

The Catholic Parish of **St John** XXIII

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
30 April — 01 May 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*)
(Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group)

Friday evenings 7:00pm held in church kitchen

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This week in our Ecclesial Reflections we commence a summary of Pope Francis' revolutionary Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family*. I use the term 'revolutionary' deliberately, for this document places emphasis on the needs of the individual in all circumstances, utilising the Church's Teaching on the priority of conscience in its understanding of discernment in conflict situations. Pope Francis is keen (as is seen in Chapter 8 of the document) that where conflict between the person and doctrine occurs, that the priority of the person of conscience over law - the priority of Jesus of Nazareth in the Gospels! - is understood as most important. I would encourage you to download the whole document from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website and read it in its entirety.

With today's Gospel speaking of us receiving the Peace of Christ which the world cannot give, let us pray for Hope - that our world, our community, our families, ourselves - that all will experience the abundant grace of the Holy Spirit of God; and that we will all be peacemakers in all things and in all circumstances, imitating our Lord who brought about peace for the world through his unconditional love for all.

- # During this weekend and next, let us keep our First Communicants in our thoughts and prayers in a special way: so that all the young children of our Parish Community who are receiving the Lord in the Eucharist for the First Time over these days may be touched by the powerful presence of Christ and be renewed in their practice of our shared Christian Faith. May the Holy Spirit gift them with the Peace that the world cannot give!
- # Please take note of the Mercy Conference that is occurring in our Parish next Saturday Afternoon. See the special notice in this week's bulletin for more details.
- # Also next Saturday, there is Altar Server training in the Church from 3:30-5:00pm.

Let us continue in our prayerful support of each other as this week unfolds.

God bless you all.

Fr. John

The official Summary of *Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family* - Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Family, recently published in Rome
(as taken from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website)

It is not by chance that *Amoris Laetitia* (AL), “The Joy of Love”, the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation “on Love in the Family”, was signed on 19 March, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. It brings together the results of the two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015. It often cites their Final Reports; documents and teachings of his Predecessors; and his own numerous catecheses on the family. In addition, as in previous magisterial documents, the Pope also makes use of the contributions of various Episcopal Conferences around the world (Kenya, Australia, Argentina...) and cites significant figures such as Martin Luther King and Erich Fromm. The Pope even quotes the film *Babette's Feast* to illustrate the concept of gratitude.

Introduction (1-7)

The Apostolic Exhortation is striking for its breadth and detail. Its 325 paragraphs are distributed over nine chapters. The seven introductory paragraphs plainly set out the complexity of a topic in urgent need of thorough study. The interventions of the Synod Fathers make up [form] a “multifaceted gem” (AL 4), a precious polyhedron, whose value must be preserved. But the Pope cautions that “not all discussions of doctrinal, moral or pastoral issues need to be settled by interventions of the magisterium”. Indeed, for some questions, “each country or region ... can seek solutions better suited to its culture and sensitive to its traditions and local needs. For ‘cultures are in fact quite diverse and every general principle ... needs to be inculturated, if it is to be respected and applied’” (AL 3). This principle of inculturation applies to how problems are formulated and addressed and, apart from the dogmatic issues that have been well defined by the Church’s magisterium, none of this approach can be “globalized”. In his address at the end of the 2015 Synod, the Pope said very clearly: “What seems normal for a bishop on one continent, is considered strange and almost scandalous – almost – for a bishop from another; what is considered a violation of a right in one society is an evident and inviolable rule in another; what for some is freedom of conscience is for others simply confusion.”

The Pope clearly states that we need above all to avoid a sterile juxtaposition between demands for change and the general application of abstract norms. He writes: “The debates carried on in the media, in certain publications and even among the Church’s ministers, range from an immoderate desire for total change without sufficient reflection or grounding, to an attitude that would solve everything by applying general rules or deriving undue conclusions from particular theological considerations” (AL 2).

Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives

to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

Second Reading

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel or crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reflection

All three readings for this Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C) give us Hope, for the infinite love of God will continue among us in the presence of the Paraclete. The Holy Spirit will strengthen us and help us in our living of live worthy of the name, Christian!

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles speaks of the First Council of the Church, the Council of Jerusalem. After much discussion, the elders and Apostles decide that all people are free to be Christians. And thus the Response to our Psalm echoes the delight of the peoples of the world at this decision: “O God, let all the nations praise you!”. This gives us all hope, for it assures us of the presence of God’s Spirit in His Church. The decisions made by the Apostles and elders acting unanimously have the authority of God: “It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves....” As we can see in the present Pontificate, Christ and His Spirit are very present in the Church, and always will be, leading us into the “complete Truth”.

The Second Reading from the Book of Revelation offers Hope to a people suffering persecution. The vision of the “New and Eternal Jerusalem” speaks of the coming of God’s Reign over all the earth and its peoples. Thus, God’s Love will be supreme and the world will accept the Teachings of Jesus, especially the New Commandment we heard in last week’s Gospel text: “Love one another, as I have loved you”. No matter what sufferings we may endure in this life - the future is brilliant: the Light of God and Lamb will enlighten us all, and bring us into a right relationship with our Creator.

And the Gospel text from John assures us that the Spirit of Jesus will live within all believers, offering them the Peace of God, which is beyond whatever the World can give. We pray for this Peace in every Mass - at that dramatic moment when the Lord is addressed on the altar under the form of bread and wine: “Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper,...” Then we share this Peace with our sisters and brothers. The words of the Gospel reassure us in a world of hatred, violent and terrorism that the Peace of Christ will conquer all evil and gift us with Hope, even in the midst of difficulty.

And so, we can see that the Readings give us cause for Hope: our Church is continually under the influence of the Holy Spirit of God; our destiny is to live with God forever in the New Jerusalem; and we are encouraged by the Lord’s Gift of Peace. So, in our Eucharistic celebrations this weekend, let’s pray for an increase in the Gift of Hope in our lives, a Hope which will lead to that Peace which the world cannot give...

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

2 Mon Saint Athanasius (M)

1st Reading Acts 16:11-15
Psalm Ps 149:1-6. 9
Gospel John 15:26-16:4

3 Tues Saints Philip and James (F)

1st Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Psalm Ps 18:2-5
Gospel John 14:6-14

4 Wed Sixth Week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 17:15. 22 - 18:1
Psalm Ps 148:1-2. 11-14
Gospel John 16:12-15

5 Thurs Sixth Week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 18:1-8
Psalm Ps 97:1-4
Gospel John 16:16-20

6 Fri Sixth Week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 18:9-18
Psalm Ps 46:2-7
Gospel John 16:20-23

7 Sat Sixth Week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 18:23-28
Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 8-10
Gospel John 16:23-28

Our School Communities

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ holycross@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

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Marie Therese Wilkie, Peter Sharpe,
George Flowers, James K. R.,
Anne Sim Hong Eng

Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner, Geoff Dickinson,
Juana Margarita Salgadie,
Helen Hill

Anniversary:

Paul Christopher Pido,
Maureen Peterson, Rita Worsfold,
Hilda Henrisson, Ante Janezic,
Benilda Nuguid Espiritu,
Noleta Athayde, Anica Peric,
Johnson Reynolds, Jerry Camilleri,
Aubrey Athayab, Arturro Bololoy
Cobarrubias, Pedrito B Olaes Sr,

Sick:

Briyen Fuller, Caroline G Vazquez,
Edwin Rizon, Nigel Reynolds,
Mariano Antonio Jon Villaraza,
Guy Austria, Zaida R Kawari,
Maria Bellia

Thanksgiving:

Jill Franco, Thangamani Joseph,
Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria, Ramon
and Vincenzo Zamora,
Melanius Sebastian.



Paying our debt together

Weekly collections

2nd Collection:	\$ 5,541.15
<i>Loose</i>	<i>\$ 2340.70</i>
<i>PG Envelopes</i>	<i>\$ 1,640.80</i>
<i>PG by EFT</i>	<i>\$ 1,560.00</i>

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.

Celebrating the Early Years of Marriage

Celebrating 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th 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 1st 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, 22nd April**

Or email: marriage@ccss.org.au

Ordination of George Bryan: 8 May

Everyone is invited to the ordination of George Bryan as a permanent deacon at the 11am Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on Sunday 8 May. The Second Vatican Council reinvigorated the ancient order of deacons, reinstating the permanent diaconate. The principal celebrant will be Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay.

Positions Vacant

- † St Bernadette's Parish at Castle Hill is seeking an energetic, committed and enthusiastic **Pastoral Associate**. The role includes pastoral (e.g. assisting Catechist Coordinator, ministry to the sick and elderly) and liturgical responsibilities (training and formation of liturgical ministers and assisting in preparation of some ceremonies). Full time, 38hrs/wk. Details tel (02)9634 2622, admin@stbernadette.org.au

Applications close 6 May.

- † The Archdiocese of Sydney is seeking applications for the role of **Parish Support Partner**, Parish Support and Development Team. For further information visit www.catholicjobsonline.com.au

Applications close 29 April.

Government Subsidised Training: 3 & 9 May

Government Subsidised Training – Cert III in Hospitality on Tuesday 3 May and Cert II in Horticulture on Monday 9 May.

This training is subsidised by the NSW Government under Smart and Skilled Mamre Plains Ltd, part of CatholicCare Social Services.

To enrol tel (02) 9670 5321.

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

Whoever loves in the Heart of Mary is able to pass on a love that is strong and authentic, since there is no human love that can be compared with that of a mother. – 11 August 1960

————— COUNCIL MATTERS —————

- † **18 May, Wednesday 7:30pm** - Next PPC Executive Team meeting tentatively scheduled from 7:30 pm at the Parish Office Conference Room.

————— COMMUNITY BUILDING —————

- † Next Sunday, we celebrate Mother's Day. Let us fervently pray to our Lord for his continued blessing on all mothers.

————— LITURGY TEAM —————

- † 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.
- † There will be a renewal of commitment and service for all SJ23 Liturgical Ministers during the Pentecost weekend masses of May 14-15. Please refer to the notice issued by Bob Agbulos on behalf of the Parish team for more details. All ministers should respond to this notification immediately for continued inclusion in the serving rosters.
- † Likewise, all liturgical ministers should fill up and submit the Annual Renewal Form for church volunteers. Blank forms are available in the working sacristy.

————— FAITH FORMATION TEAM —————

- † We continue to ask for host families from May 24 onwards to pray the Rosary at home and request for our Blessed Mother's intercessions.

————— PASTORAL & SACRAMENTAL TEAM —————

- † This weekend we celebrate First Holy Communion at most weekend masses, including a special mass at 2 pm on May 1. Let us continue to pray for all children receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

11

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 t 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

May 3 Viola Family **May 10** Moll Family **May 17** Sebastian Family
May 24 Ferino Family **May 31** *available onwards*

Council Corner

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.
- † To-date, we have sold approximately \$12k of tickets and allocated another \$7k for on-selling. We have quite a bit to go to reach our go or no-go target of \$40k by early May, so we ask for your continued support in this parish endeavour!

SOCIAL OUTREACH TEAM

It's Great to be Catholic Conference: MERCY

† 7th May , Saturday, 12pm to 4pm - St Marks, School Hall.

The Social Justice Team has partnered with Parousia Media to bring you a one day conference to learn more about the Year of Mercy. Guest Speakers: Robert Haddad and Brother John Nguyen of the Capuchin Friars.

All welcome. Invite family and friends and learn more about the Year of Mercy. Free event. Donations welcome. You may RSVP to sj.john23rd@gmail.com

Parish News

MEMORIAL TREES

We are looking for parishioners to donate the funds for four landmark trees. The cost of each mature 2m tree is \$400. You may wish to donate the cost of a tree in memory of the deceased members of your family and a plaque will be erected in their memory. Please contact the parish office to discuss this opportunity.

MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT

Every 5 years, aligned with the National Census, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference request a National Count of Attendance (mass count). The count will take place over 4 weekend in May, commencing this weekend at all masses.



President

Bart Sarlabus

✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

Council Team Leaders

Community Bldg

Techie Sarlabus

Comms & Media

John McCartney

Evangelisation

Helen Zammit

Faith Formation

Rose Franco

Fundraising

Rodi Orantia

Liturgy

Bob Agbulos

Music

Ray Samonte

Pastoral Care

Jill Franco

Social Outreach

Qwanyle Guevarra

Why we do what we do.....

The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses". Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary they are giving her a beautiful rose and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of all devotions and it is therefore the most important one. The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary in fact we meditate the mysteries of joy, of sorrow and the glory of Jesus and Mary. It's a simple prayer, humble so much like Mary. It's a prayer we can all say together with Her, the Mother of God. With the Hail Mary we invite Her to pray for us. Our Lady always grants our request. She joins Her prayer to ours. Therefore it becomes ever more useful, because what Mary asks She always receives, Jesus can never say no to whatever His Mother asks for. In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to say the Rosary as a powerful weapon against evil, to bring us to true peace. With your prayer made together with Your heavenly Mother, you can obtain the great gift of bringing about a change of hearts and conversion. Each day, through prayer you can drive away from yourselves and from your homeland many dangers and many evils. It can seem a repetitive prayer but instead it is like two sweethearts who many times say one another the words: "I love you"...

The Blessed Holy Father John Paul II on October 16th, 2002 with the Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae on the Most Holy Rosary has added 5 new mysteries of the Rosary: The Mysteries of the Light.

<http://www.theholyroary.org/>

Why do Catholics pray the rosary?

Catholics pray the rosary because it's a powerful prayer to God, through His mother, Mary.

Praying the rosary has been a tradition in the Church for a long time. It's a bit fuzzy who made it more formal; some say it was St. Dominic and others say it wasn't. What really matters is that this prayer is super powerful.

Throughout Church history, many popes and saints have highly recommended that we pray the rosary. St. Louis de Montfort said, 'When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer.'

The rosary begins with the recitation of the Apostle's Creed, an Our Father, three Hail Mary's and a Glory Be. Then there are five decades which each begin and end with an Our Father and Glory Be, and have ten Hail Mary's in between. When you pray the rosary, you meditate on the events in Jesus' life. There are the joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries.

In various apparitions, Mary has appeared holding a rosary and has asked that we continue to pray this prayer. She always leads us to her Son, and presents our needs before Him. Prayer is about developing our relationship with God, and loving Him more, so it makes sense to get to know Him through the events of the life of Christ that we meditate on during the rosary.

3 Chapter One: "In the light of the Word" (8-30)

Following this introduction, the Pope begins his reflections with the Holy Scriptures in the first chapter, which unfolds as a meditation on Psalm 128 (which appears in the Jewish wedding liturgy as well as that of Christian marriages). The Bible "is full of families, births, love stories and family crises" (AL 8). This impels us to meditate on how the family is not an abstract ideal but rather like a practical "trade" (AL 16), which is carried out with tenderness (AL 28), but which has also been confronted with sin from the beginning, when the relationship of love turned into domination (cf. AL 19). Hence, the Word of God "is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or suffering. For it shows them the goal of their journey..." (AL 22).

Chapter two: "The experiences and challenges of families" (31-57)

Building on the biblical base, in the second chapter the Pope considers the current situation of families. While keeping "firmly grounded in [the] reality" of family experiences (AL 6), he also draws heavily on the final Reports of the two Synods. Families face many challenges, from migration to the ideological denial of differences between the sexes ("ideology of gender" AL 56); from the culture of the provisional to the antinatal mentality and the impact of biotechnology in the field of procreation; from the lack of housing and work to pornography and abuse of minors; from inattention to persons with disabilities, to lack of respect for the elderly; from the legal dismantling of the family, to violence against women. The Pope insists on concreteness, which is a key concept in the Exhortation. And it is concreteness, realism and daily life that make up the substantial difference between acceptable "theories" of interpretation of reality and arbitrary "ideologies".

(To be continued next week)

Why we do (cont'd)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

'Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in lectio divina or the rosary. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further to the knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him' (CCC 2708).

Rosaries are not just decorations. Battles have been won because people prayed the rosary! There have been hearts converted, and impossible intentions answered too. Your life can only be blessed if you start praying the rosary.

<http://lifeteen.com/blog/why-do-catholics-pray-the-rosary/>

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

Unscramble the Words

What did Jesus tell his disciples about the Holy Spirit? Unscramble the tiles below to reveal his message.

oly S
thing.
ch you
every
ill tea
pirit w
The H

Word Find

The Holy Spirit will help you

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

Find these words

Anyone everything Father heard Holy live obey
 Place remind send Spirit teach

To advertise in this space, please contact the parish office



Hills Family Funerals

A tradition of care and concern

A Tradition of Care & Concern

Pre-paid funerals available

340 Old Northern Rd. Castle Hill

☎ 9659 0900

www.hillsfamilyfunerals.com.au

Kinde Co.

Local Sydney designer for everyday kids wear made from soft organic cotton & bamboo. Designed in mind for kids with skin sensitivities. Visit <http://www.kindeco.com.au>. **FREE DELIVERY** to Stanhope Gardens & surrounding areas. (Use Code STJOHN23 at checkout)
Contact Anne at info@kindeco.com.au OR 1300 702 855.

Looking to boost your Immune System and have more energy? Have better sleep and enjoy a healthier body? Why not check out the world's Highest Rated Supplement; pharmaceutical grade, doctors approved, safe and effective.

For info and brochures please sms or call
0449551518 or email
sexyfitnutrition@gmail.com



ALLRID
PEST SERVICES
Your Pest Management Solution

Residential Commercial Body Corporate

O: 8809 7945 M: 0414 467 981

Environmentally friendly products used

Safe for family and pets

www.allridpests.com.au

Property Sales & Management
making your move easy...



Joshi John 0410 066578/9631 1101

joshi@mover Realty.com.au

TMG Shuttle Service

ABN 756 9864 5547

Servicing the NorthWest/Hills Area

- Airport Shuttle
- Private Functions
- Business Functions
- Private Charters
- Day Tours
- 2 Child Seats Available
- Seats up to 11 Passengers
- Competitive Rates
- Reliable and Safe Driver
- Smoke Free



Mannix: 0432 318 312

Maricon: 0401 144 607

e-mail: tmgshuttle@optusnet.com.au

10% goes to the Church when you use this service

Ads Space Available

**Need Legal Advice?
Need Migration Assistance?
Morning Star**

Legal & Migration Services
www.morningstarlegal.com.au

or call 0478 173 474

MARN 1461332