

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**22 - 23 APRIL 2017**

**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

Christ is Risen; He is truly Risen! Alleluia!  
 As we celebrate the 8th Day in the Octave of Easter, let's ask for God's Divine Mercy to be poured out on the world in abundance... so that those of us who are 'in Christ' by virtue of our Baptism may truly be the face of Christ to those who need to hear the joy of the Gospel.

I would like to offer a big **Thank You** to all those wonderful parishioners who spent so much time and energy in the preparation of our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. So many did so much, and those who participated in the marvellous ceremonies were blessed as a result.  
 To our four new Catholics: Wendy, Jaayla, Sarah and Shane... welcome to this, your new family in the Lord! Let us pray for these newly confirmed members of our Community in the weeks ahead!



APR		PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
SUN 23		<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i> Baptisms— Slade, Emerson, Zara, Ava, Mason, Olivia Wedding - 2.00pm Joshua & Claudine Monsignor Shora 7:15pm - IGNITE
MON 24		
TUE 25		<i>ANZAC Day</i> No Novena mass
WED 26		<i>St Mark (F)</i> No Holy Cross mass 7.30pm Baptism Preparation
THU 27		
FRI 28		<i>St Peter Chanel (M)</i> 7:30pm - BLAZE
SAT 29		<i>St Catherine Siena (M)</i> 8.00am - 5.30pm St John XXIII Prayer Group Seminar "Living by the Power of God" 10am - Welcomer's meeting

## Pastor's Desk cont'd

1. The next **IGNITE** for (16-35 year olds, single or married) is on Sunday evening (23rd April) after the 6pm Mass in the Church. All are welcome...
2. This week we celebrate **ANZAC DAY** on Tuesday. Mass will be at the usual time of 9am. Being a public holiday, there will be NO NOVENA Mass this Tuesday evening.
3. Due to my absence this week, there will be *no Holy Cross Mass on Wednesday 26/4*.
4. Baptism Preparation for May occurs in our Church on Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.
5. Our new Youth Group for Years 7-10 (**BLAZE**) is being launched on Friday 28th April.... Please encourage our young people to join in this new and exciting undertaking.
6. **REMINDER: the PARENT EVENING for FIRST COMMUNION** is on Wed 3rd May... All parents are expected to attend.

God bless you all. Let us continue to pray for one another. *Fr. John*

## 15 Day Pilgrimage

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

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

**Departure:** Saturday 6th January 2018

**Tour Code:** 8PV03

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

**Call** 1800 819 156 Toll free

Spiritual Chaplain: Fr John McSweeney

**Book now**



Deposit for the Pilgrimage has been reduced from \$1000 to \$600 thanks to Fr John's intervention.)

## Gospel Reflection

Our Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter (Year A) all speak of the need to have Faith in the Risen Lord, despite the fact that we cannot see Him in the flesh. The Gospel from John tells us of the Story of Thomas, who was not with the Disciples when the Lord appeared to them on Easter Sunday evening. But when the Lord appeared to them 8 days later (the Octave Day of Easter), Thomas is challenged to move from his doubt to full Faith in the Risen Lord. And he utters those magnificent words that sum up our post-Resurrectional Faith: 'My Lord and My God!'. What is of more importance in the text is the Beatitude which follows: "You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe"!

## EVANGELICUM

Part of Pope Francis' reflection Easter Sunday...

How lovely it is to think that Christianity is, essentially, this! It is not so much our search in our relations with God – a search, in truth, so vacillating –, but rather God's search of us in our relations with Him. Jesus has seized us, He has gripped us; He has won us, never to leave us again. Christianity is grace, it is surprise, and for this reason it presupposes a heart capable of amazement. A closed heart, a rationalistic heart is incapable of amazement, and cannot understand what Christianity is. Because Christianity is grace, and grace is only perceived and what is more it is found in the astonishment of the encounter.

And then, even if we are sinners — all of us are sinners, if our good resolutions remain on paper, or if, looking at our life, we realize we have added many failures . . . On the morning of Easter we can do as those people that Gospel talks about: to go to Jesus' sepulcher, see the large stone overturned and think that God is bringing about for me, for all of us, an unexpected future. To go to our sepulcher: we all have a little of it inside. To go there, and to see how God is capable of rising from there. There is happiness, joy and life here, where all thought there was sadness, defeat and darkness. God makes his most beautiful flowers grow amid the most arid stones.

To be Christians means not to begin from death, but from God's love for us, who has defeated our severest enemy. God is greater than anything, and only one lit candle is enough to overcome the darkest of nights. Paul cries out, echoing the prophets: "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" (v. 55). During these days of Easter, let us bear this cry in our heart. And if we were asked the reason for our given smile and our patient sharing, then we can answer that Jesus is still here, that He continues to be alive among us, that Jesus is here, in the Square, with us: alive and risen.

## Gospel Reflection

Christ declares more blessed those of us who have not been witnesses to the Lord's physical presence but who believe even in the Lord's absence!

Peter says something similar in the Second Reading: "You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe".

Again, the Scriptures are complimenting us who strive to understand and have Faith despite the difficulties of human existence. We are filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and are enabled to remain faithful in all circumstances that Life throws our way. So there is the promise: "...when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold... and then you will have praise and glory and honour".

## Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

## Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

## First Reading

*Acts 2:42-47*

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among

themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24*

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **R.**

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 20:29*

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

THE WORD  
OF GOD

**God's words**  
**goes to work in**  
**those who believe**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

John 20:19-31

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side,

I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me, Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 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

### **24 Mon Second week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 4:23-31

Psalm Ps 2:1-9

Gospel John 3:1-8

### **25 Tues Anzac Day**

1st Reading Wisdom 3:1-9

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalm Ps 114 and Ps 115

Ps 71:1-4. 7-8

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Ephesians 2:13-18

Gospel John 12:23-28

John 14:23-29

### **26 Wed Saint Mark (F)**

1st Reading 1 Peter 5:5-14

Psalm Ps 88:2-3. 6-7. 16-17

Gospel Mark 16:15-20

### **27 Thu Second week of Easter**

1st Reading Acts 5:27-33

Psalm Ps 33:2. 9. 17-20

Gospel John 3:31-36

### **28 Fri Saint Peter Chanel (M)**

1st Reading Acts 5:34-42

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Psalm Ps 26:1-4. 13-14

Ps 116

Gospel John 6:1-15

Mark 1:14-20

### **29 Sat Saint Catherine of Siena (M)**

1st Reading Acts 6:1-7

1 John 1:5 - 2:2

Psalm Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19

Ps 102:1-4. 8-9. 13-14. 17-18

Gospel John 6:16-21

Matthew 11:25-30

Full weekly readings can be found in the parish  
website

<http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/>

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## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Yelly Joko, Victoria Vergel  
-Roldan, Soledad Bautista,  
Ferdinand Jacob, Indrajith  
Fernando, Xavier Ferreira



### Deceased:

Mark De Jesus, Mario Zec

### Anniversary:

Manuel Ravelo Teaano

### Sick:

Pat Daley, Karam Matte, Cay Espanta,  
Genevieve D'Silva, Elpido Beltran,  
Greg Chapman, Alfred Miler,  
Sue Laxton,

### Thanksgiving:

Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria, Ramon,  
Vincenzo Zamora, Alfonso Cobarrubias,  
Lolita U Ribargoso, Robert Hennessy,  
Clare Adams, Catherine Harrison,  
Paul Irving

## 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*).

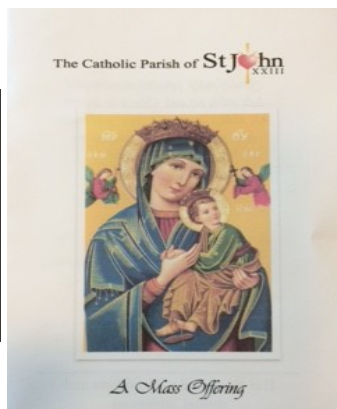
It is used to pay the team/staff salaries, superannuation and each priest's car expenses, loan interest and loan repayment.

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.

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.

## Parish Pastoral Corner

*The family is the first essential cell of human society.  
— Pope St John XXIII*

### FAITH FORMATION

#### ⇒ Our Lady of Perpetual Help Statue

We continue to ask for host families to pray the Rosary at home and request 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 mass). Pick up the statue after the novena mass and return a week after, before the start of the novena mass. ***"A family that prays together, stays together: Fr Patrick Peyton"***

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

Apr	4	11	18	25	
	Jacinta	Olan	Sebastian	Jacinta	
May	2	9	16	23	30
	Shalini	Cano	Ivon	Fernando	Solisa
Jun	6	13	20	27	
	Sebastian	Mojica	Matias M	Matias J	
Jul	4	11	18	25	
	Tangunanan	Shalini	Ivon	Available	
Aug	1	8	15	22	29
	Lozada	Available	Available	Pangilinan	Available

⇒ **The St. John XXIII Prayer Group** is a "parish based prayer group united and committed to love and serve God and one another, moving within our family, community and nation". The Prayer Group invites you to their basic formation seminar ***"Living by the Power of God"***

**When:** 29 April 2017 **Time:** 8:00am - 5:30pm

**Where:** St. Mark's Staff Room St. John XXIII Parish Stanhope Gardens

⇒ The Faith Formation Committee invites all of you to stay for a short, half hour video presentation on ***"The Catholic Faith Explained"*** following straight after every Mass commencing on the weekend of **06 May 2017**. Please contact Rose on 0401 387 427 for further details.

## Parish Notices

### CHURCH SECURITY

We regret having to issue this warning. There have been a number of thefts from the church, including choir equipment and ladies' handbags, mainly during the week. Please do not leave your valuables unattended and bring them with you to communion. Please call the parish office if you notice anything suspicious.

### KNIT/CROCHET CLUB

Calling all those avid knitters and crocheters, we are preparing for the winter months and we have some projects underway. If you are able and would like to join us and help out, please contact, via email, Coleen McCunnie [colleenmcc@bigpond.com](mailto:colleenmcc@bigpond.com) or Rita Mateazzi [marcellino5@bigpond.com](mailto:marcellino5@bigpond.com).

### WELCOMING GROUP

We will be having a meeting on Saturday the 29th April at 10 am in the Church Kitchen for all those who have volunteered to be part of the welcoming group at weekend Masses.

Mr Richard McMahon from the Pastoral Office of the Parramatta Diocese has kindly agreed to come and provide an orientation to the volunteers.

We will also provide you with a roster based on your preferred weekend Mass time.

There will be light refreshments after this session. Please bring a plate of food if you can, to contribute to the refreshments.

We also welcome any one who has not yet volunteered, but would like to be part of this team.

A poster with a light blue background. At the top, the words "LIVING BY THE POWER OF GOD" are written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below the text, a person is shown from the back, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and light-colored pants, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. In the bottom left corner, the following text is written in a smaller, black font: "When: 29 April 2017", "Time: 8am – 5:30pm", "Where: St. Marks Staff Room", "St. John 23rd Parish", "Stanhope Gardens". In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for the "SAINT JOHN XXIII WELCOMING GROUP". The logo features a cross in the center, with a book and a candle on either side, and the text "SAINT JOHN XXIII" at the top and "WELCOMING GROUP" at the bottom.

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

### The Feast Of Mercy

*The New Plenary Indulgence*

During the course of Jesus' revelations to Saint Faustina on the Divine Mercy He asked on numerous occasions that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy and that this feast be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. The liturgical texts of that day, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, concern the institution of the Sacrament of Penance, the Tribunal of the Divine Mercy, and are thus already suited to the request of Our Lord. This Feast, which had already been granted to the nation of Poland and been celebrated within Vatican City, was granted to the Universal Church by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sr. Faustina on 30 April 2000. In a decree dated 23 May 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come." These papal acts represent the highest endorsement that the Church can give to a private revelation, an act of papal infallibility proclaiming the certain sanctity of the mystic, and the granting of a universal feast, as requested by Our Lord to St. Faustina.

Concerning the Feast of Mercy Jesus said:

*Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (Diary 300)*

*I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. (Diary 341)*

*This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. (Diary 420)*

*On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.\*[our emphasis] On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary 699)*

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it. (Diary 742)

**BLAZE**  
YOUTH GROUP

**THE WORD BECAME STATUS**  
TRUTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA

YEAR 7-10  
FRIDAY 28 APRIL  
SAINT MARKS SCHOOL HALL  
7PM - 9PM

**KICK-OFF NIGHT**  
28 April  
Youth Nights will commence in Term 2, kicking off on the Friday of Week 1. This will primarily be a social night and is a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other.

**TERM 2 YOUTH NIGHTS**  
12 May  
26 May  
9 June  
23 June  
The following sessions (Term 2 Weeks 3, 5, 7 and 9) will cover "The Complete & Total Guide to Happiness". This series of Youth Nights will explore how Jesus is at work in our daily lives and how we can be happier by living more like Jesus.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY EVENT**  
7 July  
youth@john23rd.com

## Why we do . . . .

I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy. (Diary 1109)

As you can see the Lord's desire for the Feast includes the solemn, public veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy by the Church, as well as personal acts of veneration and mercy. The great promise for the individual soul is that a devotional act of sacramental penance and Communion will obtain for that soul the plenitude of the divine mercy on the Feast.

\*The Cardinal of Krakow, Cardinal Macharski, whose diocese is the center of the spread of the devotion and the sponsor of the Cause of Sr. Faustina, has written that we should use Lent as preparation for the Feast and confess even before Holy Week! So, it is clear that the confessional requirement does not have to be met on the Feast itself. That would be an impossible burden for the clergy if it did. The Communion requirement is easily met that day, however, since it is a day of obligation, being Sunday. We would only need confession again, if received earlier in Lenten or Easter Season, if we were in the state of mortal sin on the Feast.

*Diary, Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul (c) 1987 Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, MA 01263. All rights reserved. Used with permission.*

<http://www.evtm.com.au/devotionals/mercy/feast.htm>

## Youth Corner

### IGNITE - Enkindling the fire of faith

Young adults from 16 - 35 years of age meets every 4th 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.

**Next session:** 23 April 2017

**Topic:** tba

**Guest Speaker:** tba

**CRL** (Community of the Risen Lord)

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

Praise & Worship

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

### BLAZE

If you're in Years 7 to 10, come and join us.

Brochures at the foyer for more information.

### WHY?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?



Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

## Complete the Text Maze

**"You are my Lord and my God!"**

START

E	D	R	C	A	S	F	O	<b>Y</b>
S	A	O	L	F	W	A	U	A
D	N	S	Y	M	E	R	E	R
M	A	O	L					
Y	G	D	O					
K	O	H	T					
C	<b>D</b>	F	P					

FINISH



# Word Find

Happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

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

## Find these words

Afraid   appeared   doubting   faith   finger   forgive   greeted  
Receive   scars   spear   Spirit   Thomas

## Diocesan News

### **29 April - Time for Us to go on a Date**

An evening for couples to dance, dine and prayer together at Mount Schoenstatt on Sat, 29 April from 5-10pm. For more information or to register: Sr M Julie Brcar ISSM, tel 0408 728334, [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com)  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/1494512160560110/>

### **30 April - Nigerian Catholic Women's Group Retreat (Open to all women)**

Open to all women, the Nigerian Catholic Women's Group warmly invites you to their retreat. The theme: Mary our model. A one-day retreat to enrich us in preparing spiritually for our Mother's Day celebration and beyond. Guest speaker/moderator Rev Fr Suresh Kumar – Mary, model of humility for Christian women; and guest speaker Sr Grace Roclawska CSFN – Praying with Mary, our Mother. St George Preca Parish Centre, Our Lady Queen of Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Arrive 3.00pm for 3.30pm start, closes 7.00pm with dinner. This retreat is open to all women (not just Nigerians) and is hosted by Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, tel 045 11 744 38, Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

### **2 May - Parishes Making Connections NSW Conference**

Shane Dwyer, director of the National Centre for Evangelisation, keynotes this year's NSW Catholic Pastoral Conference. Includes presentations and networking with parishes and schools offering successful ministries with small faith groups and with youth engagement. For parishioners, school staff and clergy. Lidcombe, 10.00am-4.00pm, optional dinner. \$60 registration: [www.trybooking.com/PBCM](http://www.trybooking.com/PBCM)  
Endorsed by our Pastoral Planning Office. For inquiries and flyer: Greg Byrne tel 0427 918568, [gregbyrne3@bigpond.com](mailto:gregbyrne3@bigpond.com)

### **6 May - "My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord"**

Reflection Day for Women on Saturday 6 May 9.30 am – 3.00 pm at Mt Schoenstatt, Fairlight Rd Mulgoa. Hosted by Sr Mary Louise Walsh. Cost \$25 BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided.  
To register: [info@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:info@schoenstatt.org.au)

ST JOHN XXIII WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY  
St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations. To advertise in this space, please contact the parish office

AD SPACE

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