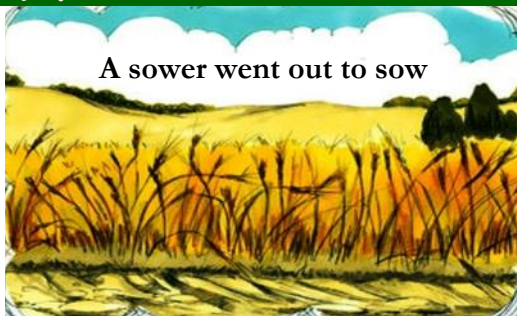


Fifteenth Sunday Ordinary Time
15 - 16 July 2017

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

We see ourselves in all four seeds in today's Parable:

- * there are times when we don't even hear the Gospel of Jesus, and so the Word doesn't begin to germinate in our hearts
- * there are times when we give up on God, unable to see our own part in the process, due to the cares of the world that impinge on us
- * there are times when the demands of our world choke the Word of God, so that it is overshadowed by secularism
- * and there are, indeed, times when the Word produces fruit in plenty in our lives, when we allow God to grow within us.

JUL PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR	
MON 17	
TUE 18	
WED 19	7:30pm RCIA meeting - church kitchen PPC meeting - Parish conference room
THU 20	
FRI 21	
SAT 22	<i>St Mary Magdalene (F)</i> 7:00pm - Symbolon 'Mary & the Saints'
SUN 23	12:00pm - Baptism—Olivia, Elliott, Logan, Archie, Chanelle, Tyler, Julian, and Lachlan.

As this week unfolds, let us allow the Word of Jesus to permeate all aspects of our daily lives, so that we will produce the fruit that God wants us to produce.

From the Pastor's desk

1. This Wednesday there will be a Parish Pastoral Council Meeting from 7:30pm in the Parish Conference Room.
2. Also on Wednesday evening the RCIA Team will be meeting in the Church Kitchen.
3. We welcome back all those who enjoyed a holiday due the mid-year School break.

And let us continue to pray for one another.

God bless you all

Fr. John

Parish Notices

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

Would you like to serve our parish as a Minister of the Word, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Minister to the Sick, Adult Server or Acolyte? The Office for Worship of the Diocese of Parramatta are offering courses this August and September. After completing the course from the Office of Worship, you will receive further training from a Liturgy team member on specific parish procedures.

Enrolment forms are available at the foyer and on our parish website. Course schedule, venues and other details can be found on the form. Note endorsement from Fr John is required.

Email a completed form to Bob Agbulos on bragbulos@gmail.com or call 0422106525 for more details.

SRE TEACHERS NEEDED

“The harvest is great but the workers are few” (Matthew 9:37)

If you have the desire to spread God's word to children and could spare an hour during weekdays, please consider

this ministry. Training and resources will be provided.

We currently have four public primary schools and one high school in our parish that we teach in. The scripture classes are conducted during school hours for half an hour. The days available are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

If you want further information please call Asoki 0430020265 or Renuka 0414795814

Adult Confirmation 2017

The Office of Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on

Saturday 2nd September, 9.30am - 2.00pm at the Institute of Mission Hall, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis.

Matthew's telling of this well known parable highlights some of his favourite themes. It is prominently placed as the first parable in Matthew's 'Sermon in Parables' (13:1-52; see Introduction). The 'Sermon in Parables' is central in two ways: it is the third of five sermons and chapter 13 is the middle of the gospel. All eight parables in this sermon are about the kingdom of heaven (13:19, 24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52). These fictitious stories taken from everyday life suggest aspects of the kingdom. Part of the appeal of parables is their resistance to definitive interpretation: it is not possible to say, 'This is *the* meaning'. Each of the parables suggests rather than defines what the kingdom 'is like'.

Note, first, that the parable of the sower is not a lesson on agricultural technique nor a historical record with clues to ancient farming practices. Nor is it actually about the sower: the sower appears only in the first verse and then disappears. Nor is the parable about various kinds of soil, despite its great appeal to make moral points about ourselves, e.g., 'I am like the rocky ground'. The parable is about the seed, i.e., 'the word of the kingdom' (13:19). The Sower (Jesus) scatters the seed extravagantly and indiscriminately: this is consistent with the abundance, generosity, and graciousness that characterise the kingdom. The superabundant harvest reiterates those themes and also points to the mysterious but certain ways in which God's kingdom grows.

The harsh quote from Isaiah 6:9-10 serves two purposes. First, in Jesus, Scripture is being fulfilled (Sunday 3; see also Matthew 13:34-35); second, 'knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you' (13:11), i.e., knowledge of the kingdom is revealed, not acquired (see last Sunday's gospel, 11:25). Without this blessing (13:16-17), looking and hearing will not suffice (13:13-15); consequently, without revelation, conversion and healing (13:15) are not possible. Though this may offend our egalitarian sensibilities, it highlights the core truth that the kingdom is God's doing, not a human accomplishment. All depends on grace.

(Copyright LabOra 2017)

Entrance Antiphon

As for me, in justice I shall behold
your face; I shall be filled with the
vision of your glory.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and
the snow come down from the
heavens and do not return without
watering the earth, making it yield and
giving growth to provide seed for the
sower and bread for the eating, so the
word that goes from my mouth does
not return to me empty, without
carrying out my will and succeeding in
what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14

**R. The seed that falls on good
ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches. Your river in
heaven brims over to provide its
grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows, you level it,
soften it with showers, you bless its
growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your
goodness. Abundance flows in your
steps, in the pastures of the wilderness
it flows. **R.**

The hills are girded with joy, the
meadows covered with flocks, the
valleys are decked with wheat, They
shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the
swallow a nest for her young; by your
altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and
my God. Blessed are they who dwell in
your house, for ever singing your
praise.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children
of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life
can never be compared to the glory, as
yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us.
The whole creation is eagerly waiting
for God to reveal his sons. It was not
for any fault on the part of creation
that it was made unable to attain its
purpose, it was made so by God; but
creation still retains the hope of being
freed, like us, from its slavery to
decadence, to enjoy the same freedom
and glory as the children of God.
From the beginning till now the entire
creation, as we know, has been
groaning in one great act of giving
birth; and not only creation, but all of
us who possess the first-fruits of the
Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we
wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is
the sower; all who come to him will
live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel (long)

Matthew 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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

17 Mon Fifteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 1:8-14. 22

Psalm Ps 123

Gospel Matthew 10:34 - 11: 1

18 Tues Fifteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 2:1-15

Psalm Ps 68:3. 14. 30-31. 33-34

Gospel Matthew 11:20-24

19 Wed Fifteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 3:1-6. 9-12

Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 6-7

Gospel Matthew 11:25-27

20 Thu Fifteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 3:13-20

Psalm Ps 104:1. 5. 8-9. 24-27

Gospel Matthew 11:28-30

21 Fri Fifteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 11:10 - 12:14

Psalm Ps 115:12-13. 15-18

Gospel Matthew 12:1-8

22 Sat Saint Mary Magdalene (F)

1st Reading Song of Songs 3:1-4
2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Psalm Ps 62:2-6. 8-9

Gospel John 20:1-2. 11-18

Full weekly readings can be found in the
parish website [http://john23rd.com/our-parish/
daily-reading/](http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/)

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**If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive
communion in your home please contact the parish office.**

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Dionee Lustre, Julie Ann Rodriguez,
Raylindo Ortega, Sr Lourdes Atienza

Deceased:

Joseph Lobo, Jovita Bituin Ceria,

Anniversary:

Neil Kiddle, Juan Antonio,
Susan Mirosol, Sonia Maria Delgado,
Aeldred & Riwlene Weber,
Chrisby & Frank Koelmeyer,
Domenico Pelle, Rae & Eustace Ebert,
Sonia Delgado, Paul Choo Puck Hoe

Sick:

Jan Mandla, Pat Daley, Karam Matte,
Genevieve D'Silva, Reg Chapman,
Sigrid Barredo, Ramon Rendon,
Alfred Miler, Remedios De Guzman,
Cay Espanta, Lucie Gallagher,
Evelyn Paguinto, Andrea Rodrigues,
Carmel Byrne

Thanksgiving:

Cyra Braganza, Rohan Virwani, Franco
Family



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.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please collect your new batch of Planned Giving envelopes from the church entrance. If you wish to change your pledge please contact the parish office. We would encourage you to change from the envelope system to either direct debit or credit card.

Parish Pastoral Corner

Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behaviour; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.
— Pope 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

Jul	4	11	18	25	
	Tangunan	Shalini	Ivon	Cano	
Aug	1	8	15	22	29
	Lozada	Cabug-os	Gracias Flor	Pangilinan E	Shalini
Sep	5	12	19	26	
	Sebastian	Erasmio	Paguinto E	Olan	
Oct	3	10	17	24	31
	Ivon	Sebastian	Pangilinan R	Shalini	Jacinta

⇒ SYMBOLON

The Faith Formation Committee invites everyone for a short, half hour video presentation on "The Catholic Faith Explained" following straight after every Mass.

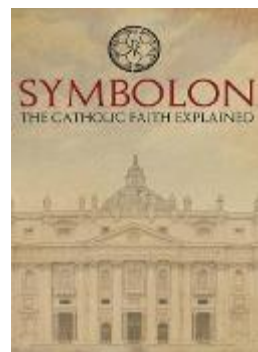
7:00pm Saturdays and Sundays at the Church

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

15 & 16 Jul Mary & the Saints

Jesus gave His mother Mary to us as our spiritual mother, and she intercedes for us in heaven before her son. By growing in relationship with Mary - and the rest of the saints - we grow in fellowship with Christ.

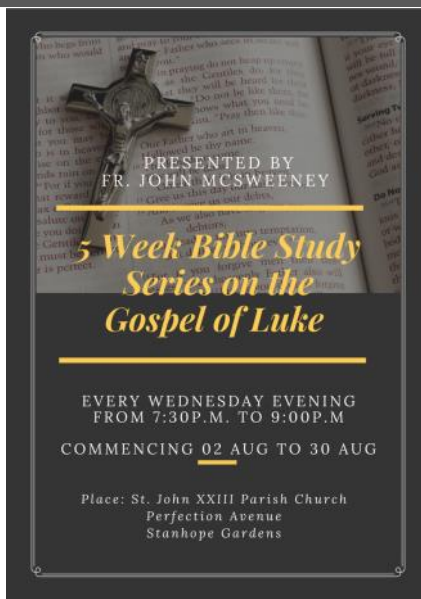
22 & 23 Jul The Last Things



Parish Pastoral

⇒ **5 week Bible Study Series on the Gospel of Luke** by Fr. John McSweeney

Every Wednesday evening commencing 02 Aug to 30 Aug, 2017 7:30p.m. to 9:00p.m. St. John XXIII Parish Church, Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens



PRESENTED BY
FR. JOHN MCSWEENEY

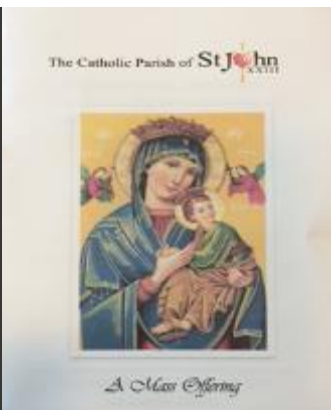
5 Week Bible Study Series on the Gospel of Luke

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING
FROM 7:30P.M. TO 9:00P.M

COMMENCING 02 AUG TO 30 AUG

Place: St. John XXIII Parish Church
Perfection Avenue
Stanhope Gardens

Mass cards available at the parish office



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.)



Why we do what we do

The Purpose of Mass

Why do we have Mass?

We have Mass to worship and to receive God's grace, to unify with him and with other worshipers through the sacrament of the Eucharist. As a sacrament, it is that Jesus himself acting through the Eucharist, and supplies all the graces we derive from it. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner.

Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship. We do not come to Mass simply to receive something passively or to watch a show; we come as participants embracing the grace Christ pours out for us shed by his own blood on the cross.

Different people have different roles at Mass. Some people are Eucharistic ministers. They help distribute the Eucharist to assist the priest when it is necessary in order to maintain the flow of worship.

Lectors help proclaim the Word of God and make it come alive for us. Cantors and choir members lead us in song to help us stay in tune.

The priest is there to serve us by leading us in prayer acting in the person of Christ, explaining the Scripture (Bible) readings, and consecrating the bread and wine so that they may become the body and blood of Jesus.

We only get out of Mass what we put into it.

If we do not find much significance in the Mass it is because our whole mind, heart, and soul are not there. We are called to actively participate. When we actively participate in the Mass we receive God in two primary ways: we receive him through his Word and through the Eucharist. These are the two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Liturgy is a term that means work or public duty. It is the work of the people, not just one person standing at the altar. All the people gathered are doing the work of celebration.

Liturgy of the Word

During the Liturgy of the Word we receive God in his word. Generally speaking there are three readings and a Psalm (usually sung). The first reading is from the Old Testament, then the Psalm, the second reading is from the New Testament and the third is a Gospel reading. All three of the readings are generally related; together they incorporate a theme. The priest then gives his homily regarding this theme, how it relates to everyday life or something along those lines.

It is all right if none of the readings or the homily affect you or move you in any fashion because the Mass isn't just about you. The Mass is about the whole Body of Christ. When we celebrate Mass it isn't just us or those that we can see in the congregation. There are millions of other people around the world celebrating Mass as well. Not only that, but there are also those people who came before us, have died in their earthly bodies but are still alive in Christ in heaven, just as we are alive in Christ but on Earth.

So a particular set of readings or a homily may not affect you, but there may be someone else who really needed to hear it. There may be someone else going through a tough time and really needed to hear those words of comfort or joy (*or whichever emotion is appropriate*).

In the first part of the Mass we receive God in his word and in the second part we receive God, through Jesus in body, soul and divinity. We receive God in the Eucharist.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The first Mass was about 2000 years ago at the Last Supper. Jesus and the Apostles were gathered together in what was Jesus' final meal before his crucifixion. During the meal Jesus took bread, broke it, gave it to the Apostles and said, "*This is my body which will be given for you. Do this in memory of me.*" Afterward Jesus took a cup filled with wine and said, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.*"

Jesus offers us a chance to partake in his sacrifice by offering for us his body and his blood. This is the sign of our covenant with God. Jesus' body and blood is the new covenant and Jesus tells us to partake in it in memory of him.

At Mass when we receive the Eucharist, Jesus' body and blood under the appearance of bread and wine (*just like at the Last Supper*), we are renewing our covenant with God. We are reconfirming our promise to God to live out our end of the relationship.

A covenant, in this context, is a type of relationship. The type of relationship that God has always had with his people is a covenant. Covenantal relationships are whereby each party mutually agrees to something.

God loves us endlessly and infinitely. God forgives us endlessly and infinitely. Our mutual response to God is to love him as much as we can even though our love is finite. Our response is to obey God and receive his freely given grace to help bring the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

When we receive the Eucharist at each Mass we are making that promise to God that we will hold up our end of the covenant. We are also unifying ourselves to God and to the other members of the Church through the Body of Christ.

The whole purpose of Mass is to worship God, unite ourselves with the sacrifice of Jesus, and to elevate our lives to the life of God. We will only get out of this relationship with God what we put into it; God's grace can only work in our lives if we are open to receiving it.

Why do we have to do this each week?

Our salvation is not a one-time ordeal where make a promise to God at one point in our lives. Life is a process and so is our salvation.

When we receive the Eucharist we are receiving Jesus, God. In doing so we are making that commitment each time to live out our end of the bargain. By God's gift of free will to us we always have the opportunity to choose to fall away from God through sin and we need his grace and strength to maintain our relationship with him.

By receiving the Eucharist at least once a week and making that promise to love God and obey him we are receiving the grace necessary to do God's will. We grow in faith each time we receive.

An analogous example is marriage. The ideal marital relationship is modeled after God's relationship with his people. The two parties in marriage give themselves mutually exclusively to each other and promise to make self-sacrifices to support the other person. Likewise we make whole our relationship with God through the Eucharist by eating his flesh and drinking his blood. We are renewing that covenant. We do it over and over and over again to renew ourselves and grow our relationship with God.

Most ordinary people honestly cannot say that if they are married they will only have sex with their spouse once. Likewise we continually renew our covenant with God through the Mass.

<http://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/the-purpose-of-mass/>

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 July 2017

Topic: Part 1: The Bible - How is it an inspired text?

Guest Speaker: Fr John McSweeney

BLAZE

If you're in Years 7 to 10, come and join us. Meets every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Brochures at the foyer for more information or just drop them a line youth@john23rd.com

CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

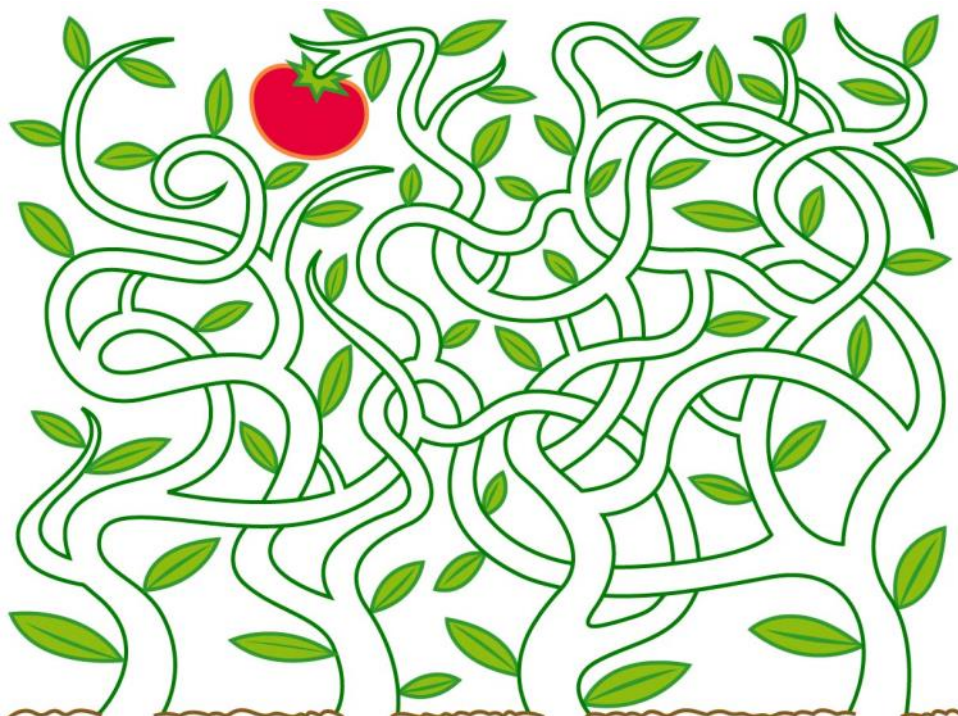
When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays
Praise & Worship

Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

YFC (*Youth for Christ*)

When: 3rd Sundays of the month

Find the path to the fruit



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?

Word Find

The seed fell on good ground

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

Find these words

Birds	boat	crowd	farmer	Galilee	Lake	road
	Shore	soil	stories	sun	teach	

Diocesan News

19th July - Los Angeles Religious Education Congress: Rise Up 2018 Information Night

A wonderful opportunity for a faith formation experience for parishioners, leaders, teachers, catechists ... all people in ministry and all people who would like to enrich their faith! Join this pilgrimage group to attend the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 14th - 23rd March 2018. Cost of pilgrimage \$3080 for 7 days with some additional expenses.

Information night Wednesday 19th July at 7.30pm at 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown.

Please contact Lisa Bright on 9622 1125 or lbright@mqofblacktown.org.au for an info pack or more information. RSVP for catering purposes tel 1300 550830 or info@olivetretravel.com.au or Lisa on 9622 1125.

19 - 20 July - Cast into the Deep

National Conference on Pastoral Care in a Multicultural Church and Society. The Conference will be held at the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus on 19-20 July 2017. The National Conference is centered around the theme 'cast into the deep' (Luke 5:4), reflecting on the call by His Holiness Pope Francis to go out to the peripheries of the world and cast the net.

The Conference provides an opportunity for migrant communities within the Catholic Church in Australia to come together, meet, pray and reflect on the successes and challenges facing each of their communities. It is also an opportunity to engage with the wider Church and Society in order to better equip our Priests and pastoral workers for them to be the best agents of social cohesion and pastoral care in our communities.

The keynote addresses for the conference will be given by Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, and Cardinal Orlando Beltran Quevedo, Archbishop of Cotabato, Philippines.

For more information and to register, please visit www.acmro.catholic.org.au

July 21-23 - Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) LIFTED Retreat 'Made for Greatness'

In its third year, the annual LIFTED Retreat is an opportunity for young adults 18+ to gather for a weekend at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale. This year's theme "Made For Greatness" will encourage us to live our lives to the full with courage and joy in preparation for ACYF in December. Please go to www.facebook.com/catholicyouthparramatta for more details, or contact rdrum@parra.catholic.org.au

23 July - Shrine Time for Young Adults 18-35

One Holy Hour with prayer, reflection, meditation, praise & worship. 2017 is devoted to Praying for Vocations and Devotion to Mary as per our Holy Father's intentions for WYD 2018 in Panama. From 7.30pm-8.30pm followed by social gathering.

Mary, honoured as the Mother Thrice Admirable, offers 3 graces in the Shrine, this monthly event is a unique opportunity to experience them regularly: Discover your HOME in the hearts of Jesus and Mary; See breakthrough TRANSFORMATION in your life; and Get your spiritual boost to be an authentic WITNESS. In the Shrine at Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Also 27 August, 24 September, 22 October, 26 November

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Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney ☒ FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
Asst. Priest: Fr Thomas Bui ☒ FrThomas@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 (Tues, 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 6:30pm

led by Christ Catholic Community Prayer
Group at the Parish Office's kitchen



Chairman

Bart Sarlabus

Deputy Chairman

Chris Drummond

Secretary

Nanette Gamboa

Members

Bernadette Virwani

Gary Lee

Julienne Crasto

Nidarshi Fernando

Our School Communities

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 8664 7100

☒ 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

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