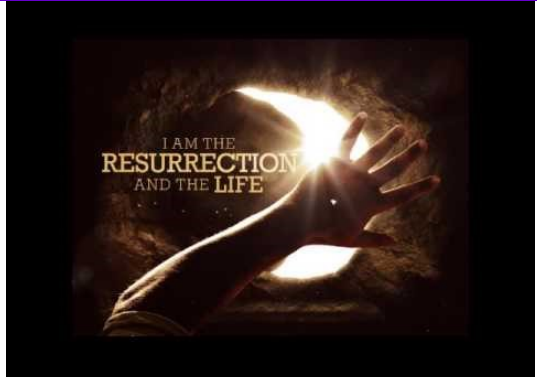


**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**1 - 2 APRIL 2017**

**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**

As we move closer to the great celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection this Easter, we are presented with texts from Scripture which encourage us to reflect on God's intention to give His creation New Life in abundance. From the Old Testament book of Ezekiel's promise from the Lord that our graves will be opened and we will be raised, through our Second Reading containing St. Paul's reflection on how we are living a New Life through the resurrection experience of Baptism in which we have all shared, to the Seventh and final Sign in John's Gospel surrounding the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead... we are invited to embrace our new lives as a resurrected people in Christ.

In this penultimate week of Lent, let us ask for the grace of God to strengthen our Lenten discipline and enable us to experience renewal and New Life at Easter!

APR	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
SUN 2	12pm - BAPTISMS - Jackson, Annabel, Lucy, Marue, Macy, Addison, Harley
MON 3	
TUE 4	
WED 5	7:30pm - RCIA session
THU 6	
FRI 7	7pm - Stations of the Cross 7:30pm - First Friday Novena
SAT 8	2pm - Knitting/Crochet Club

## Pastor's Desk cont'd

1. We keep our Year 12 students in our prayers as they have their final school Retreat this week.

2. This Friday is *FIRST FRIDAY*, and there will be the usual **Novena Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:30pm**. All welcome.

3. There will be **EXTRA CONFESSIONS** next **Saturday (8th April) from 4:30pm** - with both Fr. Thomas and myself available. This is the last chance for Confessions before Easter in our Parish... as the Tradition of the Church is that all Sacraments should be celebrated *before* Holy Thursday (and not on Good Friday!) ... so please take this into consideration.

There will also be a **SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION** at **Castle Hill on Tuesday of Holy Week (11 April) at 7:30pm**.

4. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, and the commencement of Holy Week.

5. The *TIMETABLE for Holy Week*:

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper... **7:30pm**, with adoration until 11pm.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross... **10am** (at Holy Cross School)

Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion... **3pm**

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil... **7:00-9:30pm**

Easter Sunday: Masses as normal (including Sunday evening).

## 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

**Call** 1800 819 156 Toll free

**Spiritual Chaplain:** Fr John McSweeney

**Book now**

**THE HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE**

With Optional Petra Extension

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**Duration:** 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension  
**Departure:** Saturday 6th January 2018  
**Tour Code:** 8PV03

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## Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

## First Reading

*Ezekiel 37:12-14*

*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 129*

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ear be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

## Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

## Second Reading

*Romans 8:8-11*

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 11:25. 26*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel (long version)

John 11:1-45

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then

Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the

## Gospel (long version)

*John 11:1-45*

tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth

day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!'

The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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.



is **LIVING**  
and **ACTIVE**  
sharper than  
any **two-edged**  
**sword.**

## Readings for Next Week

### 3 Mon 5th week of Lent

1st Reading Daniel 13:1-9. 15-17. 19-30. 33-62 (long)

Daniel 13:41-62 (short)

Psalm Ps 22

Gospel John 8:1-11

### 4 Tues 5th week of Lent

1st Reading Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm Ps 101:2-3. 16-21

Gospel John 8:21-30

### 5 Wed 5th week of Lent

1st Reading Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25. 28

Psalm Daniel 3:52-56

Gospel John 8:31-42

### 6 Thu 5th week of Lent

1st Reading Genesis 17:3-9

Psalm Ps 104:4-9

Gospel John 8:51-59

### 7 Fri 5th week of Lent

1st Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalm Ps 17:2-7

Gospel John 10:31-42

### 8 Sat 5th week of Lent

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:21-28

Psalm Jeremiah 31:10-13

Gospel John 11:45-56

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:

Nena Celdran Matias.  
Marcel Zaia, Yelly Joko,  
Victoria Vergel-Roldan

### Deceased:

Rosario Jovilla,  
Alphonsus Tillekeratne, Lydia Hapin,  
Nazzarero Sultana, Sammy Formosa,  
Emmabello & Guing Caran Dang,  
Cecile Vergara,

### Anniversary:

George Kiddle, Elizaida R Kawarai,  
J & J.E Corcoran & D.P Whisker,  
Charles Joseph Dakmawin,  
Nina & Massey Arapa,  
Charles, Frank & Maria Briffa,  
Ernesto R Ribargoso,

### Sick:

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

### Thanksgiving:

Mr & Mrs Rommel Faro, Ronaldo,  
Kristine, Maria, Ramon, Vincenzo  
Zamora, Letlet Fontanilla



## 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*).

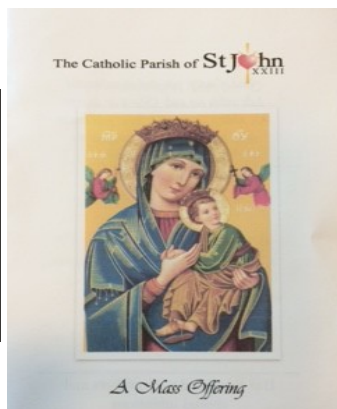
It is used to pay the team/staff salaries, superannuation and each priest's car expenses, loan interest and loan repayment.

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

*Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. We must always remember this. The actual words matter less.*  
— 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	Matias	
Jul	4	11	18	25	
	Tangunan	Available	Available	Available	

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### ⇒ 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).

#### ⇒ WAY OF THE CROSS

We are slowly gaining momentum on the planning for the Way of the Cross for Good Friday. We are still looking for families or groups of friend, young and old, to do a re-enactment of a station especially for the main characters. The key to the success of this endeavour is from active participation from you, our parish community. Each year has been a memorable spiritual experience for the whole community.

For expressions of interest, individuals/parties, please contact Bob or Grace Agbulos 0422 106525 or the parish office.



**OFFERING OUR TIME AND**

**TALENTS**

***PARISH OLIVE HARVEST***

The harvest was great and we had a few labourers – thank you to Tony, Linda, Maria and John who picked our olives this week.

***WELCOMERS***

Thank you to all who have offered their time at mass as members of the Welcoming Group; we will be in touch soon to arrange a roster. It's not too late to join this group and play a part in welcoming people to our community at mass.

***CLEANERS***

We renew the call for people to help clean the church. The current groups are rostered once a month but more helpers are needed. We cannot afford professional cleaners so your support is essential. As with all volunteering, the more people we have the less time it takes.

***GARDENERS***

A few weeks ago we published some beautiful photos of the church gardens and many people commented on how good the gardens look, particularly after the rains. We don't have any garden fairies or gnomes (well actually we do have one gnome near the memorial fountain) – the work is done by a handful of dedicated parishioners – people like you. They need help, either to maintain a small patch of garden or help with the occasional working bee.

If you are able to devote a few hours to any of these ministries (and that's what they are), please contact John McCartney –[businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

**Calling all SRE & Religious teachers**

The Sacramental team is looking for SRE and Religious teachers who will be able to help teach at this year's First Eucharist sacrament. We are in need of teachers for 2 hours on the weekends of 13th & 14th May and 20th & 21st May.

There will be an information session on Sat 8th April, 11am, church kitchen. If you are interested, please contact **Jill** on **9852-0582** or [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au).

Retirees are also welcome!

## Why we do what we do...

### LENT AND THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Now that we are in the midst of the Lenten season, parishes will be offering several opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It's fairly common knowledge that many people have pretty much eliminated this sacrament from their lives—perhaps not consciously, but simply pushed it aside.

Let's face it. It's not easy to admit our sins, and it's even harder to confess them to another person, even if it is a priest. I can only assure you that every priest, including myself, must confess his sins to his brother priest. In fact, if you do attend a parish communal penance service, you have probably seen most of the confessors, before or afterwards, move to another priest to confess their sins and receive absolution.

In some ways it may seem a burden. And yet, to be truthful, there is hardly anything more adult and mature that we can do than face our own faults and sins. Some may say, "Well, I just go directly to God." But my question is: Do you actually examine your conscience, sit down quietly, confess your sins to God and ask forgiveness? Or is this merely a way of saying, "Well, God knows I'm sorry."

As difficult as this can be, it is one opportunity to actually ask ourselves how we have acted towards our families, spouses and those around us. While I might call myself a Catholic, have I done what I need to do in living

my faith? Lent is a perfect time to give honest answers to these questions.

How we approach the reception of God's mercy is important. We are God's children. We come to the father to ask his forgiveness through the mercy of Jesus given by the ordained priest. It's not just ritual. It is life.

### Simple Steps to Receiving the Sacrament

***Examination of conscience.*** This is not supposed to be a torture session. Actually, our consciences will bring to mind any serious sins we have committed. Even people who have been away from the confessional for many years, even decades, realize that knowing our sins is not the hard part. It's actually owning up to them to another. Keep in mind that God knows the whole past in every detail anyway. We make an honest effort to know ourselves and our failings. But, again, it's God's mercy that is most important.

***Sorrow for sin.*** If we are serious about going to confession, sorrow comes almost automatically. After all, we are admitting we are sinners right up front. That truthful admission brings sorrow. But please don't confuse sorrow with emotions or feelings. You may still struggle with feelings of resentment and yet tell God you are sorry for the time you were angry with another person. Sorrow is in the heart (not feelings) and in the will.

***Confession of sin.*** Confess your sins as simply and as honestly as you can. It is easy to link sin with a commandment: missing Mass (third),

## Why we do ...cont'd

anger (fifth), impurity (sixth, ninth). There is no need for great details, nor is the priest interested in detail. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask the priest for assistance.

**Receive penance given.** Listen to the words of the priest as he tries to guide you and remind you of God's love for you.

**Act of contrition.** Making an act of contrition can be very short: "O, God, I am sorry for all my sins, now and in the past, and I will try with all my heart not to sin again."

**Thanks be to God.** Leave the confessional and thank God for his forgiveness and pray the prayers the priest gave you for a penance.

### Not to Worry about Past Sins

Now, a very important point. When God forgives sin through the absolution of the priest, he forgives ALL our sins, including those we cannot remember. We need to be sincerely sorry for all our sins. Otherwise, why go to the Lord for forgiveness?

If you later remember something you forgot, dismiss it from your mind. It is gone forever, and the Lord wants you to trust his mercy, put the past aside and the live each new day in his love, one day at a time. What happens when we spend too much time on the past to make sure we got it all is that we become self-centered. And let's face it: We will never get it all. Confession is much more about trust than exact numbers and detail.

Finally, people wonder how often we should receive this sacrament. It is required only for serious or mortal sin. But the sacrament is a gift, and it is good to present ourselves to the Lord even when we have nothing serious to confess. As difficult as this sacrament may sometimes be, isn't it true that we leave with a sense of peace, a fresh start, a feeling of having faced our weaknesses and admitted them and received forgiveness? That's my experience.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/lent-and-the-sacrament-of-reconciliation/>

## Pope's Morning Homily: 'Don't Treat Confession Like the Dry Cleaners'

March 21, 2017 | Deborah Castellano Lubov | POPE & HOLY SEE, POPE'S MORNING HOMILY

### Must Feel Genuine Shame

*In his homily, the Pope warned that without feeling ashamed in the confessional, it's a false pardon.*

*"If I ask 'Are you all sinners? – Yes Father, all of us – and to obtain pardon for our sins? – We confess – And how did the confession go? – I go there, I say my sins, the priest forgives me, I'm given three Hail Mary's to pray and I leave in peace.' You have not understood! You have only gone to confession to carry out a banking transaction or an office task.*

<https://zenit.org/articles/popes-morning-homily-dont-treat-confession-like-the-dry-cleaners/>

## 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. Starts at Term 2.

Dates to remember:

7th April, 7pm information night

28th April, 7pm kick-off night

Brochures at the foyer for more information.

### WHY?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains.?



## Fill in the missing word

Jesus' good

r\_\_n\_ Lazarus was very sick.

Martha and M

\_\_ were sad when their brother died.

"Lazarus will \_ \_\_ v \_ again", said Jesus.

Jesus went to the opened

\_\_b and prayed.

Lazarus walked out of

\_s tomb alive.

# Word Find

## Lazarus comes back to life

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

### Find these words

Bethany cloth cry face Lazarus Martha Mary out  
 Sick sister stone tomb

## Diocesan News

### **6 April - Holy Hour for Vocations**

Young adults aged 18-35 are invited to join the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for a Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations from 7-8.00pm followed by a pizza supper. Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP to Sr Paula tel 0451 965638,

*vocationscsfn@gmail.com*

### **8 April - Grace & Silence Retreat Day for Young Women**

Includes vocation discernment to marriage & family life, single life or consecrated life. Cost \$30 includes morning, lunch, afternoon tea and materials. Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Registrations: Sr M Julie Brcar ISSM, tel 0408 728 334, *juliebrcar@gmail.com* Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/177861602703209/>

### **'Come and See' Weekend Retreats for Women**

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer weekend retreats for women aged 18-35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. These retreats offer a one-to-one encounter and include prayer time, talks and accompaniment. Bring only a holy Bible and a smile! Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. For more information contact Sr Paula tel 0451 965 638, *vocationscsfn@gmail.com*

### **9 & 14 April - Journey through Holy Week with Catholic Youth Parramatta**

All are invited to join youth and young adults of the Diocese for the Palm Sunday Procession, WYD Mass & Event at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta on Sunday 9 April. The procession down Church Street with Bishop Vincent will

depart at 5.30pm from Parramatta Town Hall following a short liturgy.

On Friday 14 April the Good Friday Night Walk will take place at 10.00pm through the night departing St Patrick's Church at Blacktown and concluding at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta at 7am.

Building on the success of more than 1300 participating last year, the journey will again take us through the parishes of Blacktown, Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Wentworthville, Merrylands and Parramatta.

Further details on Catholic Youth Parramatta Facebook Events. Inquiries to James Camden, Director of Catholic Youth Parramatta, (02)8838 3428 or *jcamden@parra.catholic.org.au*

### **14 April - Good Friday – quiet meditation at the end of the day**

The traditional candlelight presentation of music of JS Bach, complemented by Sacred Readings from the Passion of Christ, will be held at St Finbar's Church, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook, at 7.30pm on Good Friday evening.

The Blue Mountains Chorale conducted by Robert Ampt will sing poignant excerpts from St John's Passion and all will be encouraged to participate in singing congregational hymns, accompanied by the magnificent pipe organ. The service will conclude with quiet meditation. There will be a retiring collection. Suggested donation: \$15 and \$10 conc. Inquiries tel (02) 4754 1780.

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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

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**Parish Priest:** Fr John McSweeney ☒ [FrJohn@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
**Asst. Priest:** Fr Thomas Bui ☒ [FrThomas@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrThomas@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* 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



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

## 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)