

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 (Wed/Fri)  
 ✉ 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 after the 7:30pm novena mass  
 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

**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.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

**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."*



**From the Pastor's desk**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ  
 Following on from last week's section from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew, this week's Gospel excerpt speaks of two key reinterpretations of the Mosaic Law.  
 Do not repay injury with injury, violence with violence. Love all human beings equally, not just those who are important in your lives. Thus, the Gospel of Jesus Christ declares that perfection does not mean doing everything perfectly according to the letter of the Law, simply keeping the rules. Rather, true perfection is struggling to control our anger, our desires, our lack of integrity in speech, to offer forgiveness and mercy to the wrongdoer, and to be loving to all we encounter.  
 This is the 'New Law' of the Lord Jesus... and in this way we will 'be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect'!

- Please note that on Wednesday there will be an extra Mass at Holy Cross School at 10am.
- The Opening School Masses for John XIII and St. Marks will be on Thurs and Fri at 10am in the School Hall.

3. Next Sunday evening after the 6pm Mass will be the first Ignite session for our senior Youth... Fr. Chris de Souza, our vicar-general will be speaking and leading the discussion on that evening.  
 God bless you all. Fr. John

FEB	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
SUN 19	12pm - Baptisms - Kelvin & Jarred
MON 20	9am - Liturgy of the Word
TUE 21	9am - Liturgy of the Word
WED 22	<i>The Chair of Saint Peter (F)</i> 7:30pm - RCIA session
THU 23	<i>Saint Polycarp (M)</i>
FRI 24	
SAT 25	CRL Youth meet after 6.00pm mass
SUN 26	12pm - Baptism - Sienna, Isaac, Lincoln



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

**Evangelicum**

**Pope Tells of 3 Traits Which Have Helped Church Grow**

Courage, prayer, and humility are the traits that distinguish the great “heralds” who have helped the Church to grow in the world.

Francis also drew his inspiration from the day’s first Reading, with the figures of Paul and Barnabas; and of the Gospel from St Luke, with the seventy-two disciples sent out two-by-two by the Lord.

*Sowers Needed*

Recalling that Cyril and Methodius made Europe stronger, the Jesuit Pope noted that today, ‘sowers of the Word’ are needed.

The Holy Father explained that an ‘envoy’s’ first trait ought to be ‘frankness,’ which includes strength and courage.

“The Word of God cannot be given as a proposal – ‘well, if you like it...’ – or like good philosophical or moral idea – ‘well, you can live this way...’ No! It’s something else. It needs to be proposed with this frankness, with this force, so that the Word penetrates, as Paul says, ‘to the bone.’

The Word of God, Pope Francis stressed, must be proclaimed with this frankness, force and courage.

“The person who doesn’t have courage – spiritual courage, courage of heart, who is not enamored of Jesus! – No, you will say, yes, something interesting, something moral, something that will do you good, a good philanthropy, but this is not the Word of God. And this is incapable, this word, of forming the people of God. Only the Word of God proclaimed with this frankness, with this courage, is capable of forming the people of God.”

*Need Hearts in Prayer*

Recalling the Gospel of St Luke, Pope Francis mentioned other traits proper to a “herald” of the Word of God.

In addition to having the courage of missionaries, what is essential, the Pope stressed, is prayer.

“The Word of God should be proclaimed with prayer, also. Always. Without prayer, you could have a good conference, good instruction: good, good! But it is not the Word of God. The Word of God can only come from a heart in prayer.

“Prayer,” he noted, “so that the Lord might accompany this sowing of the Word, so that the Lord might water the seed so that the Word will sprout. The Word of God should be proclaimed with prayer: the prayer of the one who proclaims the Word of God.”

*An Anecdote*

To emphasize the great heralds’ humility, Francis recalled a story told to him by someone who bragged of preaching the Word of God well.

After a good sermon, the Holy Father said, “he went to the confessional, and found

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**24-26 February - Lenten Retreat for Young Adults**

Jesus invites you to journey with Him this Lent and allow your heart to be transformed. Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: students \$180, employed \$210. Registration essential, contact Sr M Julie [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com)

**4 March— LIFTED Breakfast with the Bishop**

Catholic Youth Parramatta invites secondary school students (16+), youth and young adults to breakfast with Bishop Vincent. Join us as we 'launch into the deep' this 2017! Cost: \$5 donation towards a full buffet breakfast. From 9.00am-11.30am at Novotel Sydney, Rooty Hill. RSVP Friday 24 February via CYP Facebook or by email to James Camden (CYP Director) [jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au)

**10-12 March—Retreat for Mature Catholic Women – Food for Mind & Soul**

Retreat led by Andrea Dean. Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Early bird registration: \$420, includes course, individual sessions, accommodation, linen and all meals. The retreat program will invite reflection on personal faith stories, a healthy Catholic spirituality, a 'second half of life' spirituality and the various ways that women can nurture and develop their spirituality. Registration and further details at [www.andreadean.com.au](http://www.andreadean.com.au) or 0487 388 873.

**12 March - Pilgrimage Information Session**

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Parish Priest of St Michael's Parish, Baulkham Hills, is accompanying a pilgrimage 'Of Celtic Saints, English Martyrs and Aussie Links'. The pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland and England will depart on 25 September and return on 25 October. Some of the saints are: John Henry Newman, Patrick, Oliver

Plunkett, Catherine McAuley, Columba, Mary MacKillop, Hilda of Whitby, Venerable Bede and Thomas Becket. English martyrs Margaret Clitheroe, Edmund Campion and John Fisher. Places include Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, Glastonbury, Dublin, Knock, Fort William, Iona, Holy Island (Lindisfarne), Durham, York, Cambridge, Walsingham, London and Canterbury.

Information afternoon starts 2.30pm in Downey Room, St Michael's Parish Offices, 1-3 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills. Brochures available via e-mail to Fr Wim at [nimb@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:nimb@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au) or PO Box 1501, Baulkham Hills, NSW, 1755.

**24-25 March 2017—24 Hrs for the Lord - Living Water @ Schoenstatt Shrine**

Come and spend some time with Our Lord and His Mother in the Schoenstatt Shrine during this very special 24 hours. This annual gathering will begin with Holy Mass at 6pm on Friday 24 March and finish with Holy Mass at 5pm on Saturday 25 March. Reflection and music every hour for 30 minutes followed by silent prayer time. Reconciliation available. Tea & coffee available.

Accommodation at the retreat house is available for anyone who might wish to immerse themselves in this 24 hours. Join us on Facebook Mt Schoenstatt Shrine a Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. The Schoenstatt Shrine - 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Inquiries & bookings tel (02) 4773 8338 or [emailmanager@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:emailmanager@schoenstatt.org.au)

**18 March - St Patrick's Family Festival**

Everyone is welcome to this festival hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta and the Life, Marriage & Family Office. Rides, food and entertainment from 2.00pm-5.00pm in St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct. Visit [parralmf.org.au/st-patricks-day](http://parralmf.org.au/st-patricks-day)

Following on from last week's section from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew, this week's Gospel excerpt speaks of two key reinterpretations of the Mosaic Law.

Do not repay injury with injury, violence with violence.

The Lex Talionis ('eye for an eye') was a good law in a primitive society, but Jesus wants his Disciples to do more than the letter of the law... rather, Christians should avoid living with a 'strict' sense of justice. Justice must always be tempered with compassion. If we act out of justice alone, then we can find ourselves being guilty of injustice ourselves. Our 'righteousness' can become a sin itself, for condemnation of wrongdoing needs to be tempered with mercy and forgiveness. This doesn't mean that wrongdoers should not be punished, but it does mean that BOTH justice and mercy need to be offered the sinner.

Love all human beings equally, not just those who are important in your lives.

The Mosaic Law saw 'neighbour' as restricted to one's fellow Jews. So, when Jesus is asked 'Who is my neighbour?', He surprised everyone by offering the Parable of the Good Samaritan (a non-Jew; indeed, a member of a race hated by the Jews of his time). And here Jesus reinforcing his revolutionary teaching by declaring that we should be loving and caring to ALL - no matter who they may be.

Thus, the Gospel of Jesus Christ declares that perfection does not mean doing everything perfectly according to the letter of the Law, simply keeping the rules. Rather, true perfection is struggling to control our anger, our desires, our lack of integrity in speech, to offer forgiveness and mercy to the wrongdoer, and to be loving to all we encounter.

This is the 'New Law' of the Lord Jesus... and in this way we will 'be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect'!

Evangelicum con't

there a 'great fish,' a great sinner, and he wept... he wanted to ask for forgiveness. And this confessor," the Pope continued, "began to swell up with pride and curiosity" and asked the person which word had touched him so much "that he was moved to repent."

"It was when you said," the Pope said, "let's move on to another topic."

"I don't know if it's true," Francis pointed out, but it certainly is true, he noted, that one will finish badly if one carries the Gospel "feeling sure of himself, and not like a lamb, whom the Lord will defend."

Stressing we all ought to go forth courageously, prayerfully and humbly, as did Cyril and Methodius, Pope Francis concluded, praying that these saints help us "to proclaim the Word of God" according to these criteria.

<https://zenit.org/articles/popes-morning-homily-pope-tells-3-traits-which-have-helped-church-grow/>

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

*You must love your neighbour, as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: "Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Communion Antiphon

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

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

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

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

But if anyone  
**OBEYS His word,**  
God's love is truly  
made complete in  
him.



Word Find

Love your enemies

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

Find these words

Cheek enemies greet lend love money pray reward  
Shirt tooth unbelievers wrong

## Youth Corner

### 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. Meet new people, enjoy some food and develop your relationship with God and those around us through prayer, reflection and good discussions with insightful guest speakers.

Upcoming event for Feb 2017 with Very Rev Christopher de Souza PP EV

### BLAZE

If you're in Year 7 to 10, come and join us. Further details to be advised.

### CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

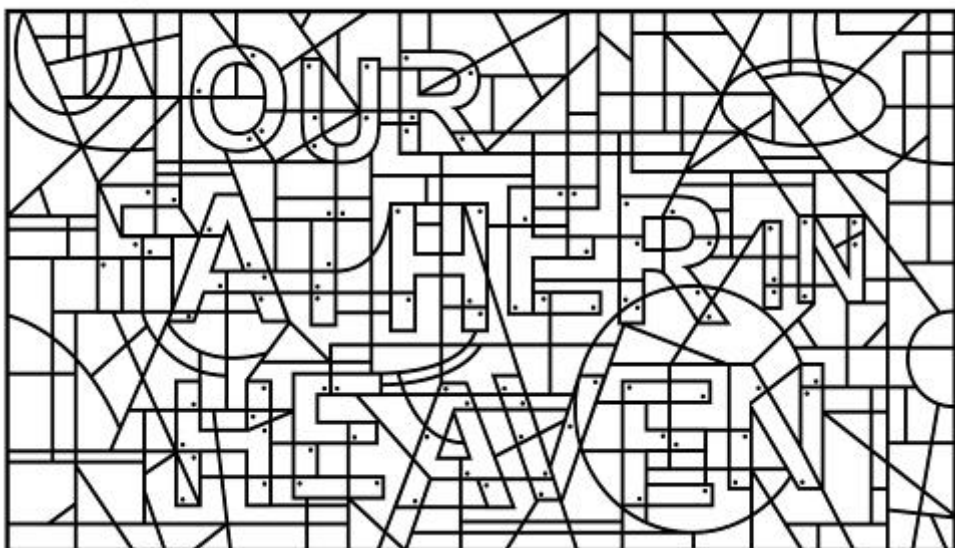
**When:** 2nd & 4th Saturdays  
Praise & Worship

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



## Colour In

Color in the shapes with a dot to reveal who we are behaving like when we show love for those who are unkind to us.



## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:16-23 10

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

1 John 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 5:38-48

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Readings for Next Week

20 Mon 7th Week Ordinary Time

1st Reading Sirach 1:1-10  
Psalm Ps 92:1-2. 5  
Gospel Mark 9:14-29

21 Tues 7th Week Ordinary Time

1st Reading Sirach 2:1-11  
Psalm Ps 36:3-4. 18-19. 27-28. 39-40  
Gospel Mark 9:30-37

22 Wed The Chair of Saint Peter (F)

1st Reading 1 Peter 5:1-4  
Psalm Ps 22  
Gospel Matthew 16:13-19

23 Thu Saint Polycarp (M)

1st Reading Sirach 5:1-8  
Revelation 2:8-11  
Psalm Ps 1:1-4. 6  
Ps 30:3-4. 6. 8. 16-17

Gospel Mark 9:41-50  
John 15:18-21

24 Fri 7th Week Ordinary Time

1st Reading Sirach 6:5-17  
Psalm Ps 118:12. 16. 18. 27. 34-35

Gospel Mark 10:1-12

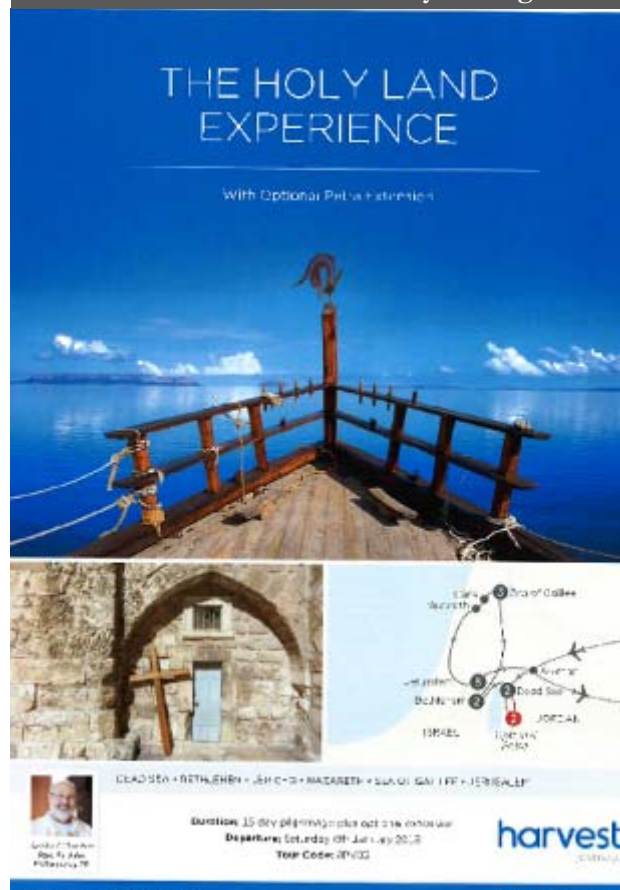
25 Sat 7th Week Ordinary Time

1st Reading Sirach 17:1-15  
Psalm Ps 102:13-18  
Gospel Mark 10:13-16

Full weekly readings can be found in the parish website  
<http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/>

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15 Day Pilgrimage



**Duration:** 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension.

**Departure:** Saturday 6th January 2018

**Tour Code:** 8PV03

**Email:** [info@harvestjourneys.com](mailto:info@harvestjourneys.com)

**Toll free:** 1800 819 156

Why we do... (con't)

How we treat one another and especially the least among us, what we profess and hold to be true, how we pray and worship, the questions we ask and the careers we pursue are no mere accidents nor matters of insignificance. They are rather measures of the grace we have been given and of our fidelity to God's call in our lives, and as such, they are the ways in which we are meant to transform the world.

<http://www.providence.edu/mission-ministry/about>

WHY?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?



## Why we do what we do...

### What does it mean to be Catholics?

This is not an easy question to answer. On the one hand, it means that one is a member of the Catholic Church, believes what the Church teaches, and does what Catholics do. On the other hand, to be catholic -- and here the lowercase is intentional -- is to be open, tolerant, and universal in one's interests and sympathies. Both definitions are right. But the most radical sense of being Catholic is to view the created world as a sacrament of the divine, that is, as something that both points to and makes present God's saving grace.

This is a radical claim and implies a reconciliation of what otherwise appears to be opposed. But it is one that derives from our faith in Jesus Christ who in his own person effected that reconciliation. Jesus is both the son of Mary and the Son of God, and as such is fully human and fully divine.

This is what is meant by the doctrine of the Incarnation, a word that literally means taking on flesh. In Jesus, God took on our humanity and made it his own. In this way the humanity of Jesus reveals his divinity. It also changes our understanding of the relationship between the Creator and his creation. For if the humanity of Jesus -- his flesh and blood -- can reveal and make present his divinity, then creation is raised to a new dignity by virtue of God's self revelation. This becomes especially apparent when we consider the church.

The faults and failings of the church are all too apparent, and its humanity, its creatureliness if you will, is certainly evident in the people who belong to it. Yet Catholics believe that despite its limitations the church has been chosen and sanctified by God to be a sacrament of Jesus Christ, to embody his person and mission and to both point to him and make him present in the work that it does in his name.

It is for this reason that Catholics believe that bread and wine at Mass become the Body and Blood of Christ, that pouring water on a child's brow in baptism renders her a new creation in Christ, and that a young couple's marriage vows transforms their intimate love for one another into an expression of God's love for us all.

Thus, there is a paradox at the heart of the sacramental vision for what appears to be ordinary, a mere creature, is in fact extraordinary by virtue of having been transformed by God's saving grace. In a more limited way, the same could be said about a poet's words, a doctor's care, and a friend's forgiveness for all that is good comes from God, reflects the goodness of God, and points back to God.

To view the world in this way -- to see the world of people and things as capable of revealing God and to understand that God's grace can suffuse even seemingly secular realities -- is to regard all things as potentially holy. And because they are we are required to live and act in particular ways.

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Fr Timothy Crowley, Fr Quinn,  
Hector Corpus, Maria Pinky Baartz,  
Roger Avila

### Deceased:

Mark De Jesus

### Anniversary:

Jacques Rehaut, Pacita &  
Dedro Bernardo, Miguelito Ortiz,  
William Keenan, Domenico Surdich



### Sick:

Pat Daley, Karam Matte, Cay Espanta,  
Donatila Ramos, Genevieve D'Silva,  
Greg Chapman, Alfred Miler,  
Sue Laxton, Maria Luisa Celdran-Matias,  
Elpido Beltran

### Thanksgiving:

Charmaine Beltran, Letlet Fontanilla

Mass  
cards  
available  
at 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.

## 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.



Even if Jesus lays on us some part of the cross, He is there to help us bear it with self, sacrifice and love.  
— Pope St John XXIII

————— FAITH FORMATION TEAM —————

✦ LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Lenten Season will soon be upon us (Mar. 1 – Ash Wednesday). The Faith Formation Committee is once again running a series of spiritual discussion groups for Lent. If you have a group (prayer group, CFC, SRE, Youth, etc.), want to join a group or if you want to form and lead a discussion group, a sign up sheet is available at the entrance foyer. The group will meet once a week for seven weeks from Ash Wednesday (01 March) to Good Friday. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Franco on 0401387427. Notices are also located on the doors of the church.

✦ 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 Evening Prayer at 6.30pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, Mass and Novena prayers at 7:30pm with sung Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the novena mass.

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) or Melva Paguinto (after novena mas). Pick up the statue after the novena mass and return a week after before the start of the novena mass. A good time for the whole family to pray the rosary together and maybe invite other family members and friends to join in prayer.

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

	7	14	21	28	
February	Bacolod	Lee (Gary)	Alejandro	Shalini	
March	Paguinto	Sebastian	Shalini	Nobleza	
April	Jacinta	Olan	Sebastian	Jacinta	
May	Shalini	Cano	Available	Available	30 Available

————— COMMUNITY BUILDING TEAM —————

✦ Knitting/crochet club meets twice a month in the parish kitchen.

- (a) 2nd Saturday of the month at 2.00pm, and
- (b) last Tuesday of the month about 10.30am

There’s still room for anyone who would like to join. Contacts are Colleen McCunnie & Rita Mateazzi. Some projects are being planned



We will be holding the following cake stalls during the Sunday masses for this year with scheduled dates

of: **5th Mar, 4th June, 3rd Sep, 3rd Dec**

Everyone is invited to join us! We’re aiming to raise \$5,000 and your continued generosity and support will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to make donations of cakes/savouries/hot dishes, please contact Jill on 0402 172346 or email [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au). **We are always looking for new Angels to join us!** Thank you and we hope to see you soon.

**We need your palms**

We need a good supply of palms from last Easter, which will be burned for the ashes for this Ash Wednesday. Please leave your palms in the box at the front door by Sunday **19 February**.

**Wall of Remembrance**

We are taking orders for plaques in memory of your deceased loved ones, which will be ready by Easter. Please call the parish office (02 9852 0580) or email John McCartney ([businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)) to discuss or place your order by **Friday 24 February**.

**Family Lenten Program**

The Diocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office has produced a Family Lenten Program as a support in their faith journey towards Easter. The program is based around the theme of Lead us to Living Water. It is based on the Sunday Gospel reading with reflections, colourful pictures, prayers and activities that the whole family can do together. This resource will be available in your parish the week before the start of Ash Wednesday on Sunday, 26th February.

**Diocesan Works Fund Appeal**

The DWF Appeal is being held across the Diocese during February. Donations to the appeal will provide financial support to our not-for-profit social services. Each year, more than 20,000 inquiries for assistance are received by the Ephpheta Centre, which supports the deaf, and CatholicCare from refugees, youth, families, young mothers, the elderly and people with disability. Appeal envelopes are available from your parish or donate online at [www.faihatwork.org.au](http://www.faihatwork.org.au)

**SHROVE TUESDAY**

Come and join us for pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, **28th Feb**, after the novena mass. Everyone welcome. Donation of pancakes most welcome.