

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

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

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**26 — 27 March 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."*



<b>Parish Priest:</b>	<b>Fr John McSweeney</b>	✉	<b>FrJohn@john23rd.org.au</b>
<b>Asst Priest:</b>	<b>Fr Robert William</b>	✉	<b>FrRobert@john23rd.org.au</b>
<b>Deacon:</b>	<b>Nicephorus Tan</b>	✉	<b>DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au</b>

## **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

Happy Easter! Together with Fr. Robert, Deacon Tan and the whole Parish Team, may I wish each and every one of you a Happy and Blessed Easter, as we all celebrate the great gift of New Life in Jesus Christ which is ours through His Death and Resurrection! May Easter 2016 be a time of blessings for you and, indeed for all in our world, especially for those who have little to celebrate in these days due to war, conflict, or famine. As we enjoy our Easter Eggs (and so we should after 40 days of Lent!), let us spare a thought and a prayer for all those who still suffer the pain of the Cross.

Could I also take this opportunity, once again on behalf of the Parish Team, to thank all those generous parishioners who have given so much time and effort in the preparations and celebration of our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Unless you are 'behind the scenes' you don't realise how much work is done. So, a great big Thank You to all of you - you know who you are!

And to all those who come to Mass at this time of year, may I congratulate you on maintaining your Faith in Jesus Christ. It is never easy to live a Christian lifestyle, because God in Christ asks us to be counter-cultural; that is, to resist the *mores* (ethics) of the contemporary world. From the earliest days of Christianity followers of Jesus have been invited to embrace the Cross - and we have, so that we and others can experience also the joys of the Resurrection - and the New Life it brings. Part of the Cross in this contemporary age is to remain steadfast in our Faith and its ethical practice, even when the media and so many of our friends and relatives condemn Christ and/or His Church in so many ways. Despite the foibles and sins of members of the Church, we who have been gifted with Faith look beyond the very human side of the Christian Community and see the Divine Presence at work in the midst of the messiness of humankind. Let us never lose sight of the Truth which sets us free!

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- † There will be a Funeral Mass for Betty Duggan on Wednesday at 10:30. Please keep her in your prayers, together with her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Michael Meredith and their grieving family.
  - † On Wednesday evening at 7:30pm in the Church there will be the next Parent and Godparent Preparation Evening for Baptisms to be celebrated in May.
  - † Being First Friday, there will be the usual Novena Mass of the Sacred Heart on this Friday evening at 7:30pm in the Church. Adoration and Benediction follow the mass. All welcome.
  - † Being First Saturday, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated for those in advanced age or serious illness during the Saturday 9am Mass; Adoration and Benediction will follow the Mass.

“God’s way of acting may seem so far removed from our own, that he was annihilated for our sake, while it seems difficult for us to even forget ourselves a little.” Exactly one week before Easter Sunday, Pope Francis made this point and reminded the faithful that Jesus humbled and emptied Himself for us, and we are to start living as He taught us to. In his homily in St. Peter’s Square, Francis stressed that Jesus comes to save us and we are not to follow ‘our way,’ but choose His, namely “the way of service, of giving, of forgetfulness of ourselves.” “Let us walk this path,” the Pope encouraged, “pausing in these days to gaze upon the Crucifix, the ‘royal seat of God,’ to learn about the humble love which saves and gives life, so that we may give up all selfishness, and the seeking of power and fame.” By humbling himself, the Pope explained, Jesus invited us to walk on his path. “Let us turn our faces to him, let us ask for the grace to understand something of the mystery of his obliteration for our sake; and then, in silence, let us contemplate the mystery of this Week.” Just as Jesus entered Jerusalem, He desires to enter our cities and our lives, the Pope said. Through the power of His divine love, the Holy Father highlighted, the Lord forgives our sins and reconciles us to the Father and with ourselves. “May nothing prevent us from finding in Him the source of our joy, true joy, which abides and brings peace; for it is Jesus alone who saves us from the snares of sin, death, fear and sadness.” The Holy Week and Easter Liturgy, the Pope recalled, teaches us that the Lord has not saved us by ‘His triumphal entry or by means of powerful miracles,’ but by humbling and emptying himself.



These two verbs, the Jesuit Pope pointed out, show the boundlessness of God’s love for us. “Jesus emptied himself: He did not cling to the glory that was His as the Son of God, but became the Son of Man in order to be in solidarity with us sinners in all things; yet He was without sin.” Even more, Francis said, Jesus lived in the condition “not of a king or a prince,” but “of a servant.” Experiencing utmost humility, and resisting temptations, Jesus forgives those who are crucifying Him. “If the mystery of evil is unfathomable, then the reality of Love poured out through Him is infinite, reaching even to the tomb and to hell,” the Pope said, noting He took upon Himself all our pain. Stressing how Jesus’ self sacrifice brought light to darkness, life to death, love to hatred, Francis called on faithful to examine how they can better live ‘God’s way’ in their lives.

## Entrance Antiphon

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

## Communion Antiphon

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

## First Reading

*Acts 10:34. 37-43*

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23*

**R.** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

**R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

**R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

**R.**

THE WORD  
OF GOD

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

Psalm 119:28

## Second Reading

*Colossians 3:1-4*

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*John 20:1-9*

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Reflection on Easter Celebrations

Many of us return to our Faith and its practice at Christmas and Easter. Why? I would venture to suggest that it is more than simply custom or family celebrations that bring us together in the Father's House at this time. Rather, it is because these two celebrations have to do with Life: New Life at Christmas, celebrating the Birth of Jesus; New Life at Easter, celebrating the Rebirth of Christ. And all of us want to celebrated this greatest of all gifts: Life!

Furthermore, Easter is a time of Renewal for many of us.

Firstly, after the Lenten penances caused us to reflect on the practice of our Faith, we find ourselves ready to renew our commitment to the Lord. Having asked ourselves where Christ is in our daily lives, we find that we need to turn back to the One who is all good, and resolve to live our Christianity in conjunction with other Christians - through our participation in the Eucharist (Mass) each week, and through our faithful celebration of the Sacraments.

Secondly, Easter is not only a time of renewal for the practice of our Faith, it is also a time of renewal for our relationship with God. We know that the pressures of contemporary living can weigh heavily upon us; we are all so 'busy'! Yet, our celebration of Easter allows us a few moments to open ourselves up to the Resurrection Experience which does indeed transform our lives. Celebrating the

Rebirth of the Lord reminds us that the old life of neglecting the spiritual dimension can also be transformed, if we but surrender to the Holy Spirit's action.

And Thirdly, Easter is a time of renewing our baptismal commitments to be "Christ" to others. We are the ones who have to stand up and be counted in an increasingly secular and sometimes violent world. We are the ones who attempt to bring peace and healing to those who suffer and are broken. We are the ones who are commissioned from the day of our Baptism to care for the weak and defenceless, the poor and oppressed.

And so, we gather at Easter and celebrate!

Let's ask ourselves three questions: Have I been the source of New Life for others? Have I maintained my relationship of love with God? Have I done all I can to be part of the Christian Community, the Church, and serve my neighbour?

We are an Easter People and our song is Alleluia = Praise the Lord!

Let's strive to make the Lord's Resurrection a reality in our daily lives, so that we live each moment filled with the Holy Spirit and faithful to the New Life given to the world that first Easter day!

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died and was buried; he descended  
into hell; on the third day he rose again  
from the dead; he ascended into  
heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty; from  
there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and life  
everlasting. Amen.

## Readings for Next Week

### **28 Mon Monday Easter Octave**

1st Reading Acts 2:14. 22-33

Psalm Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11

Gospel Matthew 28:8-15

### **29 Tues Tuesday Easter Octave**

1st Reading Acts 2:36-41

Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22

Gospel John 20:11-18

### **30 Wed Wednesday Easter Octave**

1st Reading Acts 3:1-10

Psalm Ps 104:1-4. 6-9

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

### **31 Thurs Thursday Easter Octave**

1st Reading Acts 3:11-26

Psalm Ps 8:2. 5-9

Gospel Luke 24:35-48

### **01 Fri Friday Easter Octave**

1st Reading Acts 4:1-12

Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 4. 22-27

Gospel John 21:1-14

### **02 Sat Saturday Easter Octave**

1st Reading Acts 4:13-21

Psalm Ps 117:1. 14-21

Gospel Mark 16:9-15

## From the Pastor's Desk

† Next Sunday, the Octave Day of Easter, now named Divine Mercy Sunday, there will be a Parish Pilgrimage Walk from our Church to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents at Kellyville. This will start after the 9am Mass. All are welcome to join us (Yes! I will be walking too!!) as we express our gratitude to God for His Kindness and call upon His Mercy in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will walk through the Holy Door at the Shrine, receiving the many spiritual benefits that are on offer.

God bless you all. And, again, have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

*Fr. John*

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Cyastine Orguzmanklyoe,  
Jayfrene Ramirez Yanson,  
Betty Duggen,

### Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner

### Anniversary:

Occar Nieves,  
Veronica Pekson,  
Eileen Gamao



### 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:

Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria, Ramon,  
Vincenzo Zamora

## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**2nd Collection: \$ 6,555.90**

*Loose* \$ 3123,70

*PG Envelopes* \$ 1872.20

*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.



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



## 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](mailto:arthurbridge@arsmusica.org.au)

For more events please go to:

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

## Celebrating the Early Years of Marriage

### *Celebrating 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries*

All Couples who were married between 1996 and 2016 are invited to celebrate the early years of their marriage with their family during a special Diocesan Mass at:

**St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish,  
Parramatta**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2016 at 11am**

Very Rev Peter Williams VG EV will be celebrating the Mass and guests are invited to lunch at the Cathedral Parish hall following Mass.

**Please contact your Parish  
Secretary to register your names by  
Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Or email:** [marriage@ccss.org.au](mailto:marriage@ccss.org.au)

## STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those going through a separation or divorce.

**Next Gathering:** 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Venue:** CCSS centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown.

**Time:** 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: \$5.00.

**Registration:** Rita

**Ph.** 88222222 or

**Email:** [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*Easter speaks to us of everlasting youth; it represents the absolute victory of Christ. We will all participate in this triumph. – 18 April 1962*

### 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 **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 Lady of Perpetual Help Novena** Mass resumes this coming Tuesday night, 29 March.
- † Application forms for the Junior Altar Servers Training Program in May are now available at the Parish Office, Church Foyer and the SJ23 Parish website. Music Ministry

### FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- † The Faith Formation Committee is organizing a Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of the Shrine of the Holy Innocents at Kellyville on Divine Mercy Sunday, 3 April. Please contact Rose Franco or Vitt Lim for more details on how to participate in this parish pilgrimage.
- † Thanks to those who responded to our call for host families for the Rosary statue for March 2016. We are now looking for hosts for our Blessed Mother for April and May.

### PASTORAL & SACRAMENTAL TEAM

#### First Holy Communion

- † Children's session will be on the weekend of 2-3 April, 2016. Final date and time will be posted at the Church Notice boards and announced at the weekend Masses.
- † First Holy Communion practice will be held at the Church on Thursday, 28 April at 7 pm.

### FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

- † Please continue to support this year's **Parish Fundraising Grand Raffle** Draw by buying more tickets! 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.



**President** Bart Sarlabus

✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

**Council Team Leaders**

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

**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

***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](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com). Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

**Rosary Statue Family Roster**

<b>March 29</b>	Torroba Family	<b>April 5</b>	Sebastian Family
<b>April 12</b>	Olan Family	<b>April 19</b>	Paguinto Family
<b>April 26</b>	<i>available onwards</i>		

## Parish News

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FACILITATORS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers interested in helping facilitate the First Holy Communion program this year, especially those who would like to teach Year 4 children about the sacrament.

No prior experience required. Training will be provided.

If interested, please contact Jill at [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au) or on 9852-0583.



### GARDENERS CORNER

If you are a Blacktown Council ratepayer, do you use your allocation of two free plants each year? If not, could you send in a copy of a recent rates assessment/statement and the parish will be able to use your allocation. We are looking for at least 30 parishioners to contribute. Either scan and email your rates form to the parish office ([businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)) or drop it into the Special Needs box in the church - we will copy and mail back to you.

## Diocese News

### PROGRAM: INFORMATION SESSION

CCSS Solo Parent Services is commencing a Bereavement Support Program for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or partner. It will be held on Tuesday fortnights commencing on 05<sup>th</sup> April, with an Information session and Overview of the Program. The Program will run fortnightly until Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm. Venue: CCSS 38 Prince St, Blacktown. Cost: \$5.00 per session. For further information / Registration Essential: Call Rita on 8822 2222 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

### Acknowledgments

We would like to extend our congratulations and big thank you to all those who contributed to our Paschal Triduum celebration. Special mention are the following - Acolytes, Senior Servers, Liturgical Committee, our Youth groups and Music ministry for their untiring support and enthusiastic participation in the solemn celebration of the Paschal Triduum.

Thank you as well to our GTK Youth Group for the home made Easter carrot baskets for our little ones in the parish community.

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

### Why Do We Celebrate Easter?

*Post Author: Bill Pratt*

We celebrate Easter because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus was killed by crucifixion on a Friday and then actually came back to life on the following Sunday.

Some may ask, "So what?" Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?

There are many answers to that question, including the fact that Jesus predicted this miracle ahead of time as proof that he is the Son of God. But today I want to highlight a passage from 1 Cor. 15 where the apostle Paul explains why the resurrection is important to believers in a very practical way.

*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men (1 Cor. 15:12-19).*

Christ's resurrection is the central teaching of Christianity. According to Paul, if he wasn't resurrected, then Christianity is a complete sham; all who believe in Christ for salvation are still in their sins and to be pitied if Christ was not raised.

For those of us who are believers, the resurrection is extremely important. If Christ was not raised, we have no hope.

But Paul does not leave us hanging. In verse 20, he makes clear what really occurred: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20).

Paul concludes his treatment of the resurrection with these words: "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54).

The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate reassurance to all believers that death has finally been defeated. We will all be resurrected, just as Christ. Once you understand that Easter is a celebration of the defeat of death, you will finally understand why we celebrate this holy day.

Thanks be to God for a risen Savior!

<http://www.toughquestionsanswered.org/2011/04/21/why-do-we-celebrate-easter/>

## 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/>

### 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

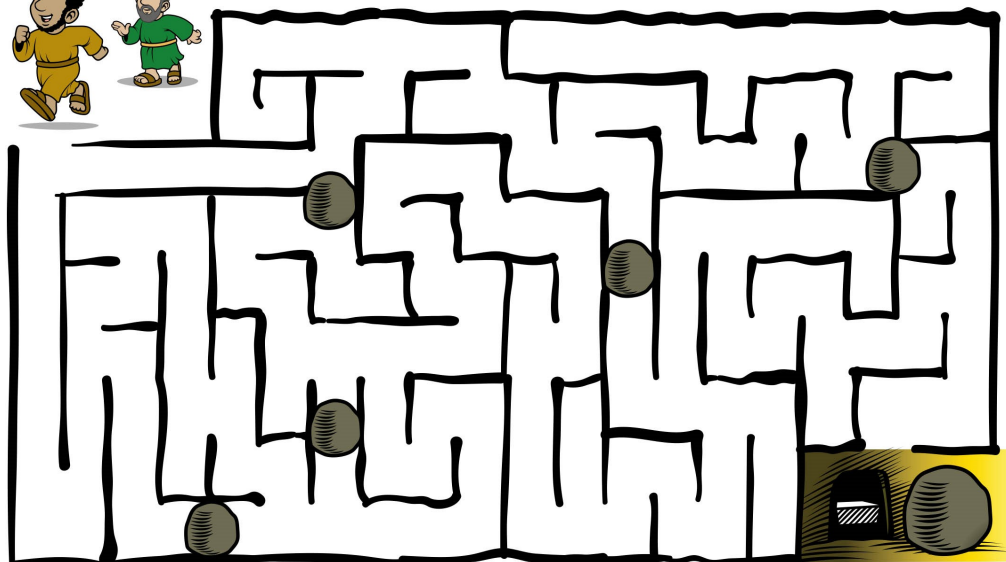
**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

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

6.00pm Youth Mass

## Find the path

Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.



## Word Find

Jesus Christ is risen!

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

*Find these words*

Cloth   dark   entrance   face   life   linen   Mary   Peter  
 Scriptures   stone   taken   tomb

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