how much families suffer due to being exploited by usury, which he called a grave sin, and decried how people become desperate. “And many times, in desperation, many men end in suicide because they do not have hope and no one has their hand outstretched to help them,” Francis said, noting, “The only hand there is, is that which is there to make him pay interest.” Reminding that the Lord promises to bless those who open their hands and are generous, he noted, that God “will give you twice as much back, maybe not in money but in other things.” The Holy Father concluded, stressing that this sharing is mercy, and that if we expect God’s mercy toward us, we better set a good example.

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: "The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90:1-2, 10-15

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

R.

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways.

R.

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon.

R.

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory.

R.

THE WORD
OF GOD

*How can a young person stay on
the path of purity?*

By living according to your word.

Psalm 119:9

Second Reading

Romans 10:8-13

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him, 'throw yourself down from here, for Scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reflection

The First Sunday of Lent call us - through the Liturgy of the Word - to reflect on the reality of sin in our lives; to look at those moments of temptation that exist every day; and, having done both these actions, to recommit ourselves to our Loving Father.

The First Reading recalls the major events that formed the People of Israel: from the time of Abraham and the Patriarchs; through Joseph, with Exile in Egypt and Deliverance from Egypt in the Exodus; to the wanderings in the desert with Moses and the People's subsequent falling into Temptations; to the Entry into the Promised Land of Canaan (Palestine). The Church is thus encouraging us in this text to reflect on the desert experience of the Jews; and she asks us not to repeat their mistake of falling away from God during times of trial and drifting, but to imitate Jesus in the desert who conquered temptation and cast Satan behind his back!

The Second Reading follows the same theme and reminds all Christians that overt Discipleship of Jesus Christ is paramount for our Salvation. As St. Paul says, it is not enough to be a *private* Christian, believing in our hearts. That will make us righteous - but only that! No, we are instructed by the Apostle to be *public* Christians, for it is by 'confessing with your lips that you are saved'!

And the Gospel from Luke lists the three Temptations that Jesus endured before commencing his Public Ministry. Jesus rejects each temptation and reasserts God's primacy over materialism, worldly authority, and over our whole lives. Jesus wins the battle against the devil (the Tempter) and is thus enabled to go forward to fulfil his destiny, the purpose for which the Son of God has been sent: to save the whole world from sin and give New Life to all.

We need to reflect on each of these Texts and recommit ourselves to the Lord our God, entering wholeheartedly into the spirit of this great penitential Season of Lent. Let us open ourselves to God's Spirit of Truth, so that we can work with the Lord's grace in coming to greater knowledge and understanding of His Will for us; and so that we may be able to resist the Temptations that come our way in life in order to be able to stand victorious with Jesus on the Day of Resurrection!

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

15 Mon 1st week of Lent

1st Reading Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Psalm Ps 18:8-10. 15
Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

16 Tues 1st week of Lent

1st Reading Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm Ps 33:4-7. 16-19
Gospel Matthew 6:7-15

17 Wed 1st week of Lent

1st Reading Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 18-19
Gospel Luke 11:29-32

18 Thurs 1st week of Lent

1st Reading Esther 14:1. 3-5. 12-14
Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 7-8
Gospel Matthew 7:7-12

19 Fri 1st week of Lent

1st Reading Ezekiel 18:21-28
Psalm Ps 129
Gospel Matthew 5:20-26

20 Sat 1st week of Lent

1st Reading Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalm Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 7-8
Gospel Matthew 5:43-48

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:

Virgininia Gutierrez, Guy Falzon,
Emmanuel Francica, 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,
Louis Xavier Mendonsa,
Emanuel Cremona,

Sick:

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

Thanksgiving:

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

Paying our debt together

Weekly collections

2nd Collection: \$ 5,873.00

Loose \$ 2,450.00

PG Envelopes \$ 1,863.00

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.



Acknowledgments

Thank you to our tireless weekday
sacristans and support people who
ensure the smooth running of our busy
weekday mass schedule. They not only
look after the daily masses but prepare
for funerals and weddings.

Thank you to the ladies who organized
and assisted during Shrove Tuesday
commemoration.

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

Liturgical Ministry Formation

Courses: bookings close

18 February

Course enrolments are now open for all those interested in becoming Readers of the Word, Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying, Adult Servers and/or Acolytes.

Institute for Mission Hall, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, on Mondays from 7pm-9pm, commencing 22 February.

St Nicholas of Myra Parish Meeting Room 1, 326 High St, Penrith, on Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm, commencing 24 February.

Courses are FREE. Bookings close on 18 February. To obtain the enrolment form send an email to the Office for Worship ofw@ifm.org.au or visit www.parra.catholic.org.au

Holy Hour for Vocations:

18 February

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 7pm-8pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. To find out more about priesthood in the Diocese of Parramatta contact the Director of Priestly Vocations, Fr Warren Edwards, tel 0409 172 700 or send an email to vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

Holy Spirit Mission: 19-21 February

Annual mission of Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Parramatta Diocese. 'The Father of Mercy' presented by Rev Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR, Maria Hyson, Gerry Galam & Dr Nidarshi Fernando. Program: Friday 7pm-9.30pm Stations of Cross followed by Mass at 7.30pm led by CCR Youth Team; Saturday 9am-4pm Holy Spirit Mission; Sunday 11am-5pm Holy Spirit Mission, closing Mass at 5pm. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills. Everyone most welcome. Free entry, donations accepted. Reconciliation (1pm-2pm) and children's ministry on Saturday & Sunday. Lunch available for purchase – coffee and tea provided. Inquiries: CCR tel 0404 093 118, (02) 9896 3711, www.ccrparramatta.org

Position 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 (positions).

For more info contact Dennis Doherty, Principal Consultant, Pathways Int'l Consulting, tel 1300 722076, dennis@pathwaysic.com.au

Appls close Monday 15 February

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

We must all use this time of Lent to put a holy freshness into our hearts, our works, into what we say, and this freshness will lead us to the true joy that Christ brought into the world and which he continually renews in the triumph of his Passover. - St. John XXIII, 23 Feb 1955

COUNCIL MATTERS

- † 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

- † Our next **working bee** is scheduled for **Saturday 12 March**.
- † The **Cake Angels** will be holding their next cake stall on Sunday 21 FEB after the 9am Mass.



LITURGY TEAM

- † 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.
- † The OFW Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for Readers, EMCs, Senior Servers and Acolytes commence on 22nd Feb 2016. Enrolment forms must be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, 16th Feb.
- † Join us for **Stations of the Cross** every Friday night at 7:00pm

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- † 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.

We will also be entering this program on our Facebook page on a weekly basis should you wish to follow online.

PASTORAL & SACRAMENTAL TEAM

- † First **Holy Communion enrolment** is now open for all children in Year 4 and above who have received Reconciliation. Enrolment forms are now available from the Parish Office or the parish website www.john23rd.com.

Please bring the completed form to any of the Enrolment Ritual Masses on Saturday 12 March 6pm/Sunday 13 March, 9am, 10.30am & 6pm. All received enrolments will be processed altogether at the same time. For all enquiries, please contact Jill on 9852-0583 or admin@john23rd.org.au

Parish Council

- † Are you able to give a parishioner, with special needs, a ride during the weekend masses. If you live in Glenwood and are able to assist, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the parish office or email us at admin@john23rd.org.au
- † **CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group** is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women, widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not.
Next gathering: Tuesday 16th February.
Please note change of Venue: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, 1 Canyon Rd, Baulkham Hills.
Time: 7 – 9pm *Cost:* \$5.00.
Registration: Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au Flyer on Parish Notice board.
- † **CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group**, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those struggling through a separation or divorce.
Next Gathering: Notice Board. 23rd February
Venue: CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown.
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm. *Cost:* \$5.00.
Registration: Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au Flyer on Parish

FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

- † We will launch the **Parish Grand Raffle Draw 2016** on the 2nd Sunday of Lent, 21st 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!**

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 - bart.sarlabus@gmail.com. Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

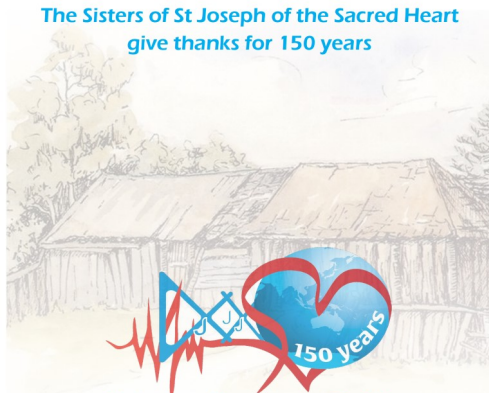
Rosary Statue Family Roster

February 16 Ring Family

February 23 *available onwards*

Diocesan News

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
give thanks for 150 years



Listening to the Heartbeat of the World

Saturday 19th March
Mass at 10.00 am

St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
College Street

ALL INVITED

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

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au



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

ST JOHN 23rd PRESENTS

2016

IGNITE
— Enkindling the fire of faith —

FEATURING

FR PAUL ROBERTS

ON

GOD'S SPIRIT IN A NON-BELIEVER



ST MARK'S STAFF ROOM

Ignite is a contemporary young adult's group which meets once a month to explore our spirituality in these modern times. We will be having monthly guest speakers sharing the Catholic teachings on topics relevant to our society.

www.facebook.com/sj23ignite

Why we do what we do.....

Lent is a Christian tradition that is observed in many denominations. It is the hallowed forty-day period of sacrifice leading up to Jesus' death and Resurrection. During Lent, Catholics and some Protestants prepare for Holy Week by fasting, praying, and reconciling with the Lord. These forty days are a wonderful time to rethink everything and to allow ourselves to take up our crosses as Christ once did.

Why Catholics fast and abstain

Explain that Lent is the 40 days before Easter in which Catholics pray, fast, contemplate, and engage in acts of spiritual self-discipline. Catholics do these things because Easter, which celebrates the Resurrection of Christ, is the greatest holy day of the Christian year (even above Christmas) and Catholics have recognized that it is appropriate to prepare for such a holy day by engaging in such disciplines.

(Archbishop Fulton Sheen noted that the Protestant attitude is summarized by the line, "First comes the feast, then comes the hangover," while the Catholic attitude is "First comes the fast, then comes the feast.")

The reason Lent lasts 40 days is that 40 is the traditional number of judgment and spiritual testing in the Bible (Gn 7:4, Ex 24:18, 34:28, Nm 13:25, 14:33, Jon 3:4). Lent bears particular relationship to the 40 days Christ spent fasting in the desert before entering into his public ministry (Mt 4:1-11). Catholics imitate Christ by spending 40 days in spiritual discipline before the celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Fasting is a biblical discipline that can be defended from both the Old and the New Testament. Christ expected his disciples to fast (Mt 9:14-15) and issued instructions for how they should do so (Mt 6:16-18). Catholics follow this pattern by holding a partial fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence from certain foods is also a biblical discipline. In Daniel 10:2-3 we read, "In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks." Catholics use a practice similar to Daniel's when, as a way of commemorating Christ's Crucifixion on a Friday, they abstain from eating meat on that day of the week during Lent. The only kind of flesh they eat on Friday is fish, which is a symbol of Christ.

Even the Ash Wednesday practice of having one's forehead signed with ashes has a biblical parallel. Putting ashes on one's head was a common biblical expression of mourning (1 Sm 13:19, Est 4:1, Is 61:3; see also Est 4:3, Jer 6:26, Ez 27:30, Dn 9:3, Mt 11:21, Lk 10:13). By having the sign of the cross made with ashes on their foreheads, Catholics mourn Christ's suffering on the cross and their own sins, which made that suffering necessary.

<http://www.catholic.com/quickequestions/why-do-catholics-practice-fasting-and-abstinence-during-lent>

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

Info: <http://www.gtkyouth.com/>

GTK will resume on the 14th Feb 2016

IGNITE

Enkindling the fire of faith

Every 3rd Sunday of the month after the 6:00pm mass. Monthly guest speaker, discussions & shared supper

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

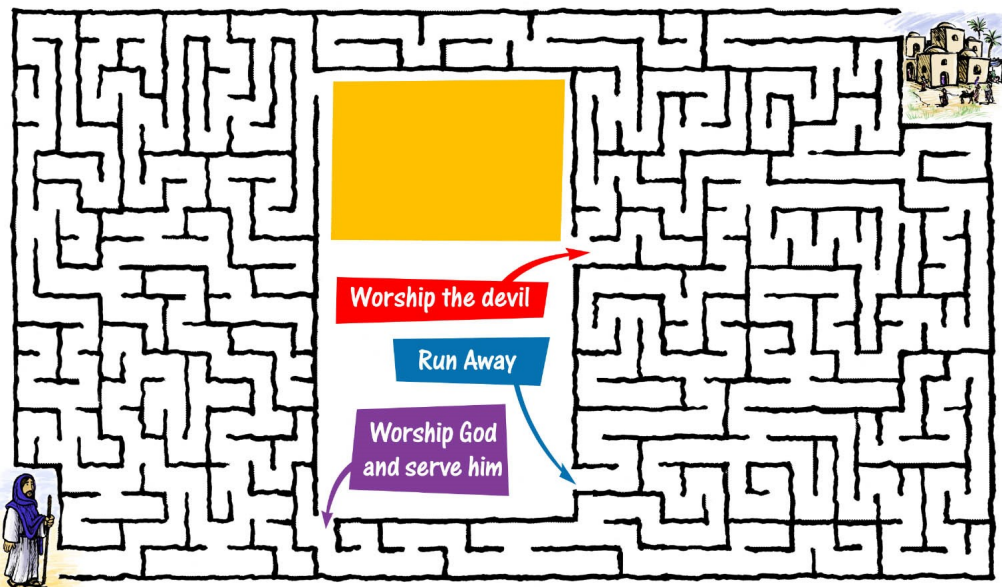
Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 1:00pm for Break open the word

6.00pm Youth Mass

Find the Path

Help Jesus find the right path through the desert and into Galilee. Be wary of temptation along the way!



Word Find

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert

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

Find these words

Angels arms bread desert forty hurt jump serve
 Stones temple tested worship

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