

Twenty Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time
1 October 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."

*It is not what you say.....
It is what you do!*

From the Pastor's desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

We can identify with both sons in today's parable. These are times when we say "yes" to God with our lips, and yet our lives are not lived in the Truth.

And there are also times when we say "no" to demands of the Gospel, and, upon further reflection, we have a change of heart and fulfil God's will. In this coming week, let's strive to remember God's mercy to us, and try to walk in the Lord's way more faithfully.

1. This Friday is First Friday Novena Mass at 7.30pm. And there will be the Anointing of the Sick during the First Saturday mass (7/10) at 9.00am.

2. We are in the process of purchasing the 3 new candle stands in our church: at Our Lady's niche, at the Sacred Heart niche, and the "new" Holy Family niche at the back of the Church. These new stands allow us to light a REAL candle. If anyone feels that they may wish to donate the cost of one of these stands, please see me.

3. We have now installed closed circuit TV in our church and sacristies.

OCT	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 2	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels (M)</i>
TUE 3	
WED 4	<i>Saint Francis of Assisi (M)</i>
THU 5	
FRI 6	7:30pm - First Friday Novena Mass
SAT 7	<i>Our Lady of Rosary (M)</i> 9:00am - Anointing of the sick
SUN 8	11:30am - 15th Anniversary Parish Formation Celebration Baptism - Oliver

God Bless you all. Fr John

Parish Income & Expenditure

Parish Income & Expenditure

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Income

Planned Giving (Envelope)	233,292
Loose 2nd Collection	122,133
Donations	40,929
Interest Received	2,160
	398,515

Expenditure

Parish Loan Repayments	120,000
Staff Wages & oOncosts	71,393
Insurance, Rates & Utilities	48,334
Repairs & Maintenance	37,959
Ministry, Formation & Resources	33,519
Car Expenses	22,999
Other Operating expenses	21,510
Telephone & IT Expenses	12,361
DWF	12,000
Altar & Church Requisites	11,098
Printing & Stationery	9,301
	400,474

Defecit	(1,960)
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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

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

Communion Antiphon

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11 (Long)

In your minds be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

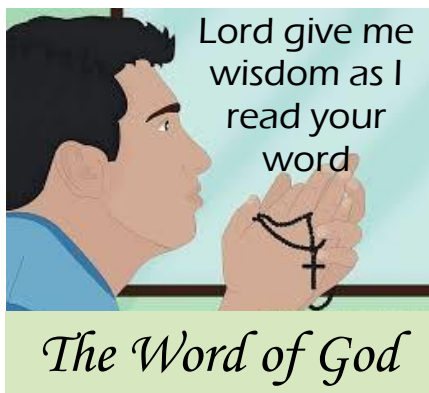
He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

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



Enthusiastic kiddy bakers needed!

Do your children love to bake? We need their help!

We are looking for enthusiastic kiddy bakers who would like to contribute something special for our Senior Moments' Morning Tea on **Sunday 8 October**. Each child will receive a certificate of appreciation for his/her effort. For enquiries, please contact Jill (Pastoral Care team) on 0402 172 346 or admin@john23rd.org.au



8th Oct, Sun: 15th Year Anniversary - Parish Formation St John 23rd

Happy Anniversary to us. It's been 15 years since we formed the Parish of St John 23rd.

To commemorate this auspicious occasion, we will be having a food fiesta on **Sunday 8th October after the 10:30am mass**. Food contributions will be most welcome. For further information please contact Techie Sarlabus on 0438 201436 or the parish office.

15 Oct, Sun: CAKE ANGELS STALL

The Cake Angels are having a fundraiser food stall after 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.

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

2 Mon The Holy Guardian Angels (M)

1st Reading Zechariah 8:1-8 /

Exodus 23:20-23

Psalm Ps 101:16-21. 29. 22-23 /

Ps 90:1-6.10-11

Gospel Luke 9:46-50 /

Matthew 18:1-5. 10

3 Tues 26th week ordinary time

1st Reading Zechariah 8:20-23

Psalm Ps 86

Gospel Luke 9:51-56

4 Wed Saint Francis of Assisi (M)

1st Reading Nehemiah 2:1-8 /

Galatians 6:14-18

Psalm Ps 136:1-6 / Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-8. 11

Gospel Luke 9:57-62 /

Matthew 11:25-30

5 Thu 26th week ordinary time

1st Reading Nehemiah 8:1-12

Psalm Ps 18:8-11

Gospel Luke 10:1-12

6 Fri 26th week ordinary time

1st Reading Baruch 1:15-22

Psalm Ps 78:1-5. 8-9

Gospel Luke 10:13-16

7 Sat Our Lady of Rosary (M)

1st Reading Baruch 4:5-12. 27-29 /

Acts 1:12-14

Psalm Ps 68:33-37 / Luke 1:46-55

Gospel Luke 10:17-24 / Luke 1:26-38

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:

Ornanong Muangruen, Lawrence Peiris,
Victor Silva

Deceased:

Sammy Formosa, Reno Camilleri

Anniversary:

Roland Fernandes, Nazzarene Sultana,
Leonardo Villafana, Thelma Pore

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, Patria Florence Cerdania

Thanksgiving:

Ruel & Samara Gonsalves,
Mr & Mrs C Pereira

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 by **29th September**.

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

“See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little” — 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

	3	10	17	24	31
Oct	Ivon	Sebastian	Pangilinan R	Shalini	Jacinta
Nov	7	14	21	28	
	Pangilinan R	Peiris	Ranasinghe	Manoj	
Dec	5	12	19	26	
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Erasmo	Paguinto M	
Jan	2	9	16	23	30
	Paguinto M	available	available	available	available

⇒ 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.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

⇒ Knitting club

There will be no meeting for the month of October

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Our recent parish assembly was a great success, with over 120 parishioners in attendance. There was a lot of discussion and the discussion groups came up with over 280 comments, suggestions and ideas.

The organising committee is collating those suggestions and the various ministry groups in our parish will be reporting back with their plans in the near future. We would like to thank everyone who attended and will definitely let our community know of the outcome.

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

⇒ **Congratulations SRE’s!**

Some SRE teachers from our parish were awarded certificates by Rev. Bishop Vincent Long, at the recently held Diocesan CCD Mass.

Colleen McCunnie – 25 years as an SRE

Josephine Falzon – 20 years as an SRE

St. Mark’s students representing the schools’ student teachers

Helen Zammit - completion of level 3 CCD course

Congratulations and thank you for your wonderful work for our parish.

THE HOLY LAND

Duration: 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension

Departure: Saturday 6th January 2018

Tour Code: 8PV03

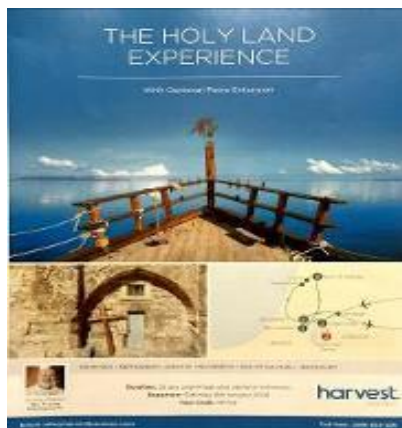
Email: info@harvestjourneys.com

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*)



VOTIVE CANDLE STANDS

Following the theft of one of the votive offering candle stands we have replaced both the Our Lady and Sacred Heart stands.

We would like to thank the family who have very kindly donated the stand for Our Lady. Is there anyone who would like to donate or at least contribute towards the cost of the Sacred Heart stand? We would also like to replace the stand which is now in front of the Holy Family niche. Please speak to Fr John.

What to do

These are real candles but with a very low smoke emission. There is a simple procedure – take a candle from the stand, light it from one of the lit candles and place it carefully in the glass holder. An offering of at least a gold coin would be appreciated.

Spirituality

Spirituality defines one's whole way of life. As such, spirituality can be defined as a way of being, seeing and acting.

What is distinctive about Christian spirituality is that it is a way of being, seeing and acting that has its source in, and takes its inspiration from, the person and vision of Jesus Christ. It is therefore a spirituality that has its source in our communion with God, and is forged in communion with others and with all of creation. It is a spirituality of relationships.

Characteristics of a Catholic Christian spirituality also include:

- A belief in the Trinity as the model of communion between people
- A commitment to liturgy, especially the Eucharist, communal and personal prayer
- A spirit of collaboration
- An ecumenical commitment to unity
- An inclusive attitude to the world
- A readiness to dialogue with all people of good will
- A passion for social justice and human rights
- A view of the natural environment as God's creation to be loved and cared for

Catholics understand the world as the meeting place between God's purposes and human hopes. This view has that God's Holy Spirit is already in the world and embraces the need to dialogue with all people of good will. These are features of a spirituality of communion and are vital aspects of the Church's mission in the world.

This spirituality has been captured in the Vision of the Archdiocese of Brisbane which calls each Catholic to:

Deepen our understanding of the person

and vision of Jesus Christ.

Build Communion with God, our brothers and sisters within the Christian community and all people of good will.

Engage in Christ's Mission by bringing the Gospel alive in the everyday circumstances of our world.

Expression of spirituality

There are many different expressions of Catholic spirituality that have developed over the past two thousand years. Many of these reflect the particular charism of founders of religious orders who developed their own unique way of approaching God in prayer and formed a unique way of living out the Gospel.

Some of these spiritualities include:

Desert – is characterised by prayer in solitude, asceticism and a life of sacrifice. St Anthony of Egypt (251-356) lived a desert spirituality, which includes centering prayer, a form of meditation on a single, sacred word that draws one closer to God.

Benedictine – is characterised by life in community, order and obedience to superiors. St Benedict (480-550) is considered to be the father of western monasticism. *Lectio Divina*, is a Benedictine prayer form based on reflection on the Word of God.

Franciscan – is characterised by a life of poverty, love of nature and giving charity to those in need. St Francis (1182-1226) rejected all of his possessions and founded a community of friars who lived in poverty and helped the poor. Franciscan prayer rejoices in God's presence in the wonder of creation.

Dominican – is characterised by poverty, preaching and devotion to truth. St. Dominic (1170-1221) founded the Order of Preachers to help others to deepen their relationship with Christ. The Rosary is an example of Dominican spirituality



Find out what Jesus said to the pharisees
using the words to fill in the blanks.

I tell you, _____ will _____
the _____ of God before you!
For when _____ the _____
showed you how to do _____,
you did not _____ him.

right kingdom
Baptist believe enter
sinners John

since it focuses on the mysteries of Christ's life and is a simple way of proclaiming the truths of the faith.

Ignatian – is characterised by examination of one's life, discerning the will of God and living the Resurrection. St Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) founded the Society of Jesus to teach the Gospel message. The Spiritual Exercises are the Ignatian prayer form that focuses on this examination of conscience and the discernment of God's action in one's life.

Carmelite – is characterised by interior detachment, silence, solitude and mystical experience. St John of the Cross (1542-1591) and St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) were Carmelite mystics whose writings illuminate this spiritual pathway. The Dark

Night of the Soul describes the need for the soul to be purified before entering into divine union with God.

Josephite – is characterised by simplicity, perseverance and care for the poor. Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1842-1909) developed a deep dependence and trust in God to carry out her many works of charity against great odds. Josephite prayer reflects this utter trust in God's provision for what is needed to care for those in need.

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/teachings-of-the-catholic-church/>

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: TBA



✉ For all youth ministry enquiries, email us at youth@john23rd.com

Word Find

Change your minds and believe

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

Find these words

Baptist before believe father obeyed older tax
 Two vineyard women work younger

PROPOSED CHANGE TO MARRIAGE ACT

Marriage is... The Church views marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man. Marriage is also a fundamental institution for all societies because of its importance in uniting spouses as potential parents and in providing for the upbringing of their children. It has therefore been understood as the union of a man and a woman in all cultures and religions until very recent times and is still so defined in international law and the law of most nations.

... To insist that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman is not a criticism of other kinds of relationships. By recognising this particular type of relationship our community and its marriage laws do not unjustly discriminate against other relationships: rather, our community and its laws recognize the essential connections between male-female bonding and child-bearing, and between children and their natural parents. Taken from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website: <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite>

Diocesan Liturgy Conference 2017

The Diocesan Liturgy Conference will be held on Saturday 4 Nov at St Andrew's Parish, Marayong. The conference, *'Liturgy: The Living Presence of Christ'* is an excellent opportunity to gather together as a Diocese and explore the Presence of Christ in Liturgy. Day includes Keynote Speaker and various workshops including: Music and copyright, Bringing Christ to the Sick, Scripture and the Season of Advent, Sacraments of Initiation – a Field Perspective., organising a Mass- Ordos, Missals and Lectionaries. For more info go to: parracatholic.org/ofw or Office for Worship ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au

5 October: Holy Hour for Vocations

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite YOUTH (age 18-35) to join us for Holy Hour for Vocations on Thursday, 5th Oct 2017, at 7:00 pm. Join us also for the pizza at 8:00pm. Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP Sr Paula mobile 0449 656406 or email vocationscsfn@gmail.com

7 October: Grace & Silence Retreat day for Young Women

A Silent Retreat day at Mt Schoenstatt for vocation discernment to Marriage & Family, Single Life or Consecrated Life. Commences with an input on love followed by silent prayer and reflection and concludes with group prayer. For more info or to register contact Sr M Julie Brcar: 0408 738334 or juliebrcar@gmail.com

6–8 October: Time for Us to Prepare our Hearts for Marriage

A weekend for Engaged Couples from Friday 6th October 7:30pm – Sunday 8th October 4pm. This retreat weekend is designed to complement pre-marriage courses to allow engaged couples to prepare their hearts so that they may give a total, free and faithful “YES” to their future spouses and contribute towards a fruitful marriage. The inputs and times of prayer and silent reflection will foster the preparation of your heart so that you may be a gift to your spouse and receive your spouse as a gift. For more info or to register contact Sr M Julie Brcar: 0408 738 334 or juliebrcar@gmail.com

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**SAL Consulting provides
Cognitive Assessments and
Reports for Children and
Adolescents who:**

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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