

Sixteenth Sunday Ordinary Time
22 - 23 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."

*Let them grow together
until the harvest.*



From the Pastor's desk

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

we should always remember that Jesus is present in the midst of the 'noisiness' of modern living. Although it is optimal for us to find some time in the busy-ness of our daily activities to set aside for the Lord, we can also 'pray' by offering our time to God... when we are working in the office, in the home, in the school... All we need do is acknowledge the Lord's presence walking with us in our day. In this way He is the centre of our existence, and the companion on the journey. This is one way of being 'contemplatives in action'. Let's try and say "Hi" in the this way, and allow Jesus to be a constant presence in our lives.

JUL PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR	
MON 24	
TUE 25	<i>Saint James, Apostle (F)</i> 10:30am - Knitting Club Pm - Parish Finance Meeting
WED 26	7:30pm - Parent's Meeting - Confirmation
THU 27	<i>Saints Joachim & Anne (M)</i>
FRI 28	
SAT 29	<i>Saint Martha (M)</i> 6pm - St Vinnies sale
SUN 30	All Masses - St Vinnies sale while stocks last

From the Pastor's desk

1. After the Sunday 6pm Mass we will be having our next Ignite session for Young Adults. Part of this will be a talk (given by me!) on the Interpretation of the Bible, with a specific focus on Inspiration and Inerrancy. All parishioners are welcome to this talk and the guided discussion which follows, as well as the Ignite talks in August and September - which I will also give. The evening commences at 7:15, and the talk is scheduled for 7:30 (in St. Mark's Staff Room).
2. There will be a Parish Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday night.
3. The Parent Evening for Confirmation will be in the Church this coming Wednesday evening, commencing at 7:30pm.

God bless you all. Have a great week!

Fr John

Parish Notices

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at Stanhope Gardens has received through Fr. Thomas a donation of some very beautiful wood laminated holy pictures and some solar powered led-light house numbers. The donation came from a Vietnamese family who made the donation to raise funds for the Society who had helped them when they first arrived in Australia.

We will be giving them away on a "first come, first served basis" for the price of donation from you after every Mass on the 29th and 30th of July.

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.

Gospel Reflection

Matthew's expression 'kingdom of heaven' is an equivalent but more reverential term for 'kingdom of God'. The kingdom is central to the thought world of Matthew who has more references to the kingdom than any of the other gospels. 'Kingdom' implies both a king and a people. The king is God who is sovereign over all. While God's rule may be opposed by the rival kingdom of Satan, in no way is God's rule in jeopardy: God's power is absolute. God exercises rule on earth through Jesus who is a descendant of King David. In the covenant God made with David (2 Samuel 7) God chose to work in the world through a human agent whom God adopts as a 'son' (Pss 2, 110). Thus, to call Jesus 'son' has royal connotations: Jesus is an agent of the heavenly King. Each time Jesus casts out demons, heals the sick, alleviates hunger and suffering, he is weakening the hold of Satan on the world and advancing God's reign.

A king needs a people to govern. Just as God elected Israel, Jesus constitutes a new people - the Church. In responding to the call of discipleship, people are accepting God as the sovereign over their lives.

Finally, the kingdom, though present and becoming more manifest in the ministry of Jesus, will not be fully realised in this present age. Only in the Age to Come will the rule and kingdom of God be fully revealed.

All three parables in this Sunday's gospel have a future orientation. Only at harvest time (judgement day) will the weeds be separated from the wheat and each go to its proper fate - fire or barn. In the meantime the kingdoms of heaven and of Satan coexist. The mustard seed is sown but before birds can nest in it, it must grow. The yeast had been kneaded into the dough but it must rise and then be baked. Each parable speaks of a process begun but an outcome that must await a future time; in Jesus, God's rule and kingdom are inaugurated but not yet fully realised.

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Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

First Reading

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **R.**

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **R.**

Gospel (long)

Matthew 13:24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches."

He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through."

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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

24 Mon Sixteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 14:5-18

Psalm Exodus 15:1-6

Gospel Matthew 12:38-42

25 Tues Saint James, Apostle (F)

1st Reading 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

Psalm Ps 125

Gospel Matthew 20:20-28

26 Wed Saints Joachim & Anne (M)

1st Reading Exodus 16:1-5. 9-15

Sirach 44:1. 10-15

Psalm Ps 77:18-19. 23-28

Ps 131:11. 13-14. 17-18

Gospel Matthew 13:1-9

Matthew 13:16-17

27 Thu Sixteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 19:1-2. 9-11. 16-20

Psalm Daniel 3:52-56

Gospel Matthew 13:10-17

28 Fri Sixteenth week ordinary time

1st Reading Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm Ps 18:8-11

Gospel Matthew 13:18-23

29 Sat Saint Martha (M)

1st Reading Exodus 24:3-8

1 John 4:7-16

Psalm Ps 49:1-2. 5-6. 14-15

Ps 33:2-11

Gospel Matthew 13:24-30

John 11:19-27

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,
John Joseph Hume (Fr.Dave's Brother),
Patria Roxas

Deceased:

Joseph Lobo, Jovita Bituin Ceria,
Nena Celdran Matias

Anniversary:

Mabel Carter, Sonia Maria Delgado,
Neil Kiddle, Rae & Eustace Ebert,
Juan Antonio, Connie Peterson,
Susan Miroso, Domenico Pelle,
Chrisby & Frank Koelmeyer,
Aeldred & Riwlene Weber,
Joseph Robert Morris, Rudy Patterson,
Flora and Mario Ferino, Leo Simon,
Manuel and Lorna Ranola,
Dominga Toledo

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, Josephine Calabria, Aida
Landicho, Liezl Sultana, Lala Salonga

Thanksgiving:

Stefan, Luigi and Elizabeth Reyes
Zamora Family, Roland and Linda
Ranola

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 be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one. — 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

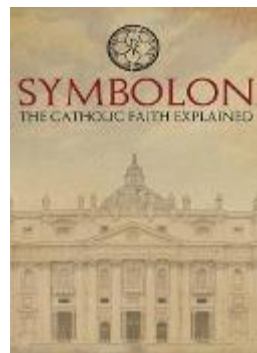
The Faith Formation Committee invites everyone for a short, half hour video presentation on "The Catholic Faith Explained" following straight after every Mass.

7:00pm Saturdays and Sundays at the Church

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

22 & 23 Jul The Last Things

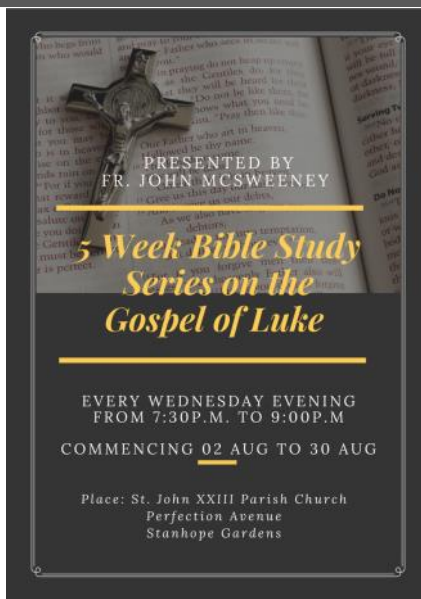
Deep in the human heart is the question, "What happens after we die?" Jesus reveals the "Last Things" - death, judgement, heaven and hell—and what we need to do now to prepare for eternity.



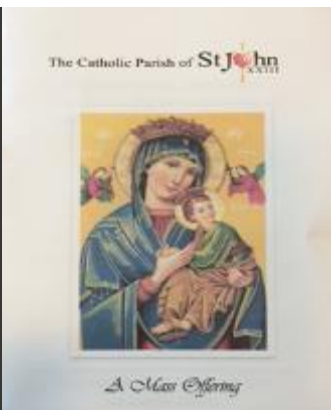
Parish Pastoral

⇒ **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



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

Why Catholics Pray to the Saints

Some of the greatest misconceptions about Catholic theology revolve around the nature of saints. Wesley Baines

One of the most prevalent Protestant criticisms of the Catholic Church is that its theology encourages idolatry through the worship of human saints.

We're going to take a look at why this simply isn't the case, and what Catholics really mean when they talk about these saints. Let's start by taking a look at the common arguments employed to condemn this Catholic practice.

Idolatry is, indeed, condemned throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments—we see this in everything from the Ten Commandments to the Gospels. The verse that is most often employed to argue against the idea of praying to the saints is Timothy 2:5, which reads, *“There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”*

Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we may *“With confidence draw near to the throne of grace,”* which implies that those who pray to God may address Him directly, and without fear, and without the need to communicate prayer through any other source.

So what would the Catholic response to these verses be? Well, they'd agree with them!

Here's a shocker. Catholics don't actually pray to saints. To debunk this myth, let's start by defining what a saint is.

The word “saint,” comes from the Latin word, “sanctus,” which translates to—you guessed it—“holy”. The New Testament refers to all Christians who follow the teachings of Jesus as saints. In scripture, Paul addresses his letters to

“the saints” of the cities he write to, such as is the case in Ephesians and 2 Corinthians. Calling these people “saints” simply acknowledges that these people who followed Christ's teachings had been transformed in a way that made them different, made them holy.

Sainthood, then, doesn't scripturally refer to angelic beings or perfect people or supernaturally devout men and women. Nobody is Mother Teresa—not even Mother Teresa. No—the word refers to ordinary people who have faith and Christ, and live out that faith through virtuous lives.

Those upon whom Catholicism has bestowed the proper title of saint, though, have lived lives of extraordinary virtue, far beyond what the ordinary Christian might accomplish—these are people who were, in life, the ultimate example of moral and theological virtues. So although “saint” applies to all Christians, the actual Catholic title of “saint” applies more narrowly to the most extraordinary of Christians.

To officially gain this title and become a saint, a believer must go through the process of canonization, in which the Catholic Church declares a person a saint after a formal review process of their life, as well as any miracles associated with the person.

Once recognized as saints, these people are still regarded as fallible human beings—complete with flaws. The key here is that it is not truly the person being canonized, it is their example. Canonization does not make a person immune from judgment if some of their actions in life were unwise.

Now, onto the subject of praying to these saints—as we've learned,

Why we do

Catholics do not do this. They do not pray to human beings. They pray through them. They don't believe the saints are divine—they're believed to be human.

Because of the saints' commitment to Christ, and because they were largely successful in living an exemplary life, Catholics believe these saints find favor with God, and so can intercede on their behalf.

Still feel like this feels a little idolatrous? Let's consider something for a moment. Have you ever called a church's prayer line? Have you ever asked a particularly devout friend, relative, or pastor to pray for you?

Then you've practiced a little Catholic theology, yourself.

But Catholics bypass the prayer line and go straight for the heavy hitters—instead of getting Aunt June to pray for them, they ask for St. Paul the Apostle, St. Peter, or the very mother of Jesus Christ, herself, Mary, who transcends all others. But a further criticism of the Catholic idea of saints extends to the religious icons and statues that are often present within Catholic homes and churches—figures and paintings representing the saints. Is this not idolatrous?

Again, let's think about it.

Have you ever held onto a photograph of a deceased loved one—someone you care for deeply and profusely? Do you keep that picture on your nightstand or dresser? Do you, perhaps, sometimes speak to that photo, wishing it a good morning or evening, or simply expressing that you miss the pictured loved one?

Would you, then, be guilty of worshiping that photo? Would you be guilty of idolatry?

Of course not. You're focusing on what that photo reminds you of—you're celebrating the love and joy that this person once gave you.

This is the function of the images and statues of the saints—they remind Catholics of the virtues these saints once embodied, and for their unique and brave responses to the calling of God, which often ended in their own martyrdom.

Christians in heaven are good at praying. Really good. They're veterans. They're your university's alumni when you're still a freshman, pulling strings and asking favors for you. They're a Catholic's all-star ministry team.

Many might say that they'd never want to pray to "dead people," but is Heaven truly a "dead" place? No—it's more alive and more real than what we know in life. And so Catholic theology, from this knowledge, asserts that we can ask those in Heaven to intercede on our behalf, to pray for us in ways in which we are unable.

In essence, prayer is not worship. In the case of the saints, it is merely communication, a request for the saints in heaven to go to God with the prayer's requests.

God is still God. He is the beginning and the end, the answerer of all prayers. It is to Him that all Catholic prayers are ultimately directed, even those that might go through the saints.

The saints are simply a part of a believer's family in Christ—a family who loves them, cares for them, and is willing to pray to God on their behalf.

<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/catholic/why-catholics-pray-to-the-saints.aspx?p=2>

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

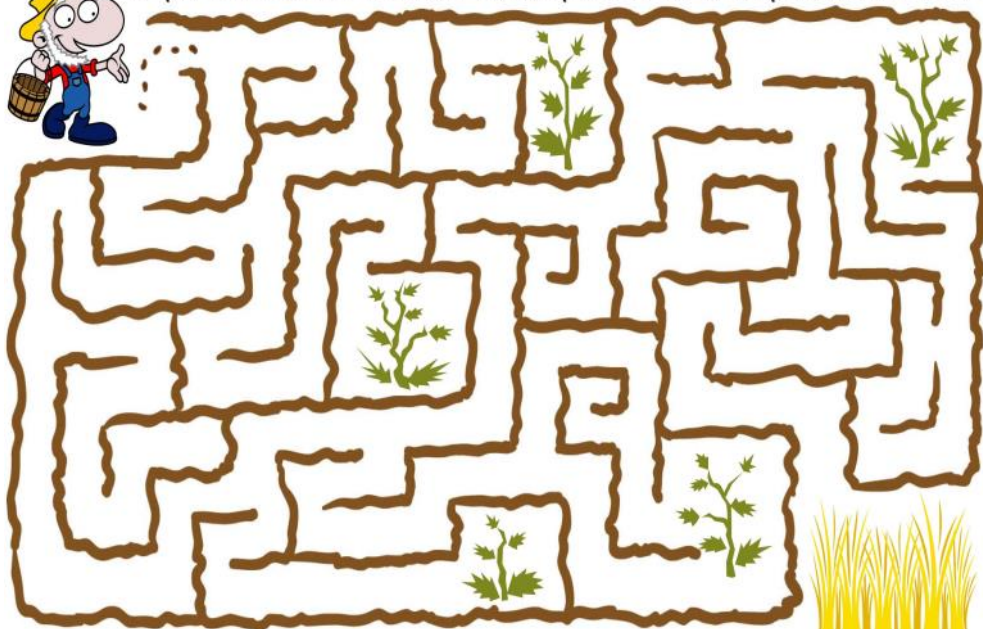
YFC (*Youth for Christ*)

When: 3rd Sundays of the month

Find the path to the fruit



Help the farmer scatter the seed and find the path to the wheat. Keep a look out for weeds!



Word Find

Take care of the harvest

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

Find these words

Barn burn enemy farmer field good plants
 pull up ripe sleeping weed wheat

Diocesan News

28 July - Holy Hour for Vocations

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 6:30pm Friday (*please note new day*) for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. For information about priesthood in the Diocese of Parramatta and Holy Spirit Seminary, please contact Fr John Paul Escarlan, Director of Priestly Vocations, vocations@parra.catholic.org.au

29 July - Screening of The Sultan and the Saint

The Australian premiere of a new film about the historic meeting between St Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt, Malik Al-Kamil, in the midst of the conflict of the Fifth Crusade, will take place on 29 July at Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus. More information and a trailer for the film can be found at: www.sultanandthesaintfilm.com

Tickets are \$10. Book at <https://sultansaintsydney.eventbrite.com.au> The screening is being co-hosted by Diocese of Parramatta.

29 July - Eremos Winter Retreat

Home is our place of origin and our place of arrival. Led by the Eremos Retreat Team, this retreat will provide a welcoming space to consider some ways to understand and take to heart our various experiences of leaving home, the spiritual journey we travel, and our times of turning for home. An opportunity for personal reflection, company in thoughtful conversation, a Labyrinth walk and silent meditation.

Venue: Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Pymble

Cost: \$75, or \$65 for members, \$10 less for concession (*and include morning tea and lunch*) Bookings are essential and close on Thursday 13 July. Please book by clicking on the link <https://www.trybooking.com/OBNZ>

3 August - Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth – Holy Hour for Vocations

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite YOUTH (ages 18-35) to join us for Holy Hour for Vocations. Thursday, 3rd August 2017, at 7:00 pm. Join us also for the pizza at 8:00pm. Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP: Sr Paula by 28th June, email: vocationscfjn@gmail.com or mobile 0449 656406.

4 - 6 August - Single Life Vocation Retreat

A Retreat for Women at Mt Schoenstatt who would like to find out more about the Vocation to Single Life. The weekend will provide an opportunity to meet Women who are living the Single Life vocation and learn about how this vocation is lived and fostered. For more information or to register contact: Sr M Julie Brcar ISSM, tel 0408 738334, juliebrcar@gmail.com Visit: <https://goo.gl/eLoMMg>

5 August - Grace & Silence Retreat day

A Silent Retreat day at Mt Schoenstatt for vocation discernment to Marriage & Family life, Single Life or Consecrated Life. Commences with an input on love followed by silent prayer and reflection and concludes with group prayer. Cost \$30 includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and materials. Registrations: Sr M Julie Brcar ISSM, tel 0408 738 334, juliebrcar@gmail.com Visit: <https://goo.gl/R5ApCo>

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MARN 1461332

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

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au