

**The Transfiguration of the Lord**  
5 - 6 August 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."*



**Listen to Him**

**From the Pastor's desk**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
The experience of Transfiguration is one that we all hope to receive, as we struggle off this mortal coil and see God face-to-face. Like with Jesus, we will then live a new and Resurrected life for all eternity with God who loved us into existence in the first place.

Let us pray for each other: that all members of the Church may remain faithful to Jesus and his Gospel at all times and in circumstances.

1. The course on St. Luke continues this Wednesday evening from 7.30-9.00pm in the Church. Don't worry if you miss a week - each night is fairly independent!
2. Next weekend we will welcome guest speakers from Catholic Mission, who will prompt us to reflect on ways we can help evangelise and aid those in need.

Have a great week!  
God Bless Fr John

AUG	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 7	
TUE 8	<i>St Mary of the Cross (S)</i>
WED 9	7:30pm - Bible Study Gospel of Luke
THU 10	<i>Saint Lawrence (F)</i>
FRI 11	<i>Saint Clare (M)</i>
SAT 12	
SUN 13	<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i> 12pm Baptism - Olivia, Logan, Harrison

# PARISH ASSEMBLY

A CHANCE TO  
HAVE YOUR SAY!

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MASS?



WHAT BRINGS YOUR  
CHILDREN TO MASS?



WHAT'S THE BEST  
THING ABOUT  
ST JOHN XXIII?



WHAT COULD BE  
INTRODUCED?

WHAT COULD  
BE DONE  
BETTER?

WHAT KEEPS  
YOU IN THE  
PARISH?

WHAT  
PART DO  
YOU PLAY IN  
THE LIFE OF  
THE  
PARISH?

WHAT CONTRIBUTION IN  
TIME AND TALENT CAN YOU  
MAKE TO YOUR PARISH?

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.  
PLS. RSVP FOR CATERING



DATE: SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST 2017

TIME: 12.00 - 3.00PM

PLACE: ST MARK'S SCHOOL HALL

RSVP: BUSINESSMANAGER@JOHN23RD.ORG.AU  
OR 9852 0580

CHILDMINDING WILL BE AVAILABLE

## Gospel Reflection

August 6 is the anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. It is the light of death. Today, we remember another light on Mount Tabor that brings not death, but life. It is a light that is the creator of worlds.

The Transfiguration was, and is a moment of challenge and promise to the Apostles and to us. On the mountain, they glimpsed the divinity of Jesus. They realized then and there that Jesus was Son of God. Our Church was so careful to preserve the words and gestures of Jesus in the Gospels and the teaching of His Apostles in the rest of the New Testament. We don't have to wonder what God wants of us because it is all clear in the Gospels. When we read the Gospels, we aren't simply reading a transcript of what happened in history. We are reading God's message to us today.

The words of the Gospel have been treasured by the Church and should be treasured by us as the definitive and final revelation of God's will that is the sure guide to salvation for everyone. "This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him".

When Jesus speaks, God speaks to us. Read the New Testament in this light, and it will open up new worlds of strength and peace for us today. What Jesus said to the people of Palestine, He is saying to us!

The Transfiguration is also a moment of promise. It is a promise of what awaits every follower of Jesus. The glory that we see in Jesus will one day be ours.

We should not set our sights on too small a screen. The Transfiguration gives us a wide-angle lens. When we die, we don't simply evaporate into the ozone. We go into the arms of Christ who knows the real truth about each of us. There are seven words in this Gospel reading that can give great peace and great hope. They are both sublime and plain. They can enormously simplify and strengthen our spiritual life. They are the words of the Father to the Apostles and to us:

"This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him"

## Parish Notices

### 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

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, Stanhope Gardens Conference would like to thank our very generous parishioners who contributed to our Winter Appeal and the sale of the donated items last weekend.

We collected **\$3,791.10** from the Winter Appeal and **\$730.90** from donations for the donated frames and solar powered LED house numbers. This money will go a long way in helping us assist those in need in our community.

## Entrance Antiphon

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

## Communion Antiphon

When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

## First Reading

*Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14*

*His raiment was as white as snow.*

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place and one of great age took his seat. His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence. A thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. A court was held and the books were opened. I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*2 Peter 1:16-19*

*We heard this voice from out of heaven.*

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9*

**R. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, let all the coastlands be glad. Cloud and darkness are his raiment; his throne, justice and right. **R.**

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see he glory. **R.** For you indeed are the Lord most high above all the earth exalted far above all spirits. **R.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him. Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

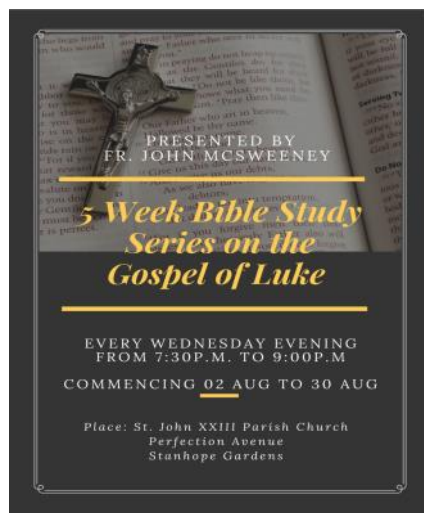
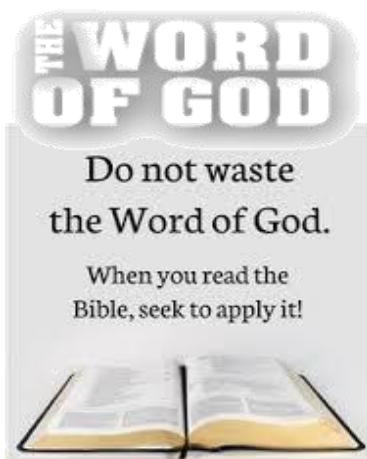
*His face was shining like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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

### **7 Mon 18th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Numbers 11:4-15

Psalm Ps 80:12-17

Gospel Matthew 14:22-36

### **8 Tues Saint Mary of the Cross (S)**

1st Reading 1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm Ps 31:1-3 / Ps 62:1-8

2nd Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Matthew 6:25-34

### **9 Wed 18th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Numbers 13:1-2, 25 - 14:1, 26  
-29, 34-35

Psalm Ps 105:6-7, 13-14, 21-23

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

### **10 Thu Saint Lawrence (F)**

1st Reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

Psalm Ps 111:1-2, 5-9

Gospel John 12:24-26

### **11 Fri Saint Clare (M)**

1st Reading Deuteronomy 4:32-40

Philippians 3:8-14

Psalm Ps 76:12-16, 21

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11

Gospel Matthew 16:24-28

Matthew 19:27-29

### **12 Sat 18th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Psalm Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51

Gospel Matthew 17:14-20

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:

Berningo Marinar, Paciencia Yap,  
Selvarajah Selvarajah, Lourda Motham,  
Priscilla Samarasinghe, Josephine Calabria

### Deceased:

D'Souza family, Olive & Joseph D'Souza,  
Mark De Jesus

### Anniversary:

Gregory Reynolds, Vincente Bucalbos,  
Stuart Cook, Estrella Jimenez,  
Maligoya Morales, Roland Fernandes,  
Peter Fernandes, Maria Stagnitta,  
Lope Ordillano, Keith McDonagh

### Sick:

Jan Mandla, Pat Daley, Karam Matte,  
Genevieve D'Silva, Sigrid Barredo,  
Remedios De Guzman, Reg Chapman,  
Ramon Rendon, Evelyn Paguinto,  
Lucie Gallagher, Josephine Calabria,  
Alfred Miler, Cay Espanta, Anna Simic,  
Andrea Rodrigues, Aida Landicho,  
Liezl Sultana, Carmel Byrne, Lala Salonga

### Thanksgiving:

## 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

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 devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul. — 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](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

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
Nov	7	14	21	28	
	Olan	Peiris	Ranasinghe	Manoj	
Dec	5	12	19	26	
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Erasmio	Paguinto M	

#### ⇒ 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, in our parish website and in our parish FaceBook page. Course schedule, venues and other details can be found in the form. Note endorsement from Fr John is required. Email a completed form to Bob Agbulos on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com) or call 0422106525 for more details.

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

The Gospel of Luke is the third of the four canonical Gospels. 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.



## A forceful essay in 'La Civiltà Cattolica' hits home

by Anthony Annett

Over a decade ago, I was one of the co-founders of a small Catholic blog called Vox Nova. The goal of the blog was precisely that - to be a "new voice" for authentic and consistent Catholic social teaching.

Most of us on that blog hued to traditional teaching on social justice and were identified with the Catholic left. But we also tried hard to be consistent - we didn't disdain *Humanae Vitae*, ignore abortion, call for women priests, or denigrate Church teachings on sexuality. In doing so, we sought to challenge the presumptions of those who monopolized the mantle of "faithful, orthodox Catholicism".

We were attacked relentlessly for exposing their inconsistency. But in an ocean of right-wing Catholic opinion, Vox Nova was easily drowned out, in the end making only the tiniest of ripples.

The same cannot be said of the forceful essay in *La Civiltà Cattolica* by Fr. Antonio Spadaro, SJ, and Marcelo Figueroa, which shone a light on the pathologies of a certain brand of American Catholicism. And the extent and vitriol of the pushback from the highest echelons of American right-wing Catholicism only shows that Spadaro and Figueroa have hit a nerve.

Many have criticized this essay for being too sweeping in its generalizations. But this misses the point. It was not intended as a scholarly discourse. The point is that the basic thesis is certainly correct - that a small but vocal and influential segment of American Catholicism is now far more comfortable with the world of right-wing political evangelicalism than with global Catholicism. (*Commonweal's* editors commented on it here, and contributing editor Massimo Faggioli wrote on it here.)

This world is a Calvinist world, manifesting politically in the twin ideas that the United States is God's chosen country with a unique

destiny in the world's history, which gives rise to a dualistic outlook, and that God bestows material rewards on his favored, which leads to a full-throated embrace of capitalism. This latter pathology comes in different levels, of course, the nadir being the appalling "prosperity gospel".

All of this gives rise to a highly distorted vision of Christianity in the public square. It exalts a libertarian ethos predicated on the belief that free market outcomes are just and virtuous, and that people who lose out have only themselves to blame.

It exalts individualism and personal responsibility over solidarity and communal obligation. And it bestows quasi-canonical status on the U.S. constitutional order. In doing this, it fails to appreciate that its (Lockean) understanding of freedom differs from the Christian understanding of freedom.

It fails to appreciate that the American approach to rights is rooted more in liberal individualism than in the Catholic conception of rights twinned with duties - encompassing rights to the preconditions of human flourishing, such as a living wage, housing, medical care, education, and necessary social services (*as enunciated, for example, in Pope John XXIII's landmark encyclical Pacem in Terris*). The best that can be said is that the U.S. constitutional order is not incompatible with Catholicism. But the same can be said of the constitutions of most countries.

At the same time, this distorted vision embraces American exceptionalism over Christian notions of "infinite relationality" (*to use a term associated with Metropolitan John Zizioulas of the Orthodox Church*). It glorifies the military, insists on a maximum military budget, and defends U.S. military adventurism across the globe. It is comfortable with the death penalty and even torture. It denies the existence of climate change, which is partly a

## Why we do ....

reflection of libertarianism, partly a reflection of American exceptionalism, and partly a reflection of the corrupting influence of financial interests.

Here's an interpretive key: when these people herald orthodoxy, they are not talking about theology. They are talking about politics. They are talking about fealty to a cohesive yet inconsistent political ideology that centers on the modern Republican party.

When challenged, especially by folks who support Catholic teaching across the spectrum, their typical response is not theological but political - you support the Democrats, the Democrats kill babies, so you are implicated in baby-killing. Or you support the Democrats, the Democrats hate religious believers, therefore you are implicated in attacks on religion.

Now, it would be one thing for these folks to claim that Christian discernment leads them to hold their noses and vote Republican. This is a perfectly acceptable, even respectable, position - especially in light of the increasing abortion absolutism and left-wing libertarianism of the Democratic Party. But this is not what happens.

It's not just that they prioritize issues like abortion, marriage, and religious liberty and then hold their noses on the other stuff. They don't believe the other stuff stinks at all. They actually think it emits a pleasant odor!

And so they go to great lengths to "negotiate" their way out of this impasse, declaring that some values are more important than others, that "prudential judgment" gives a free pass, or that Americans have a better grasp on reality than decadent Europeans or Argentinian statists. Using the unborn as a rhetorical weapon serves to paper over these incongruities.

These folks aren't pro-life in any meaningful sense of the word, and even when it comes

to the unborn, they can gut a program that pays for half of all childbirths without breaking a sweat. They might be sincere in their defense of life, but they are not consistent in it. Ideology comes first.

I'll give them this - these people have had a remarkably good run of it over the past few decades. Their libertarian economics was able to fend off orthodox Catholicism and even establish beachheads in places like Catholic University.

People like George Weigel and Michael Novak could perform impressive mental gymnastics to claim that the invasion and occupation of Iraq met the standards of a just war (*despite the staunch opposition of their hero, Pope John Paul II*). Weigel could get away with openly mocking Pope Benedict's social teaching. Raymond Arroyo could shamefully defend torture and deny climate change on EWTN. The Knights of Columbus could be shamelessly politicized. And groups like "Catholic Vote" could openly lobby for the tea party. I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

All of this changed under Pope Francis. And these changing fortunes go a long way toward explaining the hostility of many (*but by no means all*) on the American Catholic right toward this pope (*remember the interpretive key: it's all political*).

While Francis doesn't really differ from his predecessors in doctrinal substance, he does so in pastoral tone. They can't spin him as they did previous popes, especially John Paul II. Remember, people like Weigel, Novak, Richard John Neuhaus, and Robert Sirico went to great lengths to claim that the encyclical *Centesimus Annus* changed Catholic social teaching, even though this was explicitly denied by Cardinal Peter Turkson.

These people sometimes engaged in what can be best described as "John Paul Gnosticism": despite what his public teachings might say, they could claim he

was secretly on their side.

But they can't readily ignore Pope Francis's pellucid and prophetic teachings on the economy and the environment. And they really hate the way he links how we treat the poor, the excluded, the unborn, the migrant, the elderly, and the environment under the banner of a "throwaway culture", which of course is connected to the cult of consumer choice and instant gratification that's responsible for how our modern economy operates.

This, of course, is anathema. But openly opposing the pope comes with risks, especially when your whole identity is wrapped up with being a "faithful and orthodox" Catholic. So as well as downplaying papal teachings on the economy and the environment, they also resort to an old tactic - isolating a particular moral issue to cloak the real disagreement.

Just as they exploit the unborn for domestic political gain, they seize upon language in *Amoris Laetitia* related to communion for the divorced and remarried to one-up Pope Francis - audaciously claiming they are more Catholic than the pope. And some of the ringleaders are even the same - most notoriously, Cardinal Raymond Burke.

All of this came to a head with the rise of Donald Trump. The U.S. church is being asked to choose between the values of the pope and the values of the president. There is no longer any scope for obfuscation. I must point out that many of the people I am criticizing - folks like Weigel and Robert George - refused to support Trump and spoke out openly against him. They deserve credit for that.

But even so, the seeds they helped plant over the past few decades created the environment in which a majority of white Catholics could vote for such a man.

There's another factor at play here, less to do with the intellectual leaders of the Catholic right and more to do with the default Americanism that seeps into all

aspects of Catholic life. For example, at the church frequented by my in-laws in New Jersey, I've heard homilies glorifying the military, calling for higher military spending, criticizing Muslim immigrants, and comparing the hill of Calvary with the hill of Iwo Jima. Seriously.

This is horrific, but the overwhelmingly white middle-class Mass-goers seem to lap it up. It's no wonder that they find no contradiction between Catholicism and Trumpism. It's no wonder that Donald Trump enjoys their support while the rest of the Catholic world views him with askance and horror. Surely this shows that Spadaro and Figueroa are onto something.

With Trump, a tipping point has been crossed. It's no longer just about the policies that violate the common good, such as gutting healthcare, attacking immigrants, or pulling out of the Paris Agreement. This is par for the course among Republicans. No, it's about something more elemental.

It's about undermining the pillars of the social order itself, identified by Pope John XXIII as truth, justice, charity, and liberty. It's about a terrifying return to the ethos of the 1930s - the dismissal of the very concept of objective truth, the attacks on media and judicial oversight, the cult of power and personality, the emphasis on a national redeemer, the exploitation of legitimate economic grievances, the scapegoating of vulnerable minorities, the winking at political violence, the mass campaign rallies that whip up fervor and anger.

We know the lessons of history. We know the dangers. And this is why we need a strong, consistent, moral voice more than ever. This is why the pathologies identified by Spadaro and Figueroa need to be cured as a matter of urgency.

*Anthony Annett is a climate change and sustainable development advisor at the Center for Sustainable Development - Earth Institute at Columbia University and in this position is affiliated with Religions for Peace.*

## 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:** 27 August 2017

**Topic:** tba

**Guest Speaker:** tba

### BLAZE

If you're in Years 7 to 10, come and join us. BLAZE runs during the school term on Friday nights. Weeks 1,3,5,7 and 9. Starts at 7:15 till 9pm .

Brochures at the foyer for more information or just drop them a line [youth@john23rd.com](mailto: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

## Fill in the blanks

By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

SON AM LISTEN TO SAYS  
BELOVED HIM IS PLEASED

THIS \_\_ MY

\_\_\_\_\_,

AND I \_\_\_\_

WITH \_\_\_\_ .

\_\_ WHAT HE \_\_\_\_ .

## Word Find

Jesus' face shone like the sun

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

*Find these words*

Afraid	cloud	disciples	face	flat	James	John
Moses	mountain	Peter	sun	voice		

**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.

**18 – 20 August - Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

Weekend date: 18th to 20th August at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW  
Bookings online at [www.wmme.org.au](http://www.wmme.org.au) or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774419  
[oradrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:oradrian.janet1@bigpond.com)

**20 August - Christian Meditation Introduction & Renewal Day**

Presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two periods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. BYO picnic lunch – tea & coffee provided. Arrive 10am for 10.30am, concludes about 3pm. Books & CDs for sale. St Benedict's Monastery is at 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, tel (02)9653 1159. Self-catering accommodation may be available in the monastery guest house. Contact Br Terry 0438 282318. Inquiries: Ann Bergman (02)9498 2625, [anniebergman@hotmail.com](mailto:anniebergman@hotmail.com) or Ann Lomas (02)9456 4775

**27 August - 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.

**September 24 – October 6 - Pilgrimage: A taste before the real thing!**

An AMAZING 13-day Encounter tour of Timor Leste. An EXPERIENCED GUIDE leads your visit to communities where Palms volunteers work with host communities. Get a UNIQUE UNDERSTANDING of their daily lives; an INCREDIBLE INSIGHT into Timorese culture. WITNESS sustainable development. Visit [palms.org.au/encounter](http://palms.org.au/encounter). Call Roger during business hours: 0431995058



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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 (Tues, 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* 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](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)