

# The Catholic Parish of **St John** XXIII

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17 - 18 December 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](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
**Asst. Priest:** Fr Robert William ✉ [FrRobert@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrRobert@john23rd.org.au)  
**Deacon:** Nicephorus Tan ✉ [DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)  
Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)  
✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)  
Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Wed/Fri)  
✉ [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  
led by Christ Catholic Community Prayer  
Group at the church kitchen

## From the Pastor's desk

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we stand at the threshold of Christmas to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas who gave us a definite assurance: "I shall be with you always, even until the end of time." That should be the main focus for our Christmas celebration.

The difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel tell us much about these holy people Mary and Joseph and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God. And this is the essential message of Christmas: "The Lord himself will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us."

What is impossible to man is possible to God, and that the God of wisdom, power, love and mercy is with and in us always. Let us cherish this best gift from the Christmas. Have a good Christmas.

---

### • CHRISTMAS SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

**20<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday**, at 7:30 PM St Bernadette's, Castle Hill

**21<sup>st</sup> December, Wednesday** at 7:30 PM Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville

**22<sup>nd</sup> December, Thursday** at 7:30 PM St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills

Kindly make use of the opportunity and prepare yourself for a good Christmas

• **Mass of the Rooster** Join us in preparing for Christmas with the annual 9 day novena of the Mass of the Rooster (Misa de Gallo). December 16-24, 2016 at 6.00am at St John XXIII Parish.

• Father John will back this weekend.

### • CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**24<sup>th</sup> December** - 6.00pm at HOLY CROSS Christmas Eve

- 9.00pm at church

- 12pm MIDNIGHT MASS

**25<sup>th</sup> December** - 7.30am, 9.00am & 10.30am.

**THERE WILL NO 6pm MASS**

Invite all friends and relatives to attend.

• Office will be closed from the 26th December to 16th January. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Kind Regards Father Robert

## Parish News

### Italian Pilgrimage

Come and join us for a pilgrimage following the footsteps of St John 23rd

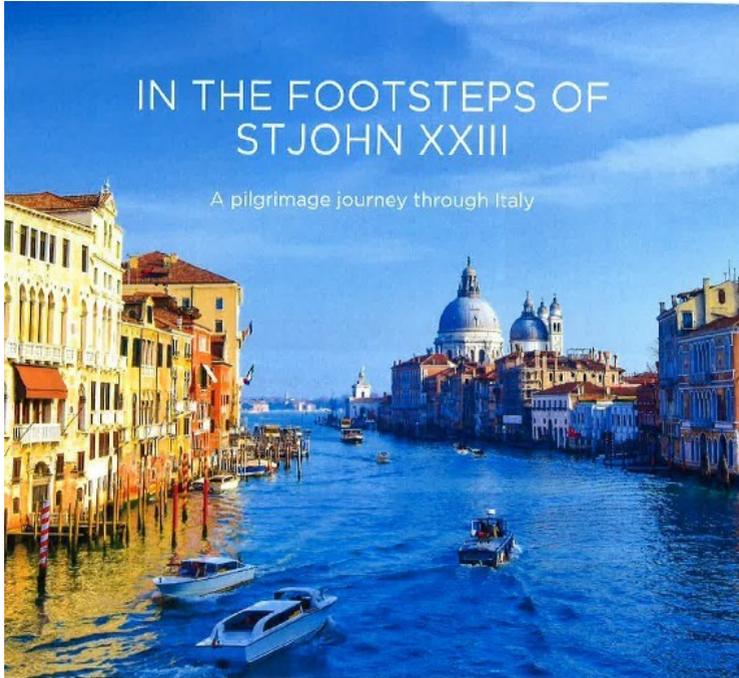
**Duration:** 17 day pilgrimage

**Departure:** Friday, 22 September 2017 **Tour Code:** 7PV06

**Spiritual adviser:** Fr John McSweeney

For further information contact: **Toll Free:** Harvest 1800 819 156

Brochures can found at the church foyer.



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF STJOHN XXIII

A pilgrimage journey through Italy



Fr John McSweeney  
Spiritual Adviser

**Duration:** 17 day pilgrimage

**Departure:** Friday 22 September 2017

**Tour Code:** 7PV06

**harvest.**  
journeys

## Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 23:1-6*

**R.** Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**



The grass withers, *the flower fades,* but the word of God **WILL STAND FOREVER**

Isaiah 40:8

## Second Reading

*Romans 1:1-7*

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*Matthew 1:18-24*

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Gospel Reflection

Coming to Joseph in a dream, the angel told of Mary's pregnancy. The child is 'in her by the Holy Spirit'. But more important is the proclamation of the future destiny of the son to be born. Along with Joseph, we learn that his name must be 'Jesus, because he is the one who save his people from their sins'.

The gospel does not only report the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah. It adds an explanation of what the word 'Emmanuel' means. Jesus' story begins with an indication that he will be the promised Emmanuel, which means 'God with us'.

Two things are happening in this gospel story. On the one hand, God is now among us. God is also in the center of the action, but we are learning how we should respond to God's interventions as Joseph, without argument or question, simply does what is asked of him.

Christmas brings us our Emmanuel. The celebration of Christmas reminds us that in the Incarnation God has become part of the human story. But Christmas also asks us to examine the quality of our response to the presence of the divine among us. Joseph leads the way and shows us the quality of trust and commitment to the coming of God, which should mark the lives of those blessed with the presence of Jesus, with them until the close of the age. As each Christmas comes and goes, the Church continues to proclaim that in Jesus, God is with us, and that Jesus will be with us until the end of time. May our joy and celebration be highlighted by deep trust in a God who so loved us that he gave his only Son.

## 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

### 19 Mon 4th week of Advent

1st Reading Judges 13:2-7. 24-25

Psalm Ps 70:3-6. 16-17

Gospel Luke 1:5-25

### 20 Tues 4th week of Advent

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm Ps 23:1-6

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

### 21 Wed 4th week of Advent

1st Reading Song of Songs 2:8-14

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm Ps 32:2-3. 11-12. 20-21

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

### 22 Thu 4th week of Advent

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:24-28

Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1. 4-8

Gospel Luke 1:46-56

### 23 Fri 4th week of Advent

1st Reading Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24

Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14

Gospel Luke 1:57-66

### 24 Sat 4th week of Advent

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14.

16

Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29

Gospel Luke 1:67-79

*Copyright (c) LabOra Worship 2016*

## 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)



If you can contribute some time, energy and expertise to YOUR parish there are a number of areas requiring your support.

**Money counters** - Help with counting of the weekend collections scheduled once a week for 2-3 hrs. Contact: Tanya in the parish office (Tue-Fri) T9852 0580. Closing date: As soon as possible.

**Baptismal Team** - to assist in at least one Sunday Baptism every month. If you are interested, please contact Camille Jamon at 0406 - 859604.

**Gardeners** - If you have a green thumb, love to be under the sun taking in a breath of fresh air come and look after a patch of church garden. Some equipment is provided. Contact: John – 9899 2473. Closing date: As soon as possible.

**Church cleaners** - We are currently looking for reliable, consistent and quality cleaners. Gather some friends and pick the time of day. Some cleaning equipment provided. Contact: John – 9899 2473. Closing date: As soon as possible.

### Liturgical Ministry Courses in 2017

The Office for Worship of the Diocese of Parramatta is offering Liturgical Ministry Courses in 2017. The courses are open to those interested in becoming Minister of the Word, Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion, Minister for the Sick & Dying (Homebound), Adult Altar Server or Acolyte. Application forms available at the foyer. For more information, contact Bob Agbulos, Liturgy team coordinator on 0422 106 525 or via email on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com).

### Want to do something extra for Advent?

Come and join us in the Church kitchen on Friday evenings at 7pm as we discuss Sunday readings for Advent.

Come and join us! Just turn up!!

### Mass of the Rooster

Join us in our preparation for the birth of Christ by attending this 9-day novena mass at 6:00am from 16th to 24th Dec 2016. Bring a plate to share for breakfast after the novena mass.

## Parish Notices

### Actors needed for parish Nativity play

This year our parish is planning on performing a nativity play as part of the Christmas Eve Mass 24th December 6pm at Holy Cross Primary. We are looking for young children to join us as actors in various roles. Also, smaller children are all invited to dress up as stars, angels or shepherds etc. and be part of the audience in our play. The play will be performed before mass starts. We are looking at having a rehearsal for the main actors prior to the day. So if you would like to showcase your acting skills and would like to join us in celebrating Christmas, please contact the parish office.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society Stanhope Gardens Conference

We would like to extend our very heartfelt gratitude to our parishioners who have very generously responded to our Christmas Hamper Appeal.

The response was overwhelming!

We not only have enough to provide generous hampers to the families that have asked for assistance but we have plenty of left over to provide food assistance after the festivities are over. Once again, our profound gratitude to everyone. Thank you so much.

## Diocese Notices

### 28 December - Mass of the Holy Innocents

The principal celebrant for the 23rd annual pro-life Mass will be Sydney's Bishop Richard Umbers. Mass at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville, followed by a rosary procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents for devotions and benediction. Everyone is welcome to pray for the protection of all human life (especially the unborn) from conception to natural death. A luncheon will be provided – please bring a plate to share. Inquiries (02) 9629 2595.

### 11-14 January 2017 - Girls' Camp at Mount Schoenstatt

Girls aged 10-12 are invited to a three-day camp at Mt Schoenstatt. We will explore how our faith connects with our everyday lives. Program also includes prayer, craft and fun activities. From 4pm on Wednesday 11 January to 4pm on Saturday 14 January.

Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa.

Cost: \$110 (includes food & accomm)

**RSVP: Monday 12 December** (registration form & deposit required). Inquiries: Sr. M Luka 0439 537843, [sr.m.luka@bigpond.com](mailto:sr.m.luka@bigpond.com)

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Paul Camilleri, Mr R.C. Singh,  
Virginia Pangilinan

### Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner, Alfredo Pangilinan Sr,  
Giorgio Kavo

### Anniversary:

Fibicio Cruz Lascano, Anthony K. J,  
Ronald & Kristina Zamora,  
Sinforosa Chua, Sebastian Arokiaswamy  
Augustine Francis Sebastian

### Sick:

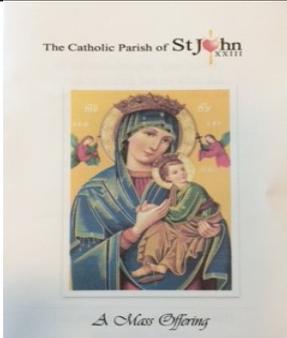
Amando Magno, Jovie Disterhofft,  
Mark de Jesus, Elgin Duenas, Pat Daley,  
Karam Matte, Sue Laxton, Cay Espanta,  
Donatila Ramos, Choo Bee - Guek

### Thanksgiving:

Ronald & Kristina Zamora,  
Maria, Ramon, Vincenzo Zamora,  
Shiranee & Ranjit Joachim,  
Choo Bee - Guek,



Mass cards available at the parish office.



## Paying our debt together

**The First Collection** – for the diocese. The 1st Collection is used for the support of the Bishop and priests of the Diocese.

**The Second Collection** – for the parish. The 2nd Collection is used to meet our parish running costs (*rates, utilities, insurance, telecommunication, computers, photocopiers, stationery and postage, church and altar requisites, repairs and maintenance of the church, presbytery, office buildings and grounds*).

It is used to pay the team/staff salaries, superannuation and each priest's car expenses, loan interest and loan repayment.

It is also used to provide for our pastoral and ministry outreach activities from the parish.

Money received in the 2nd collection is banked into the parish "Church Account".

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 Pastoral Council Corner**

*“Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas” — Pope John XXIII*

**— FAITH FORMATION TEAM —**

† **16th of December** start of **Mass of the Rooster**, a 9 day dawn novena in preparation for the birth of Christ. Starts at 6:00am for 9 days. Come and join us and bring a breakfast plate to share.

† We continue to ask for host families from to pray the **Rosary** at home and request for our Blessed Mother’s intercessions.

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 of Our Lady visit your home contact Bart Sarlabus - [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com). Pick up the statue after the Tuesday novena mass and return a week after before the start of the novena mass. This is a good time for the whole family to pray the rosary together and maybe invite some other family members and friends to join you in prayer.

**Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights**

<b>December</b>	<b>6</b> <i>D’Cunba</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Brosas</i>	<b>20</b> Paguinto	<b>27</b> Manoj	
<b>January</b>	<b>3</b> Manoj	<b>10</b> Sebastian	<b>17</b> Shalini	<b>24</b> Perera	<b>31</b> <i>Available</i>

**— COMMUNITY BUILDING TEAM —**

† We are looking for kids in **years 7-10** who might be interested to join our youth choir. If you **play a musical instrument** or an **avid singer**, you are welcome to join us every **2nd Sunday of the month** for the 6pm mass. For more information please contact RJ Samonte at [gtkeyouth@gmail.com](mailto:gtkeyouth@gmail.com) or [raf.samonte@hotmail.com](mailto:raf.samonte@hotmail.com)

† Coming soon - Blaze -

† Knitting/crochet club is well underway. There’s still room for anyone who would like to join. Proposed meeting sessions:

Where: in the parish kitchen

When: twice a month

(a) 2nd Saturday 2.00pm, and

(b) last Tuesday after counting about 10.30am

## Why we do what we do...

### How should we prepare for Christmas?

Avoiding the commercialization of Christmas is a real challenge. For Catholics, the liturgical season of Advent helps us focus on the spiritual preparation for Christmas and on the coming of Our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming.”) The catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this “coming”: “When the church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming” (No. 524). Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back on Our Lord’s first coming when He humbled Himself, becoming incarnate and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the creed that Our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him.

So here are some good suggestions to prepare for Christmas. **First**, make an Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: God is eternal, and His love for us is everlasting. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new, everlasting life through His passion, death and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished and Christ will soon come. The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet Our Lord. Make the Advent wreath the centerpiece of

the dinner table. Light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers along with grace before meals. This daily practice will help each member of the family keep focused on the true meaning of Christmas

**Second**, pray. Hopefully prayer already is part of the daily routine, but if not, make it one. Schedule a regular time for prayer. Also, pray the rosary, individually or as a family. Ponder the various events in the life of Our Lord, and the example of Mary, “the handmaid of the Lord,” who gave of herself to receive the gift of the Savior. For little children, who have a shorter attention span, maybe just pray a decade each night, looking at one mystery; over the four weeks of Advent, all the mysteries will have been prayed.

**Third**, read sacred Scripture. This liturgical year, the Sunday Gospel passages will be taken primarily from St. Matthew. However, do not just read the Gospel; rather, spend a few minutes reflecting upon it, inserting oneself into the passage, and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak in the quiet of one’s heart.

**Fourth**, take the time for confession. Do a thorough examination of conscience. If it has been a while since the last confession, find a good examination of conscience, and over the course of the week — praying for help from the Holy Spirit — write down those sins that come to mind. Bring that examination to confession, receive absolution, and do the prescribed penance. Remember Psalm 51: “A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.”

**Fifth**, teach. For children especially, read to them the stories of St. Francis and the first Christmas crèche, St. Boniface and the first Christmas tree, or St. Nicholas who is Santa Claus. There are other good stories about the religious significance of Christmas greenery, poinsettias and window candles.

## Why we do cont'd...

**Sixth**, preach. To preach, one does not have to stand before a crowd or on the corner shouting Bible verses. There are subtle ways to preach Christmas: Most of us send some kind of greeting card — use religious cards and religious stamps and sign them with “May God bless you” or “I’ll be praying for you at Christmas.” When greeting people, say, “Merry Christmas,” not “Happy holidays” or “Seasons greetings”; people of goodwill will not be offended.

At social gatherings, preach by actions. St. Paul warns us to be temperate and not overindulge. We do not want to act in a way unbecoming of a Christian; a Christmas party should not be a bacchanalia. The topics of religion and politics inevitably emerge; some know-it-all will make derogatory comments about our church, usually out of ignorance. Defend the faith, speak the truth clearly and teach with love. We all know the hot topics, so be prepared. The angels announced good news on Christmas; we too are to be the messengers of the Gospel.

**Finally**, give. Give of yourself by doing good works. Good works help heal the hurts caused by sin, including our own. Remember the Advent calendars from Germany, where a door is opened each day, showing a little picture, and ends at Christmas? Start with a blank calendar. Each day, do a good work — say a prayer for a person, help a neighbor in need or make a sacrifice for a special intention. Whatever the good work, write it in the blank space. At the end of Advent, one will have a beautiful gift for the Lord.

Or, for families with children, set up the crèche with all of the figures except baby Jesus. Write the good work on a piece of paper and place it on the floor of the crèche or in Christ’s crib; then on Christmas, Jesus, Mary and Joseph will have a home filled with our love.

Or, clean out the closets of old clothes or toys, and give them to a charity. St. Francis said, “It is in giving that we receive,” and through our charitable works, we will receive the love of Christ Himself.

So, prepare this Advent to receive Christ as though He were coming for the first time. Make this Christmas a celebration of the birth of Our Savior and the great gift of faith we have received. By striving to live in the presence of Christ during Advent, we will receive the best present of all — Our Savior.

<http://catholicstraightanswers.com/prepare-christmas/>



— 2017 —

**Bart Sarlabus**  
**Bernadette Virwani**  
**Chris Drummond**  
**Gary Lee**  
**Julienne Crasto**  
**Nanette Gamboa**  
**Nidarshi Fernando**

## Youth Corner

### [GTK \(Getting to Know\)](#)



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.gtkyouthb.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 \(Community of the Risen Lord\)](#)

**When:** 2nd & 4th Saturdays  
Praise & Worship

**Where:** Church

**Time:** after 6:00pm vigil mass

### [YFC \(Youth for Christ\)](#)

**When:** Meets every 3rd Sundays

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

**Time:** 1:00pm Break open the word  
then 6.00pm Youth Mass

## Find the path



**Follow the branch that extends from King David to the birth of Jesus.**

## Word Find

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us

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

### *Find these words*

Angel baby dream embarrass Emmanuel engaged Joseph  
Mary promise quietly true young

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**

**Equality Funeral Services**  
Empathy, Quality & Diversity

Where To Start When Someone  
You Care About Dies

Tel no. 0405105993 All Hours

Entrust your loved one to us, where  
Your needs & wishes are fulfilled  
Without the burden of high cost  
[www.equalityfuneralservices.com.au](http://www.equalityfuneralservices.com.au)

Property Sales & Management  
making your move easy...



Joshi John 0410 066578/9631 1101

[joshi@mover Realty.com.au](mailto:joshi@mover Realty.com.au)

AD SPACE AVAILABLE

AD SPACE AVAILABLE



**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](http://www.allridpests.com.au)

**ZAC SAFE DRIVING**  
**SCHOOL**

Let me help your kids be safe  
drivers

**DOMINIC**  
**0412 945264**

**Bella's Law Group**

Mobile and home visits

Local Lawyer for over 15 years

Wills Powers of Attorney

Estates

Family Law Conveyancing

**0498235527** 0498(Bellas)

[Belinda@bellaslawgroup.com.au](mailto:Belinda@bellaslawgroup.com.au)

**Need Legal Advice?**

**Need Migration Assistance?**

**Morning Star**

**Legal & Migration Services**

[www.morningstarlegal.com.au](http://www.morningstarlegal.com.au)

or call **0478 173 474**

MARN 1461332