

Twenty Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time
16 - 17 September 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."

FORGIVENESS

**"something that everyone needs....
eager to receive....
but very hard to give"**



From the Pastor's desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It will always be an internal battle for each of us to overcome the primitive reaction of hitting back when hurt.

Sometimes we fail.

But failure cannot be our excuse not to keep on trying to follow the way of Christ Jesus.

The Psalm today proclaims, "The Lord is kind and merciful." Do we imitate our loving God?

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- We pray for Year 12, who will celebrate their last week at school before they sit their HSC. Their graduation Mass is on Friday 22/9 at 10.30am.
 - IGNITE is on this Sunday after 6pm Mass. All Welcome.

SEP	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 18	
TUE 19	
WED 20	<i>Saints Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong Hasan (M)</i>
THU 21	<i>Saint Matthew (F)</i>
FRI 22	
SAT 23	<i>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (M)</i>
SUN 24	Baptism - Liam, Brooklyn, Jordan, Jeyden

God Bless you all.

Father John

Gospel Reflection

One day, each of us will die. But rather than causing us to fear, this sobering thought should put things in perspective.

It should make us ask, if I were to die tomorrow, would people remember me as someone who lived for Christ or for myself? This question flows particularly from today's second reading. There St. Paul explains, "The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord"...or so we should hope. See, such a life does not come automatically; we cannot presume that at the end of our days we will be able to answer 'for Christ' to the question above. It takes hard work, daily work to be able to answer that.

We are presented every day with choices, options, opportunities where we can either choose 'for Christ' or for ourselves. Whether it be to act justly to our wives or not; to forgive our husbands or not; to help our parents with chores or not; to say our prayers or not; to hold that grudge or not; all these things are chances to show our love for Jesus, to show that we live for him.

For that answer we make at the end of our lives is not a simple wish or thought, it is the accumulation of choosing Christ, following his commandments in the daily things just mentioned. We can only answer 'for Christ' if we have tried everyday to live for him.

The man in the parable from today's Gospel chose for himself, rather than replicating the mercy shown to him, and his was not a pleasant end. But if we choose 'for Christ' then our lives will shine brightly in a world that can seem quite dark at times, we will be able to draw others to the great promise of life in Christ, and we will, at the end of our days be confident in enjoying that life forever in heaven.

To start that, let us today or sometime this week take some time to ask, am I living for Christ or for myself?

Jack Green

Pastoral letter on the same-sex marriage postal survey

Dear sisters and brothers,

As I write to you, the national debate on same-sex civil marriage is in full swing. It is an issue that many feel passionate about and hence, it has potential to polarise the community. I appeal to all Catholics in the Diocese of Parramatta to conduct this dialogue with a deep sense of respect for all concerned, and for the opinion and decision that each person is free to make.



It is important to remember from the very outset that the postal survey is about whether or not Australians want the legal definition of civil marriage changed to include same-sex couples. It is not a referendum on sacramental marriage as understood by the Catholic Church.

Many years ago, divorce was legalised in Australia; but this change did not alter the law of the Church. Therefore, whatever the outcome of the survey or the eventual legislation by the government, the Church will continue to hold that marriage is a natural institution established by God to be a permanent union between one man and one woman, directed both to mutual companionship and to the formation of a family in which children are born and nurtured.

For many Catholics, the issue of same-sex marriage is not simply theoretical but deeply personal. These may be same-sex attracted people themselves or that may be the case with their relatives and friends. In such cases, they are torn between their love for the Church and their love for their same-sex attracted child, grandchild, sibling, cousin, friend or neighbour.

As your bishop, I wish to reiterate the commitment I made at my installation: "I am committed to make the church in Parramatta the house for all peoples, a church where there is less an experience of exclusion but more an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness and solidarity." As a community of disciples, we seek to accommodate, accompany and care for one another irrespective of sexual orientation, marital status and situation.

I invite all Catholics in our Diocese to exercise our responsibility as citizens to engage in this community discernment. It should not be a matter of a simple answer Yes or No to the postal survey. It should be an opportunity for us to witness to our deep commitment to the ideal of Christian marriage. But it should also be an opportunity for us to listen to what the Spirit is saying through the signs of the times.

Throughout much of history, our gay and lesbian (or LGBTI) brothers and sisters have often not been treated with respect, sensitivity and compassion. Regrettably, the Church has not always been a place where they have felt welcomed, accepted and loved. Thus, regardless of the outcome of the survey, we must commit ourselves to the task of reaching out to our LGBTI brothers and sisters, affirming their dignity and accompanying them on our common journey towards the fullness of life and love in God.

Let us pray, discern and act with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Catholics, in keeping with the tradition of the Church, are asked to exercise their consciences, ensuring that they are informed as they come to exercise their democratic rights in the coming postal survey.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Vincent Long

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 13 September A.D. 2017, Memorial of St John Chrysostom

Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading

Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Parish News

Senior Moments' Morning Tea

Calling all Seniors! Join us for a special morning tea just for you, with baked goodies made especially by the children of our parish. Come enjoy your morning with a cuppa and cake!

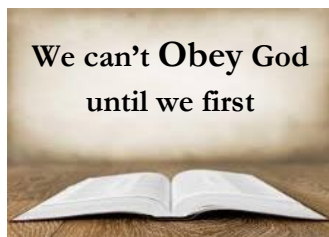


Date: Sunday 8 October

Time: 9am -10.30am

Place: Outside the Church Kitchen

For enquiries, please contact Jill (Pastoral Care team) on 0402 172346 or admin@john23rd.org.au



The Word of God

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

18 Mon 24th week ordinary time

1st Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Psalm Ps 27:2. 7-9

Gospel Luke 7:1-10

19 Tues 24th week ordinary time

1st Reading 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Psalm Ps 100:1-3. 5. 6

Gospel Luke 7:11-17

**20 Wed Saints Andrew Kim Taegon &
Paul Chong Hasan (M)**

1st Reading 1 Timothy 3:14-16
Wisdom 3:1-9 / Romans 8:31-39

Psalm Ps 110:1-6 / Ps 125

Gospel Luke 7:31-35 / Luke 9:23-26

21 Thu Saint Matthew (F)

1st Reading Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13

Psalm Ps 18:2-5

Gospel Matthew 9:9-13

22 Fri 24th week ordinary time

1st Reading 1 Timothy 6:2-12

Psalm Ps 48:6-10. 17-20

Gospel Luke 8:1-3

23 Sat Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (M)

1st Reading 1 Timothy 6:13-16
Isaiah 58:6-11

Psalm Ps 99 / Ps 111:1-9

Gospel Luke 8:4-15
Matthew 22:35-40

Full weekly readings can be found in the parish
website <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:

Joseph Damjanovic, Lydia Babista Sereno,
Emilia Pignatell, Aida Landicho,
Jim Geppert, Victor Ebardla

Deceased:

Louise Malkoune, Jamal Sassine,
Najib Nakad

Anniversary:

Cornelio Abellana, Amada Abellana,
Bernardo Abellana, Gloria Abellana
Gaitszch, Kanicka Doss, C & H Tran,
Ancestors, Margaret Byers, Carlito Songco,
Edwin Perera, Maligaya Morales

Sick:

Evelyn Paguinto, Josephine Calabria,
Pat Daly, Jan Mandla, Genevieve D'Silva,
Andrea Rodrigues, Epifania Samaniego,
Lucie Gallagher, Neil Buensuceso,
Sigrid Barredo, Anna Simic, Reg Chapman,
Karam Matte, Lala Salonga, Alfred Miler,
Cay Espanta, Liezl Sultana, Carmel Byrne,
Cora Salvador

Thanksgiving:

Ronald, Kristine, Maria, Ramon, Tess Mira,
Vincenzo Zamora, Magdalena Ramirez,
Rohan Virwani, Conrad Fontanilla.

Paying our debt together

The First Collection – for the diocese.
The 1st Collection is used for the support
of the Bishop and priests of the Diocese.

The Second Collection – for the parish.
The 2nd Collection is used to meet our
parish running costs (*rates, utilities, insurance,
telecommunication, computers, photocopiers,
stationery and postage, church and altar requisites,
repairs and maintenance of the church, presbytery,
office buildings and grounds*).

It is used to pay the team/staff salaries,
superannuation and each priest's car
expenses, loan interest and loan repayment.
It is also used to provide for our pastoral
and ministry outreach activities from the
parish.

Money received in the 2nd collection is
banked into the parish "Church Account".
If you would like to be a part of the
church's plan giving program, an **SJ23rd
form** (white) is available at the church foyer
or contact the parish office.

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 News

COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2018

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic
Catholic Calendar, well-known for its
traditional religious paintings and liturgical
information and is a major fundraiser for
Columban Missionaries. The Columban
calendar for next year 2018 is now available
at the foyer. The cost is \$10.00. Please leave
your money in the box provided.

MEMORIAL WALL

A place to remember your loved ones. We
are taking orders for the next batch of
plaques for the memorial wall. If you wish
to order a plaque to be ready by **All Souls
Day (2 November)** please contact the
parish office.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS

The latest edition of Australian Catholics is
also available in the foyer - free!



CAKE ANGELS STALL – 15 Oct, Sun

The Cake Angels are
having a fundraiser food
stall during the 7.30am and 9am masses. All
proceeds will go towards the church debt.
They are also looking for new members and
welcome all avid cooks or those who just
love food (like they do!). For enquiries,
please call or SMS Jill on 0402 172 346.

Parish Pastoral Corner

"Truly the will of God is my peace. And my hope is all in Jesus' mercy" — 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					
Sep	5	12	19	26	
	Sebastian	Erasmus	Paguinto E	Olan	
Oct	3	10	17	24	31
	Ivon	Sebastian	Pangilinan R	Shalini	Jacinta
Nov	7	14	21	28	
	Pangilinan R	Peiris	Ranasinghe	Manoj	
Dec	5	12	19	26	
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Erasmus	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.

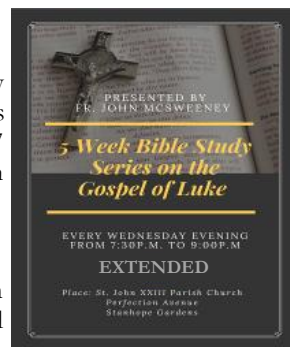
Enrolment forms are available at the foyer, in our parish website and in our parish FaceBook page. Course schedule, venues and other details can be found in the form. Note endorsement from Fr John is required. Email a completed form to Bob Agbulos on bragbulos@gmail.com or call 0422 106525 for more details.

⇒ Gospel of St. Luke

The Bible Study Series on the Gospel of St. Luke conducted by Fr. John McSweeney has been extended for another 3 weeks starting on Wednesday, 20 September 2017 to 27 September and 04 October at 7:30p.m. at St. John XXIII parish church.

R C I A

⇒ If you have family or friends who might be interested in understanding the Catholic faith, let us know via email rcia.sj23rd@gmail.com.



PPC

EVANGELIZATION

⇒ **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

PASTORAL CARE

⇒ **Pastoral Care Team Launch**

The Pastoral Care Team will be launching the start of their ministry with a morning tea on **Sunday 24 September** after the 9am and 10.30am masses. Come and meet the Team

15 Day Pilgrimage

THE HOLY LAND

Duration: 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension

Departure: Saturday 6th January 2018

Tour Code: 8PV03

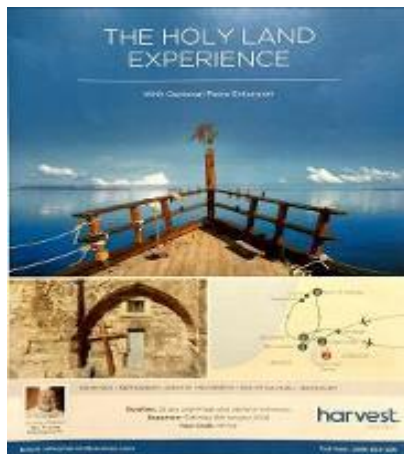
Email: info@harvestjourneys.com

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 ... (con't)

11 that it is never permissible for a person to dip the host he or she has received into the chalice. If, for some reason, the communicant is not able or willing to drink from the cup then that person should receive only under the form of bread.

It seems appropriate to conclude this reflection on the Communion Procession and the reception of Communion with a quotation from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1396: In Baptism we have been called to form but one body. The Eucharist fulfills this call: *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many*

are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor 10:16-17):

If you are the body and members of Christ, then it is your sacrament that is placed on the table of the Lord; it is your sacrament that you receive. To that which you are you respond "Amen" ("yes, it is true!") and by responding to it you assent to it. For you hear the words, **"the Body of Christ"** and respond **"Amen."** Be then a member of the Body of Christ that your Amen may be true (*St. Augustine, Sermon 272: PL 38, 1247*).

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/the-reception-of-body-communion-at-mass.cfm>

The Reception Of Holy Communion At Mass

The Church understands the Communion Procession, in fact every procession in liturgy, as a sign of the pilgrim Church, the body of those who believe in Christ, on their way to the Heavenly Jerusalem. All our lives we who believe in Christ are moving in time toward that moment when we will be taken by death from this world and enter into the joy of the Lord in the eternal Kingdom he has prepared for us. The liturgical assembly of the baptized that comes together for the celebration of the Eucharist is a witness to, a manifestation of, the pilgrim Church. When we move in procession, particularly the procession to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion, we are a sign, a symbol of that pilgrim Church "*on the way*."

For some, however, the experience of the Communion Procession is far more prosaic, analogous perhaps to standing in line in the supermarket or at the motor vehicle bureau. A perception such as this is a dreadfully inaccurate and impoverished understanding of what is a significant religious action. The Communion Procession is an action of the Body of Christ. At Christ's invitation, extended by the priest acting in Christ's person: "*Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb*," the members of the community move forward to share in the sacred meal, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ which is the sign and the source of their unity. In fact, each time we move forward together to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord, we join the countless ranks of all the baptized who have gone before us, our loved ones, the canonized and uncanonized saints down through the ages, who at their time in history formed a part of this mighty stream of believers.

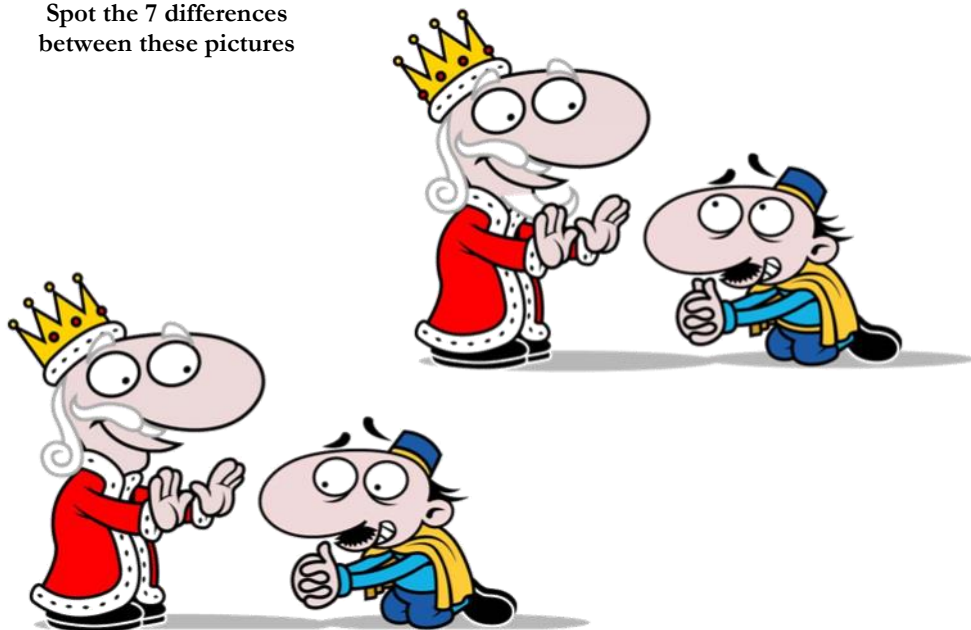
This action by Christ's body, the Church assembled for the Eucharist, is manifested and supported by the Communion Chant, a hymn in praise of Christ sung by the united voices of those who believe in him and share his life. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal takes this hymn very seriously, mandating that it should begin at the Communion of the priest and extend until the last person has received Communion.

For some, however, the singing of this hymn is perceived as an intrusion on their own prayer, their private thanksgiving after Communion. In fact, however, this hymn is prayer, the corporate thanksgiving prayer of the members of Christ's Body, united with one another. Over and over again the prayers of the liturgy and the norms of the General Instruction emphasize this fundamental concept of the unity of the baptized, stressing that when we come together to participate in the Eucharistic celebration we come, not as individuals, but as united members of Christ's Body. In each of the Eucharistic Prayers, though the petition is worded in slightly different ways, God is asked to send his Holy Spirit to make us one body, one spirit in Christ; the General Instruction admonishes the faithful that "*they are to form one body, whether in hearing the Word of God, or in taking part in the prayers and in the singing...*" (no. 96). It describes one of the purposes of the opening song of the Mass as to "*foster the unity of those who have been gathered*" (no. 47), and says of the Communion Chant that "*its purpose [is] to express the spiritual union of the communicants by means of the unity of their voices, to show gladness of heart, and to bring out more clearly the 'communitarian' character of the procession to receive the Eucharist*" (no. 86).

It is difficult for some of us to embrace this emphasis on Mass as the action of a community rather than an individual act of my own faith and piety, but it is important that we make every effort to do so. Christ himself at the Last Supper pleaded with his Father: "*Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are... as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us...*" (John 17:11, 21). Baptism has joined us to Christ and to one another as the vine and its branches. The life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, animates each of us individually, and all of us corporately and guides us together in our efforts to become one in Christ.

Finally, the fact that the Communion Procession is a profoundly religious action tells us

Spot the 7 differences
between these pictures



something about the way in which we should participate in this procession. We are the Body of Christ, moving forward to receive the Christ who makes us one with himself and with one another. Our procession should move with dignity; our bearing should be that of those who know they have been redeemed by Christ and are coming to receive their God!

The General Instruction asks each country's Conference of Bishops to determine the posture to be used for the reception of Communion and the act of reverence to be made by each person as he or she receives Communion. In the United States, the body of Bishops determined that Communion should be received standing, and that a bow is the act of reverence made by those receiving. These norms may require some adjustment on the part of those who have been used to other practices, however the significance of unity in posture and gesture as a symbol of our unity as members of the one body of Christ should be the governing factor in our own actions.

Those who receive Communion may receive either in the hand or on the tongue, and the decision should be that of the individual receiving, not of the person distributing Communion. If Communion is received in the hand, the hands should first of all be clean. If one is right handed the left hand should rest upon the right. The host will then be laid in the palm of the left hand and then taken by the right hand to the mouth. If one is left-handed this is reversed. It is not appropriate to reach out with the fingers and take the host from the person distributing.

The person distributing Communion says audibly to each person approaching, "*The Body of Christ.*" This formula should not be altered, as it is a proclamation which calls for a response of faith on the part of the one who receives. The communicant should audibly respond, "*Amen,*" indicating by that response his or her belief that this small wafer of bread, the wine in this chalice are in reality the body and blood of Christ the Lord.

When one receives from the chalice, the same proclamation is made by the person distributing Communion and the Communicant again responds, "**Amen.**" It should be noted

SJ 23rd Youth Ministry

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Philippians 4:13

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: 24 September 2017

Topic: TBA

Guest Speaker: TBA



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

BLAZE

BLAZE Youth Group is a fun and exciting way for youths in Years 5 and up to learn about their faith and how to handle the struggles of being a teen.

BLAZE runs during **Friday nights**, weeks 1,3,5,7 and 9 of the school term. Session **starts at 7:15 till 9pm**.

The Term 3 series, **VITAL**, is all about the Holy Spirit. He is the very breath and spirit of God breathed into us giving us life.

In this series, we will explore the life and mission of the Holy Spirit, the fruits and gifts He offers us and discover how we can be more open to His presence and the power in our lives.



Next Session: 29 September 2017



Word Find

Forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times

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

Find these words

Begged	followers	free	heart	hundred	king
Money	official	owed	pity	seventy	sold

21 Sept - Martin Luther – The man and his music

A concert commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be held at St. Finbar's Church, Glenbrook on Thursday 21st Sept 2017 at 7.30pm. Sing and learn about some of the great hymns composed by Martin Luther and other Reformation hymn writers. Performances by the Blue Mountains Chorale with Robert Ampt (*Organist, Martin Luther Church, Sydney*). Suggested donation: \$20, \$10 concession. Enquiries 4754 1780

24 Sept – 6 Oct - 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. Call Roger during business hours: 0431995058.

24 Sept - Q & A Programme “Let’s Talk About What Matters”

Held at The Crypt, St Patrick's Church, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, 1.30 – 3.00pm.

24 Sept “Social Media – A force for good?”

Professor Gerard Goggin & Cecilia Hilder;

10 Oct “Pornography: Who does it harm?”

Rev Fr John Baron OP;

22 Oct “Finding the Courage to make a Difference” Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO and Alpha Cheng. No need to book. No charge.

Further information: 02 9990 7003

website: catalyst-for-renewal.com.au

Email: catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au

24 Sept - Discernment to the Permanent Diaconate

Come and learn more about vocations to the Diaconate and have a chat with our team members. We are looking for men aged between 35 to 55 and residing in the Diocese of Parramatta. Our discernment program consists of five sessions, with each session dealing with different aspects of the Diaconate. This is the fourth session of the 2017 program. Subsequent sessions will be announced in due course. Venue: St Anthony of Padua Parish, 27-33 Aurelia Street, Toongabbie, NSW 2146. Time: 2:30 to 5 pm (including Mass and fellowship).

For further information visit <http://parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate> or please contact any of the following deacons:

Deacon James deacon@stantthonyschurch.org.au

Deacon Tan deacontan@john23rd.org.au or call 0407270782

Deacon George - g.bryan1@bigpond.com

24 Sept - Social Justice Sunday

The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Social Justice Sunday on 24 September.

This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: *‘Everyone’s Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy’*. The Statement calls for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499.

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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 Community

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 Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au