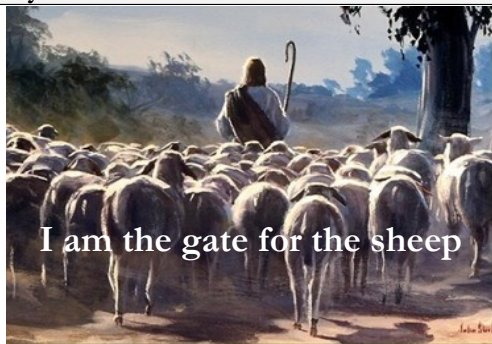


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6 - 7 May 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

Sisters and brothers in Christ, The biblical readings of this Sunday use the image of the shepherd. Jesus Christ in the Gospel presents himself as the Good Shepherd and the gate of the sheepfold. We are called to follow Christ the Good Shepherd. He is the door through which we can pass to enter the new life.

Our mission as the baptized is to show this door to those who don't know it. Many engage in paths of perdition, in paths which lead them going astray, moving out of the way of God. It is in this world with imperfections that Jesus sent his apostles, and He continues to call each one of us today. As in the past, he observed that the harvest was abundant, but there were few workers. Realizing the burden of the task, he did not ask them to do more; He told them: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to his harvest." This point is important, because a vocation only germinates and takes shape in prayer. This is the reason why in 1963, Pope Paul VI established this Sunday as the world day praying for vocations.

MAY PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUN 7	Good Shepherd Sunday Baptisms— Benjamin, Bianca, Greyson, Noah, Roman, Cohen
MON 8	
TUE 9	
WED 10	
THU 11	
FRI 12	BLAZE Night
SAT 13	

Pastor's Desk cont'd

Christ our Lord, the Good Shepherd, knows us well and gives his life for us, and he leads us into fullness of life. As we celebrate this feast, let's pray for fidelity to our vocation which we are undertaking. The Church invites us to honour the vocation of all Christians given at baptism. Through the vocation of marriage, priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life, and the blessed singleness, may we further the reign of God here on earth when we make efforts to fulfil our assigned roles. May those who are still discerning their life vocation listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd through their prayer. May the Holy Spirit guide them and give them his wisdom in this important step of their lives.

God bless all of us,

Father Thomas

15 Day Pilgrimage

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Duration: 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension

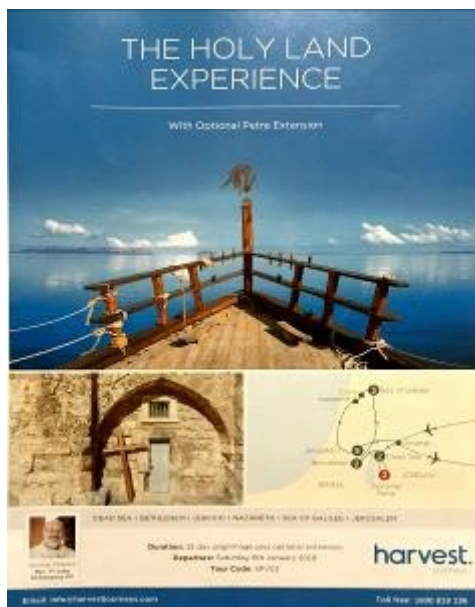
Departure: Saturday 6th January 2018

Tour Code: 8PV03

Email: info@harvestjourneys.com

Call 1800 819 156 Toll free

Spiritual Chaplain: Fr John McSweeney



Book now

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

Gospel Reflection

The image of the Good Shepherd has been popular in the Church since early Christianity. In today's gospel, the shepherd who calls his sheep by name is a comforting image that expresses the Lord's personal concern and love for each one of us. In the second reading, the author expresses his own interpretation of the mission of the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. He writes: "By his wounds you have been healed". In other words, by the wounds of the Good Shepherd, our own wounds have been healed.

We have been blessed with healing because of Jesus' wounds. The association of woundedness and blessing with one another has been known since ancient times, and also appears in the Bible.

From the consciousness of an ancient people, an insight rises up that there is a blessing hidden in woundedness, and that blessing comes from God. It is a blessing not just for the wounded person, but for others too.

Western culture has had a wounding effect on many people. Individualism, the emphasis on self-sufficiency and individual effort and achievement, has led many people's being marginalized and cut off from community-the poor, the elderly, those who are HIV positive or living with AIDS, foreigners and those who don't "fit in" in one way or another. A lasting effect of our individualist-consumerist society is to destroy the image of God in sections of humanity. There are many sad and lonely people in our society. The message about woundedness means that among such people- the wounded and marginalized of the earth- is to be found a treasure of blessings for the rest of us. Among the wounded and marginalized of the earth are also to be found the wounded Jesus.

The Good Shepherd who has been wounded for our healing invites us to put arrogance and selfishness aside. It is an invitation to discover the blessings hidden in our own wounds, and to seek out the blessings awaiting us among the wounded and marginalized people of the earth.

Entrance Antiphon

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 2:14, 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**



Talk to God through prayer, listen to God through his word.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

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

8 Mon Fourth week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 11:1-18

Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4

Gospel John 10:11-18

9 Tues Fourth week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 11:19-26

Psalm Ps 86:1-7

Gospel John 10:22-30

10 Wed Fourth week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 12:24-13:5

Psalm Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8

Gospel John 12:44-50

11 Thu Fourth week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 13:13-25

Psalm Ps 88:2-3. 21-22. 25. 27

Gospel John 13:16-20

12 Fri Fourth week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 13:26-33

Psalm Ps 2:6-11

Gospel John 14:1-6

13 Sat Fourth week of Easter

1st Reading Acts 13:44-52

Psalm Ps 97:1-4

Gospel John 14:7-14

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:

Roselia Pineda, Ferdinand Jacob,
Indrajith Fernando, Xavier Ferreira

Deceased:

Aeldred & Riolene Weber,
Lorrie Bigeni, Aelida Vancuylenburg

Anniversary:

Monica Cobarrubias, James Youngman,
Emy & Sebastian Livolsi

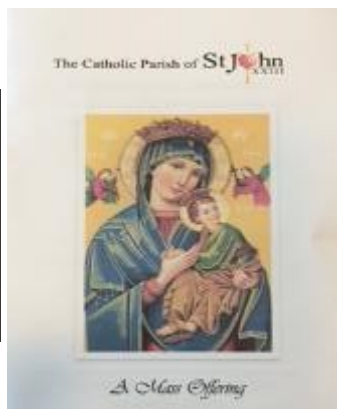
Sick:

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

Thanksgiving:



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 Corner

Preoccupations about the future, which arise from self-love, delay the work of God in us and hinder His purposes.
— 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 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

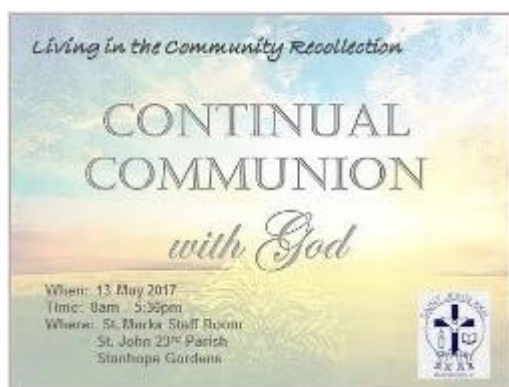
	2	9	16	23	30
May	<i>Shalini</i>	Cano	Ivon	Fernando	Solisa
Jun	6	13	20	27	
	Sebastian	Mojica	Matias M	Matias J	
Jul	4	11	18	25	
	Tanganan	Shalini	Ivon	<i>Available</i>	
Aug	1	8	15	22	29
	Lozada	Cabug-os	<i>Available</i>	Pangilinan	<i>Available</i>

⇒ **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 recollection **"Continual Communion with God"**

When: 13 May 2017

Time: 8:00am - 5:30pm

Where: St. Mark's College Staff Room



Parish Notices

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 or Rita Mateazzi marcellino5@bigpond.com.

SAFETY BOLLARD

The bollards we use to safeguard parishioners around the baptismal font have reached their use-by date; is anyone able to sponsor the purchase of replacements?

Please contact John McCartney – businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

A PRAYER REQUEST

You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday. If the opportunity arises, you might mention that you are praying for them and their future. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.

Parish Pastoral Corner

⇒ It's here ... our Parish Retreat on **Saturday & Sunday 6th & 7th May**.

It's a call for all Families by Pope Francis, to experience the 'Joy of the Gospel', the joy of knowing and loving Jesus, our Lord. It's a proven way to increase in Faith and our relationship with the Risen Lord. Youth, adults, families with children all welcome as there will be children's ministry available and presentation by them on the Sunday.

Come and join us at **St Mark's College Hall after the 9am mass and finishing at 4:30pm on both days**. Catering will be provided on both days.

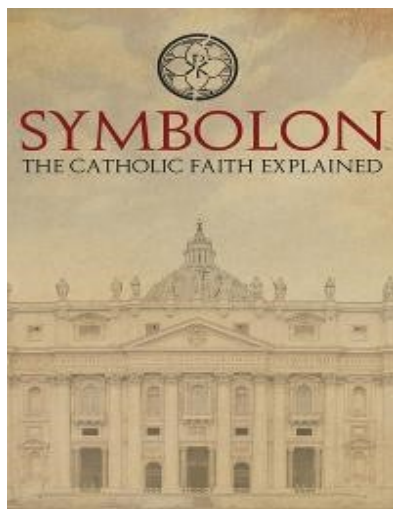
⇒ We may be familiar with different aspects of the Catholic Faith ... but how does it all fit together? And what difference does it make for our lives?

The Faith Formation Committee invites everyone for a short, half hour video presentation on **"The Catholic Faith Explained"** following straight after every Mass commencing on the weekend of **13th May 2017**.

7:00pm Saturdays and Sundays at the Church

8:30am 10:00am 11:30am Sundays at St Mark's College Staffroom

Please contact Rose on 0401 387427 for further details.



Why we do what we do....

Why is the Liturgy of the Word Important

<http://www.catholicdoors.com/misc/liturgyoftheword2.htm>

The liturgy of the Word is the point in the liturgy when God calls us to faith. We believe God's Word is the living Word and not a history lesson or only a story about events that happened long ago. Through the proclamation of the Scriptures and the homily, God speaks to us as a community, asking us to be faithful to his word. Readings from Scripture are the heart of the liturgy of the word. The homily, responsorial songs, profession of faith, and general intercessions developed and complete it. In the readings, God speaks to his people and nourishes their spirit; Christ is present through his word. The homily explains the readings. The profession of faith comprise the people's acceptance of God's Word.

The Liturgy of the Word requires some silence to allow the Word of God to echo in our hearts. Silence is especially important after the proclamation of the Scripture readings and the preaching of the homily. The role of the assembly during the Liturgy of the Word is to actively listen to God's word as it is proclaimed through the readings. This is a difficult task that is mastered only with practice. It is different than listening to the television or the radio. It is more like listening as the pilot of an airlines listens to the control tower when there is some difficulty with landing the plane. Important things are at stake both on the airliner and in the liturgy.

The reading of the Gospel is the high point of the Liturgy of the Word. Everything in the liturgy so far - particularly the proclamation of the previous readings - is supposed to prepare the assembly for this moment. The gospel, along with the other biblical readings, is the living Word of God. The purpose of the homily is to help us better understand how our faith shapes the way we see the world and the way we act in the world. For this reason, the homily is not just a talk given during the liturgy. The homily is part of the liturgy itself. The homily serves as a bridge between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, showing us how we put the faith we have received into action.

What, then, must we do to properly receive the Word of God proclaimed at Mass? The General Instruction tells us that "the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone" (no. 29), and it provides that those who read the Scriptures at Mass must be "truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared, so that by their hearing the readings from the sacred texts the faithful may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture" (no. 101).

Why we do

An excerpt from <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-word/bearing-the-word-of-god.cfm>

The key word in all of this is **listening**. We are called to listen attentively as the reader, deacon or priest proclaims God's Word. Unless one is unable to hear, one should not be reading along with a text from a missal or missalette. Rather, taking our cue from the General Instruction itself, we should listen as we would if Christ himself were standing at the ambo, for in fact it is God who speaks when the Scriptures are proclaimed. Carefully following along with the printed word can cause us to miss the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit, the message that the Spirit may have for us in one of the passages because we are anxious to "keep up," to move along with the reader.

Perhaps the best way to understand the readings at Mass and our response to them is offered by Blessed John Paul II in his Instruction *Dies Domini*. . . . He encourages "those who take part in the Eucharist—priest, ministers and faithful... to prepare the Sunday liturgy, reflecting beforehand upon the word of God which will be proclaimed" and adds that if we do not, "it is difficult for the liturgical proclamation of the word of God alone to produce the fruit we might expect" (no. 40). In this way we will till the soil, preparing our souls to receive the seeds to be planted by the Word of God so that seed may bear fruit.

The Word of God, then calls for our listening and our response in silent reflection, as well as in word and song. Most important of all, the Word of God, which is living and active, calls each of us individually and all of us together for a response that moves beyond the liturgy itself and affects our daily lives, leading us to engage fully in the task of making Christ known to the world by all that we do and say.

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: 28 May 2017

Topic: tba

Guest Speaker: tba

BLAZE

If you're in Years 7 to 10, come and join us. Brochures at the foyer for more information or just drop the Youth Group a line youth@john23rd.com

CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

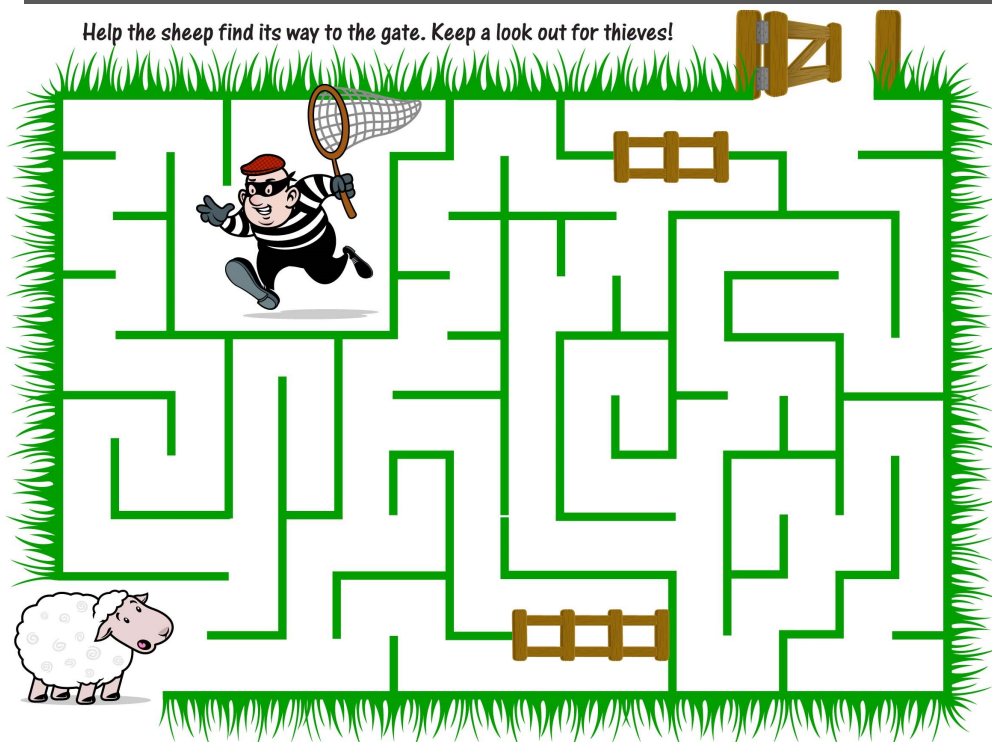
When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays

Praise & Worship

Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

Find the Path

Help the sheep find its way to the gate. Keep a look out for thieves!



Word Find

I am the gate for the sheep

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

Find these words

Fence follow gate life name sheep sheepfold shepherd
 Story stranger thief voice

Diocesan News

A request from Pope Francis

"I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest. May he give us priests enamored of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love." (Message of Pope Francis, 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Think about it....

Have you thought about how much work goes into to celebrating our Sunday liturgies? How much our musicians prepare and practice? Our sacristans and florists work hard. Our liturgical ministers prepare and participate in our service, to name a few people who give generously of their time and talents. Our priests spend many hours preparing homilies and other things for the liturgies and sacraments they celebrate for us. Perhaps today we might pause and give a prayer of thanks for all those who serve us in our parish.

10, 12 & 13 May - New Testament Workshops

The internationally respected Scripture scholar Prof van Than Nguyen SVD will be conducting three face-to-face workshops at The Broken Bay Institute which will be of practical interest to teachers, parishes and religious communities. Prof Nguyen is the Chair of Catholic Missiology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and the Director of its widely respected Master

of Divinity Program. He has published extensively in the areas of New Testament Studies and on Spirituality in a Pluralistic Society. Topics: Interpreting and Preaching the Gospel of Matthew (10 May), The Lukan Spirituality of Jesus (12 May) and Reading the Bible in the Context of World Christianity (13 May). For further information and to register: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/BBites

13 May - LIFTED Live! Featuring Steve Angrisano

Join Catholic Youth Parramatta for our first LIFTED Live! in 2017 at our new central venue in the Rooty Hill RSL. Last year, more than 400 young people were inspired by Catholic musician, singer, songwriter and storyteller Steve Angrisano. You can expect music, prayer, worship, adoration, drama, laughs and a great night as the LIFTED Band and Steve join forces in faith, formation and fun! \$5 entry fee to be inspired and upLIFTED for your ongoing ministry! From 7.00pm-10.00pm at Rooty Hill RSL, 55 Sherbrooke Rd, Rooty Hill.

RSVP thru the Catholic Youth Parramatta Facebook event. Inquiries to James Camden, Director of Catholic Youth Parramatta, tel (02) 8838 3428 orjcamden@parra.catholic.org.au

Positions Vacant

The Diocese of Parramatta is seeking applications for several positions. For further details, go to <https://parracatholic.org/employment>

St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.

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