

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 27 — 28 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
Asst Priest: Fr Robert William	✉ FrRobert@john23rd.org.au
Deacon: Nicephorus Tan	✉ DeaconTan@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,

It's never popular to talk of sinfulness, for if we acknowledge that we have sinned, then we are admitting that we need to change. So, it is often easier to say that sin doesn't exist, that we can do whatever we want.

Rather, we need to make this Lenten Season count in 2016. Let's repent and change our ways, that we may move forward to the Promised Land of Heaven, which is eternal life with our loving God forever and ever.

- ♦ **24 Hours with the Lord:** Pope Francis has designated that Friday 4th March to Saturday 5th March this year is to be a time of constant prayer and adoration of the Lord. Although this will be happening in the Cathedral in Parramatta, we have decided that the Parish of St. John XXIII will also have 24 Hours with the Lord. This will start at 5:30pm on Friday and conclude with sung Benediction at 5:30 on Saturday before the Vigil Mass. The Stations of the Cross followed by First Friday Novena Mass will continue as normal, as will the First Saturday Mass (with the Anointing of the Sick). But at all other times, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Prayer and for silent Adoration. There will be prayers and devotions for 30 minutes followed by 30 minutes of silence throughout the 24 Hours. I am asking that AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE be present throughout this period; and to this end, there is a Sign-Up Sheet in the Entrance to the Church. Please be generous with your time. "Can you not watch one hour with me?"
- ♦ The **DWF Collection for February** was held last weekend. If you missed out, envelopes are available at the Entrances to the Church. Remember: any donations are Tax Deductible and support the charitable activities of our Diocese. Please give what you can.
- ♦ Congratulations to those who helped organise and facilitate the marvellous launch of **IGNITE: Fanning the Flames of Faith** - our new Young Adults group. The first evening with Fr. Paul Roberts was really well attended, and everyone enjoyed the talk, discussion, and general social and prayer support. The next evening will be after the Third Sunday of April, when Sr. Rosie Drum will lead the discussion.
- ♦ The **World Youth Day raffle** is coming to an end. The Tickets must be returned soon. If you haven't yet bought tickets and you would like to, then please do so this weekend.
- ♦ The parish will now launch its own **Annual Fundraising Raffle**, the first prize of which is a car. More on this during the Launch of the Fundraising process this weekend.

My thanks to all who do so much in our Community in so many different and diverse ways. There is no way I could fulfil my vocation as pastor to you all without all of you who give of your time and energy to the building up of the Kingdom in this place. God bless you all.

Fr. John

Evangelicum

(Continued On the vigil of Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis)

Another important aspect is to be able to see the desire for forgiveness present in the penitent's heart. It is a desire that is the fruit of grace and of its action in the life of persons, which enables one to feel the nostalgia of God, of His love and of His house. The heart turns to God, acknowledging the evil done but with the hope of obtaining forgiveness. And this desire is reinforced when one decides in one's heart to change one's life and to sin no more. It is the moment in which one entrusts oneself to God's mercy, and has full confidence of being understood, forgiven and supported by Him. Let us give great space to this desire of God and of His forgiveness; let us have it emerge as a true expression of the grace of the Spirit who spurs to the conversion of heart. And here I recommend that you understand not only the language of the word, but also that of gestures. If someone comes to you and feels something must be removed from him, but perhaps he is unable to say it, but you understand ... it's all right, he says it this way, with the gesture of coming. First condition. Second, he is repentant. If someone comes to you it is because he doesn't want to fall into these situations, but he doesn't dare say it, he is afraid to say it and then not be able to do it. But if he cannot do it, *ad impossibila nemo tenetur*. And the Lord understands these things, the language of gestures. Have open arms, to understand what is inside that heart that cannot be said or said this way ... somewhat because of shame ... you understand me. You must receive everyone with the language with which they can speak.

Finally, I would like to mention a component of which there is not much talk, but which in fact is determinant: shame. It is not easy to put oneself before another man, although knowing that he represents God, and to confess one's sin. One feels shame, be it for what one has done, be it for having to confess it to another. Shame is an intimate sentiment that cuts into one's personal life and it requires on the part of the confessor an attitude of respect and encouragement. Often shame makes one mute and ... The gesture, the language of the gesture. From the first pages, the Bible speaks of shame. After the sin of Adam and Eve, the sacred author notes immediately: "Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons" (*Genesis 3:7*). The first reaction of this shame is to hide themselves from God (Cf. *Genesis 3:8-10*)

There is also another passage of Genesis that strikes me and it is the story of Noah. We all know it, but we rarely remember the episode in which he was drunk. In the Bible, Noah is considered a just man yet, he is not without sin: his being drunk makes one understand how weak he was, to the point of failing in his dignity, a fact that Scripture expresses with the image of nakedness. *(To be continued)*

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in our house, for ever singing your praise.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of

that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD
OF GOD

"Whenever anyone seeks him, he is freely admitted to the presence of Saviour.

Whenever anyone seeks him, he is freely admitted to the presence of Saviour.

St. Athanasius, 4th century

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R.**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. **R.**

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

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reflection

Moses didn't want to leave his role as shepherd of his father-in-law's flock and return to Egypt to lead the People of Israel out of slavery. That was going to be too difficult. Change threatened him.

And despite other attempts of trying to get out of what God asked of him, eventually Moses goes and does the Will of God: Israel is then freed from Egyptian oppression.

St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians speaks of the sequel to the People's Exodus, and comments that they longed for their former more stable life in Egypt - even oppressed as it had been. Here they were wandering in desert regions and they whined: 'we want what we had'! Paul comments to his Christian readers that God frowns on such backsliding. There are no simplistic options in life; sometimes the road to life (the 'Promised Land' of Heaven) is difficult and fraught with hardship.

And Jesus comments on two local news items of his own time: the revolt in Galilee where the rebels were crushed by Pilate; and the fall of a tower near Siloam in the Holy City, which killed 18 people. Jesus then points out that they were not worse sinners than others: these things happen in our world. But, he uses these happenings to say that whoever fails to heed God's Call to Conversion and Renewal can expect worse things to happen to them!

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

29 Mon 3rd week of Lent

1st Reading 2 Kings 5:1-15
Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4
Gospel Luke 4:24-30

MARCH

01 Tues 3rd week of Lent

1st Reading Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Psalm Ps 24:4-9
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

02 Wed 3rd week of Lent

1st Reading Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Psalm Ps 147:12-13. 15-16. 19-20
Gospel Matthew 5:17-19

03 Thurs 3rd week of Lent

1st Reading Jeremiah 7:23-28
Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9
Gospel Luke 11:14-23

04 Fri 3rd week of Lent

1st Reading Hosea 14:2-10
Psalm Ps 80:6. 8-11. 14. 17
Gospel Mark 12:28-34

05 Sat 3rd week of Lent

1st Reading Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 18-21
Gospel Luke 18:9-14

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Sergio Escudero, Debbie Mifsud,
Dionisio Camua, Juanita Villar,
Jayfrene Ramirez Yanson,
Fe Martinez

Deceased:

Jerry Camilleri, Jeff Turner

Anniversary:

Michael Pike, David Kisnorbo,
Max Cerdor, Charles Briffa,
Frraternidad Ramirez

Sick:

Estela Pangilinan, Mark de Jesus,
Laura Z Faelnar, Peter O'Leary,
Elizabeth Newnes, Jackson Tate,
Ernesto Coronel, Rosalia Clores,
Mariano Antonio Jon Villaraza,
Edwin Rizon, Nigel Reynolds,
Helen Hill, Guy Austria, Maria Bellia

Thanksgiving:

Abigail Pragasam, Edna P. Valerio,
Fe P. Guerrero

Paying our debt together

Weekly collections

2nd Collection: \$ 4992.60

Loose \$ 1907.95

PG Envelopes \$ 1524.70

PG by EFT \$ 1560.00

*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.



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

March 1 Gamboa Family
March 15 Sobrevinas Family
March 29 Torroba Family
April 12 Olan Family

March 8 Agbulos Family
March 22 Houghton Family
April 5 *available*
April 19 *available onwards*

Calling for nominations for diocesan awards

Nominations are now open for three diocesan awards:

1. The Diocesan Medal of Honour

The Diocesan Medal of Honour seeks to encourage and recognise outstanding contribution and service by members of the Parramatta diocesan community in work on behalf of the Church and society. The Diocesan Medal of Honour is awarded for outstanding services to parish, Diocese and community.

2. The Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth

The Diocesan Citation of Merit for Youth seeks to encourage and recognise youth between the ages of 18 and 25 who have shown outstanding contribution and service to the parish, Diocese and community.

3. The Diocesan Certificate of Recognition

The Diocesan Certificate of Recognition seeks to encourage and recognise outstanding contribution by non-Catholic members of the Diocese of Parramatta community, for work supporting the parish, Diocese and community.

The overview for how to make a nomination and notations are available from Rev Fr Arthur Bridge AM, Chairman of the Diocesan Honours Committee, tel (02) 9631 3316, arthurbridge@arsmusica.org.au

Positions vacant

Youth Ministry Leader: Hawkesbury Youth Parish Action Group is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic part-time Youth Ministry Leader who will be responsible for leading the faith formation program for youth in the Hawkesbury area. Demonstrated experience in Youth Ministry or currently studying/completed study in relevant field would be of advantage. Further details and application package send an email to: irenegalea@bigpond.com
Applications close Friday 11 March.

For more events please go to:

<http://catholicoutlook.org/event/>

**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

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

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

Before all things, purity of heart; and in the keeping of an unceasing vigilance and constant attention this purity gives order and transparency to our whole life, and to our every word and every act. – 22 November 1959

— COUNCIL MATTERS —

- † Next PPC Executive Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 April 2016, from 7:30 pm at the Parish Office Conference Room.

— COMMUNITY BUILDING —

- † The next **Gardening Working Bee** will be held on Saturday morning, March 12. Volunteers needed from 10.00am (after 9.00am mass) to 12.00. Refreshments will be provided.. Please bring your gardening tools, gloves, hat, sunscreen.
- † The **Church Basement Cleanup** is being planned for Saturday morning, April 9. Volunteers needed.
- † The **Church Kitchen Cleanup** is also planned for Saturday morning, April 9. Volunteers needed.



— LITURGY TEAM —

- † Our parish will host the **Deanery's 2nd Rite of Reconciliation** on Tuesday, 22 March from 7:30 pm. There will be no Novena Mass on this night.
- † If you are interested in participating actively in the **Good Friday Stations of the Cross** to be held at Holy Cross School, Glenwood, please contact Bob or Grace Agbulos directly or through the Parish Office.
- † Rehearsals for the Holy Week liturgical celebrations for Acolytes, Altar Servers, Readers and EMCs are tentatively scheduled for Saturdays, 19 March, and 26 March, with Wednesday, 23 March as another possibility. Please check with Bob Agbulos for final schedules and times.

Music Ministry

- † All Choir groups are invited to attend the Music & Liturgy workshop called **"Celebrating the Easter Triduum"** hosted by the Diocesan Office for Worship on Tuesday, 1 March, from 7–9 pm at Marion St., Blacktown. RSVP to Adelle before 24 Feb. to ofw@ifm.org.au or at 02 9831 4911.
- † **Choir Rehearsals** for the Holy Week liturgical celebrations are tentatively scheduled for Wednesdays, 16 March and 23 March, with Saturday, 26 March as a third possibility. Please check with Meg Lijauco and Ray Samonte for final schedules and times.

Parish Council

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- † On Friday 4th March to Saturday 5th March, our parish together with the Diocese of Parramatta, will respond to the Pope's call to have **"24 Hours with the Lord"** during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Everyone is invited to participate in the series of prayers and liturgies that will be held in the Cathedral and at St John XXIII Church for those twenty-four hours. The official Prayer of the Church will be prayed at the appropriate hours, Masses will be celebrated, there will be Adoration and Benediction and, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Program to be finalized and announced accordingly.
- † It's not too late to join a Lenten Discussion Group.
 - Friday 10.00am - in the parish kitchen after 9.00am mass and benediction
 - Friday 7.30pm - in the parish kitchen
 - Saturday 7.30pm - Rouse Hill (contact Rose Franco 0401 387 427)
- † The monthly **Praise & Worship Night** hosted by the SJ23 Prayer Group will be held on 19 March after the Vigil Mass. Guest speaker and theme will be announced during the weekend masses.
- † Thanks to those who responded to our call for host families for the Rosary statue for February and March 2016. We are now looking for hosts for our Blessed Mother for April and May.

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

FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

- † Please continue to support our 2016 World Youth Day pilgrims by buying \$2 tickets to the Diocesan **WYD fundraising raffle! Tickets sold or unsold will need to be returned by Friday 5th March**
- † We have officially launched this year's Parish Fundraising Grand Raffle Draw! The first prize will be a brand new Mitsubishi Mirage ES to be drawn on Sunday, 5 June 2016 coinciding with our Church Dedication 9th Anniversary. Please extend your usual support to this major fundraising effort for our parish.

Gospel Reflection

6

There are times when, like Moses, the Lord intrudes on our lives and asks us to walk another direction. Are we willing to change? Are we willing to leave the comfort of the known for the challenge of the unknown?

There are times when, like the People of Israel in the desert, we are more willing to backslide and deny our Christian faith and its practice to avoid ridicule or a change to our preferred lifestyles. What do we do when God invites us to look forward, not back; to move from past pleasure and joys to the difficult future that is uncertain?

There are times when, like the Fig Tree in the Parable of Jesus, we refuse to bear fruit, despite all the tender care God has lavished on us. It's then we must repent of our faults and failings, our wrong choices and wilful disobedience of God's Law of Love.

It's never popular to talk of sinfulness, for if we acknowledge that we have sinned, then we are admitting that we need to change. So, it is often easier to say that sin doesn't exist, that we can do whatever we want.

Rather, we need to make this Lenten Season count in 2016. Let's repent and change our ways, that we may move forward to the Promised Land of Heaven, which is eternal life with our loving God forever and ever.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to those acolytes who lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday nights and help us prepare spiritually for this Lenten season.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HUGO BOSI who has completed the requirements for his Duke of Edinburgh Award at school. For the Social segment of the Award Hugo volunteered and worked for 22 hours in the church gardens.

THE CAKE ANGELS THANK YOU! to all parishioners who supported our stall last Sunday and to the Angels who contributed their food and time. Our combined efforts have earned us a total of \$1,010 in sales.

100% of the proceeds will go towards repaying the church debt. Our next cake stall will be sometime in April. We look forward to your continued support.



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

Why we do what we do.....

Stations of the Cross

While this devotion certainly has a place in Lent, the overemphasis given to it in the past tended to distort the meaning of the season. Because the stations were prayed publicly throughout the whole season, the impression was given that Lent was primarily about commemorating the passion and death of Christ.

Vatican II strongly endorsed the use of devotions as part of Catholic spirituality, but it also called for their renewal, to harmonize them with the sacred liturgy (see Liturgy #13).

The liturgy of Lent focuses on the passion and death of the Lord only near the end of the season, especially with the proclamation of the Passion on Palm (Passion) Sunday and again on Good Friday. The weekday readings between the Fifth Sunday of Lent and Palm Sunday also point toward the coming Passion, so that might also be an appropriate time to pray the Stations. The earlier weeks of Lent, however, focus much more on Baptism and covenant than on the Passion.

When we do pray the Stations of the Cross, we can also connect them with the baptismal character of Lent if we place the stations themselves in the context of the whole paschal mystery.

In Baptism we are plunged into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, and our baptismal commitment includes a willingness to give our life for others as Jesus did. Recalling his passion and death can remind us that we, too, may be called to suffer in order to be faithful to the call of God.

One limitation with the traditional form of the Stations is the absence of the second half of the paschal mystery. The liturgy never focuses on the death of Christ without recalling his resurrection. Some forms of the Stations of the Cross include a 15th station to recall the resurrection as an integral part of the paschal mystery.

Some contemporary forms of the Stations also make clear the link between the sufferings of Christ in the first century and the sufferings of Christ's body in the world today. Such an approach can help us to recognize and admit the ways that we have failed to live up to our baptismal mission to spread the gospel and manifest the love of Christ to those in need.

<http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/faq.php#n1>

Join us every Friday for the Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm St John 23rd Parish Church

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/>

IGNITE

Enkindling the fire of faith

Young adults from 18 - 35 years of age meets 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)

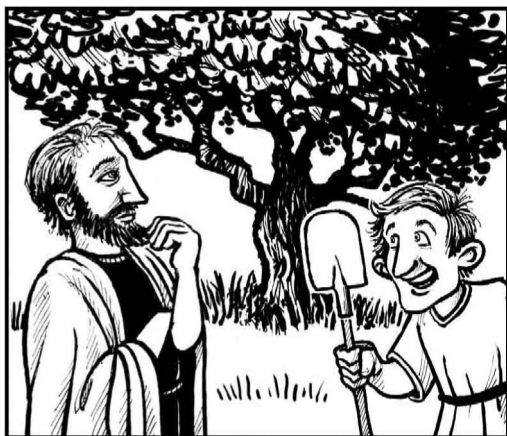
When: Meets every 3rd Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 1:00pm for Break open the word

6.00pm Youth Mass

Spot the Difference



5 differences to find



Word Find

God will help us bear fruit

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

Find these words

Cut dig down figs found gardener growing leave
Manure master vineyard year



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