

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

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

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 07 — 08 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."*



<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*)

**(Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group)**

*Friday evenings* 7:00pm held in church kitchen

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

All three readings for this celebration of the Ascension of Lord speak to us of the Lord's abiding presence among us and in our Christian community, as we live the Gospel in our daily lives and come to share our experience of Jesus as Lord of our lives with others. In the week ahead, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let's ask the Spirit to help *all* followers of the Lord Jesus to support each other as we strive to bring the Good News to a waiting world..

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- # We continue this weekend with more First Communion celebrations. We thank Jill Franco and the Sacramental Team for all their work in the preparation and celebration of these very important Liturgies for our young people. And our Thanks to the parents for fulfilling the commitment they made at their child's baptism by bringing them up in the practice of the Faith. And we continue our prayers for the children receiving the Lord in the Eucharist for the very first time. May this experience strengthen their Christian belief and may they continue faithful to the Risen and Ascended Lord for the rest of their lives.
- # We had new guttering attached to the roof outside the Church kitchen. The old guttering - as you know - was leaking terribly. The new one is made of colour bond and should last a longer period of time.
- # And we congratulate Fr. Robert William who celebrated his 7th anniversary of Priestly Ordination last Thursday (5/5). We wish him all the best as he continues to minister among us!

God bless you all

Fr. John

*(continued from last week)*

Citing *Familiaris consortio*, Francis states that “we do well to focus on concrete realities, since ‘the call and the demands of the Spirit resound in the events of history’, and through these ‘the Church can also be guided to a more profound understanding of the inexhaustible mystery of marriage and the family’” (AL 31). Conversely, if we fail to listen to reality, we cannot understand the needs of the present or the movements of the Spirit. The Pope notes that rampant individualism makes it difficult today for a person to give oneself generously to another (cf. AL 33). Here is an interesting picture of the situation: “The fear of loneliness and the desire for stability and fidelity exist side by side with a growing fear of entrapment in a relationship that could hamper the achievement of one’s personal goals” (AL 34).

The humility of realism helps us to avoid presenting “a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families” (AL 36). Idealism does not allow marriage to be understood for what it is, that is, a “dynamic path to personal development and fulfilment”. It is unrealistic to think that families can sustain themselves “simply by stressing doctrinal, bioethical and moral issues, without encouraging openness to grace” (AL 37). Calling for a certain “self-criticism” of approaches that are inadequate for the experience of marriage and the family, the Pope stresses the need to make room for the formation of the conscience of the faithful: “We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them” (AL 37). Jesus proposed a demanding ideal but “never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery” (AL 38).

### ***Chapter three: “Looking to Jesus: The vocation of the family” (58-88)***

The third chapter is dedicated to some essential elements of the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family. This chapter is important because its 30 paragraphs concisely depict the vocation of the family according to the Gospel and as affirmed by the Church over time. Above all, it stresses the themes of indissolubility, the sacramental nature of marriage, the transmission of life and the education of children. *Gaudium et Spes* of Vatican II, *Humanae Vitae* of Paul VI, and *Familiaris Consortio* of John Paul II are widely quoted.

The chapter provides a broad view and touches on “imperfect situations” as well. We can read, in fact: “‘Discernment of the presence of ‘seeds of the Word’ in other cultures (cf. *Ad Gentes* 11) can also apply to the reality of marriage and the family. In addition to true natural marriage, positive elements exist in the forms of marriage found in other religious traditions’, even if, at times, obscurely” (AL 77). The reflection also includes the “wounded families” about whom the Pope – quoting the Final Report of the 2015 Synod extensively – says that “it is always

## Entrance Antiphon

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

## Communion Antiphon

Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

## First Reading

*Acts 1:1-11*

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 46:2-3, 6-9*

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:17-23*

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 28:19, 20*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

## Gospel

*Luke 24:46-53*

*While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Gospel Reflection

All three readings for this celebration of the Ascension of Lord speak to us of the Lord's abiding presence among us as we live the Gospel in our daily lives and come to know Jesus as Lord of our lives.

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles portrays the Ascension as the turning-point between Jesus' own ministry on Earth and the era of the Mission of the Church.

This is a time in which we are expected to act as Jesus did, proclaiming always and everywhere the Good News. This period of the Church finds the Lord's disciples (you and me) being supported by another Advocate with the Father, the Spirit of them both.

Thus, the Lord Jesus continues to be present among us (his disciples), albeit in a new mode of existence.

The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews uses Jewish cultic language reminiscent of the Temple Liturgy of the Jewish people. The unknown author of this Jewish-Christian letter speaks of Christ's entry into the heavenly realm after his Resurrection and Ascension.

Through his sacrificial death, victory over sin and death has been won for all faithful followers of the Lord. Indeed, we are now 'free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies (are) washed with pure water'.

And it is from his heavenly sphere of existence that Christ continues his mission of salvation, supporting us as we proclaim the Good News.

And the Reading from Luke's Gospel for this weekend speaks of the conclusion of the era of Jesus' ministry with the great Invitation to all Christ's followers to begin preaching the Good News.

This reading contains Jesus' promise of the Coming Spirit, the Spirit of Power, the Spirit of the Living God, who will enable Christians to be fearless in their faithfulness to the Lord's admonition to evangelise in the face of persecution and ridicule.

So, how do these readings encourage us in Mission? Does the fact that the Lord is with us at all times aid us in the living out of His Gospel? Does His perpetual presence enable us to stand up and be counted as Christian despite peer pressure or human misunderstanding? Does Christ's continuing presence in the world strengthen us in our Proclamation of the Truth, the high ideals of the Gospel, to a world unable or unwilling to hear those words of salvation and liberation?

In the week ahead, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let's ask the Spirit to help all followers of the Lord Jesus to support each other as we strive to bring the Good News to a waiting world.

## 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.

THE WORD  
OF GOD

*Do not merely listen*

*to the word, and so*

*deceive yourselves.*

*Do what it says.*

James 1:22 | NIV

## Readings for Next Week

### 9 Mon 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 19:1-8

Psalm Ps 67:2-7

Gospel John 16:29-33

### 10 Tues 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 20:17-27

Psalm Ps 67:10-11. 20-21

Gospel John 17:1-11

### 11 Wed 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 20:28-38

Psalm Ps 67:29-30. 33-36

Gospel John 17:11-19

### 12 Thurs 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

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

Gospel John 17:20-26

### 13 Fri 7th week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 25:13-21

Psalm Ps 102:1-2. 11-12. 19-20

Gospel John 21:15-19

### 14 Sat Saint Mathias (F)

1st Reading Acts 1:15-17. 20-26

Psalm Ps 112:1-8

Gospel John 15:9-17

## Our School Communities

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave,

Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://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, Reno Camilleri,  
Leana Katrina Guillermo,  
Helen Hill,

### Anniversary:

Trevor Cherry, Sammy Formosa,  
Monica R Cobarrubias,  
Rafaela Yunon, Vicente Yunon

### Sick:

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

### Thanksgiving:

R J Santos & Family,  
Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria, Ramon  
and Vincenzo Zamora



## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**2nd Collection:**      \$ 5,754.05

*Loose*                      \$ 2399.75

*PG Envelopes*        \$ 1824.30

*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.**



## 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.

*Matthew 25:40 - "Truly I tell you that whenever you do this for the least of my brothers and sister, you do it for me"*

Our **St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** is now underway.

As Winter approaches, we are asking for donations of clean blankets to be distributed to those in need. All donations may be placed in the Church foyer. We thank you for your past generosity and with your help we hope to make this year the most successful ever.

### HELP NEEDED!!!

We are in need of a teacher for a year 5 and/or 6 class at Kellyville Ridge public school to teach SRE. Training and material are provided.

Contact: Helen on 0401 183268 or [helen@zammit.net](mailto:helen@zammit.net)

## Diocesan News

### Vocation Evening hosted by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Come for a chance to learn more about the inspiring and uplifting vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated religious life. The evening is for young men (18-35) and will be an informal opportunity to have a meal, some time for prayer, hear a talk and ask questions.

It will begin at 7pm on **Friday, 20th May 2016 at Good Shepherd Parish**, 136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton. Please let Fr Thomas know that you would like to come (for catering): 0432 362052 or [vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au](mailto:vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au)

Cost is free. And please invite anyone you know who you think may be interested. Web: [capuchinfriars.org.au](http://capuchinfriars.org.au)

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*With the Incarnation the human journey towards the heavenly homeland received a fresh start, and humanity is now elevated to the lofty status of being coheirs of heaven; and from the hidden life there rises a canticle of praise to the dignity and greatness of the family, in praise of the sacred duty of work and of its nobility. – 4 January 1962*

### 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

- † Happy Mother's day! Let us fervently pray to our Lord for his continued blessing on all mothers.
- † **IFM Events:** A 5-session seminar is about to begin at the Institute for Mission entitled 'Journey of Faith'. There are ten spaces remaining for interested people who can act quickly to secure a spot. The seminar is held over 5 Fridays from 10am to 2pm, April 29 to May 27. The location is the Institute for Mission at 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown and will be presented by Cecilia Zammit (CCD director), using input, interactive activities, music, song and ritual. To book in, call 0427268699.

### 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.

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

### Rosary Statue Family Roster

<b>May 10</b>	Moll Family	<b>May 17</b>	Sebastian Family	<b>May 24</b>	Ferino Family
<b>May 31</b>	available	<b>June 7</b>	Olan Family	<b>June 14</b>	available

## Council Corner

### FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- † We continue to ask for host families from May 31st onwards to pray the Rosary at home and request for our Blessed Mother's intercessions.

### PASTORAL & SACRAMENTAL TEAM

#### First Holy Communion:

- † This weekend we continue to celebrate First Holy Communion at most weekend masses, including a special mass at 2 pm on May 8. Let us continue to pray for all children receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

#### Sacrament of Confirmation:

- † Registration for enrolment commences on 1 June 2016.
- † Formal enrolment will be held during this weekend's Masses on the 11th and 12th of June.
- † The Parents' Meeting will be held at the Church on Wednesday, 22nd June 2016 from 7:30 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.
- † 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!



**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

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

### Why Must Roman Catholics Go to Mass Every Sunday?

The Catholic Church tells us that we have an obligation to go to Mass every Sunday. It is an obligation that most of us fulfill willingly, but many people don't understand why the Church requires this of us.

#### ***Our Sunday Obligation***

In the Third Commandment, God tells us to "Remember to keep holy the sabbath day." For the Jews, the sabbath was Saturday; Christians, however, transferred the sabbath to Sunday, the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. The Church tells us that we have an obligation to fulfill the Third Commandment by refraining from unnecessary work on Sunday and by participating in the Mass, our chief form of worship as Christians.

#### ***Private Worship Is Not Enough***

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood that being a Christian isn't a private matter. We are called to be Christians together; while we can and should engage in the private worship of God throughout the week, our primary form of worship is public and communal, which is why Sunday Mass is so important.

*By Scott P. Richert, Catholicism Expert*

[http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/Sunday\\_Duty.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/Sunday_Duty.htm)

### Why Is Mass Important to Catholics?

Catholics go to Mass every Sunday to participate in sacred worship and rituals. The service holds utmost importance in their lives because it allows them to receive the Holy Eucharist, or Communion, to put God first above all idols according to the Catholic First Commandment, and to observe the holiness of the Sabbath as part of the Third Commandment. The Mass ceremony consists of two parts: the Liturgy of the Word, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

#### ***First Commandment***

The First Commandment proclaims to Catholic believers: "You shall not have strange Gods before me." Attending Mass is the main way that Catholics show their devotion to the Holy Trinity above all other gods or idols -- not limited to other entities, but pertaining to things of the material world, such as shopping or working. By setting aside time each Sunday for Mass, Catholics make God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit their most important priority in life.

#### ***Third Commandment***

"Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day," says the Third Commandment. Sunday is considered the Lord's Day because it is the day on which Jesus was resurrected from the dead. By observing Mass on Sunday, Catholics honor and place importance on the eternal salvation that Jesus offers them through overcoming death. It was also on this day, after he rose from

## Why we do (cont'd)...

the dead, that Jesus made an appearance to two of his disciples and broke bread with them, which is honored in Mass as the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### ***Liturgy of the Word***

Liturgy is a term of Greek origin meaning an official public service. During the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word focuses on Bible readings and prayers. Each week, the Catholic Church chooses different selections from the Word of God, or Bible scripture, for reading and explanation, and related prayers are recited. Hymns are also sung as part of the service. The Liturgy of the Word holds great importance to Catholics because it connects them with the life instructions given them directly from God, helping them to apply their faith to everyday aspects of their lives.

### ***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

Eucharist is also a term of Greek origin that means "thanksgiving." The Liturgy of the Eucharist is an answer to Jesus' request to break bread, or take communion, in remembrance of him, as explained in the book of John: "Whoever eats this bread and drinks this blood will have eternal life"; and in the book of Luke: "Do this in memory of me." The ritual of consuming a wafer that symbolizes Christ's body, and wine symbolizing his blood, takes place at Mass. Participating in the Eucharist places importance on having a personal relationship with Christ and giving thanks to him.

<http://people.opposingviews.com/mass-important-catholics-1613.html>

## ECCLESIAL (cont'd)

necessary to recall this general principle: 'Pastors must know that, for the sake of truth, they are obliged to exercise careful discernment of situations' (Familiaris Consortio, 84). The degree of responsibility is not equal in all cases and factors may exist which limit the ability to make a decision. Therefore, while clearly stating the Church's teaching, pastors are to avoid judgements that do not take into account the complexity of various situations, and they are to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience and endure distress because of their condition" (AL 79).

### ***Chapter four: "Love in marriage" (89-164)***

The fourth chapter treats love in marriage, which it illuminates with Saint Paul's Hymn to Love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. This opening section is truly a painstaking, focused, inspired and poetic exegesis of the Pauline text. It is a collection of brief passages carefully and tenderly describing human love in absolutely concrete terms. The quality of psychological introspection that marks this exegesis is striking. The psychological insights enter into the emotional world of the spouses – positive and negative – and the erotic dimension of love. This is an extremely rich and valuable contribution to Christian married life, unprecedented in previous papal documents.

*(To be continued)*

## 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

## Form the Words



How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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## Word Find

Jesus was taken up to heaven

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

*Find these words*

Bethany   blessed   disciples   hands   happy   Jerusalem  
 Jesus   praising   raised   temple   time   worshipped

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