

**Twenty Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time**  
7 - 8 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."*



**From the Pastor's desk**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

As a response to the readings from Scripture for this Sunday, let us do three things:

- ⇒ Strive to be fruitful in our living out of the Gospel, being people of love, justice and integrity
- ⇒ Open ourselves up to the gifts, which are those misunderstood and rejected in our lives and in our society
- ⇒ Aim to follow the words of St Paul and be filled with everything true, noble, good, pure, virtuous and worthy of praise.

Let us walk in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus, for we have entrusted our lives to Him.

**OCT PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**MON**  
9

**TUE**  
10

7:30pm - Our Lady of Perpetual  
Help Novena Mass  
8:15pm - Sacristans, Senior  
Services, Acolytes briefing

**WED**  
11

**THU**  
12

**FRI**  
13

**SAT**  
14

**SUN**  
15

**Baptism** - Havana, Rose

1. Let us continue to pray for our **HSC Students** in the coming weeks, as they prepare for and then sit their exams
2. For our **Sacristans and Senior Servers / Acolytes**: after the Tuesday Evening Novena Mass at 8:15, there will be a brief 30 minute explanation of how our new Candle stands work and what is needed to take care of them. Paul Sullivan from Paul Sarks & Sons is giving up his time to be with us. Please try to be there, as this is quite important.

*God bless you all. Fr. John*

## Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel we heard Jesus's parable of the vineyard and the tenants. In the Bible, the vineyard is a traditional image of God's relationship with the Chosen People. However, Israel, the Chosen People, breaks off friendship with God, does not keep God's law or the commandments, and does not want to respond with love to Love. But God does everything to renew these broken ties. Through the prophets, God constantly calls them back to himself. The people did not listen to the voice of the prophets; they mocked them, beat and stoned them. So God decided to send his only Son. We may be surprised at the father's actions in the parable, sending his son to those wicked tenants in the vineyard. For a reasonable father would not send his son to people who have shown many times that they are dangerous and ruthless. However, God our Father loved man more than anything.

It is sometimes said that love is blind. And it does seem that God's love is blind. God will do anything so that even the worst man can be won for Love, for Himself. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." God has infinite patience with man. God was ready to do anything to win back lost souls, even offering himself as ransom on the Cross.

We Christians are people of the New Covenant. And today we have to ask ourselves whether we are better people, if we are faithful to Christ and his Gospel? The Kingdom of God that Jesus preached is a gift to man, like the Old Covenant was a gift. We Christians are responsible for this gift. We are custodians of life. Moreover, in the vineyard of our lives, God's Son, the risen Lord, and Christ the Saviour is with us. He expects our lives to bear good fruit. Every day we must respond to God's love with love. Because there will come a day when God will ask for an accounting of our lives.

*Roque Dias*

## 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) 0402 172346 or [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

## Cake Angels' Stall : Change of date

The Cake Angels have changed their stall date to Sunday 12 November after the 7am and 9.30am masses. We hope to see you then.

## VOTIVE CANDLE STANDS

We have replaced the votive candle stands for Our Lady, the Sacred Heart and the Holy Family. 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 and Holy Family stands? Please speak to Fr John.

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.

## 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.

## Parish income & expenditure financial year 2016/2017

### Income

Planned giving	233,292
Loose 2nd collection	122,133
Donations	40,929
Interest received	2,160
Total	<b>398,514</b>

### Expenditure

Parish Loan repayments	120,000
Staff wages & on costs	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
Total	<b>400,474</b>

**Deficit (1,960)**

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

### Enrolment

Parents of Year 3 children are invited to pick up an enrolment package from the parish office or online at <http://john23rd.com>. All forms must be handed in at any of the enrolment masses:

SAT 21 OCT - 6pm Vigil

SUN 22 OCT - 9am, 10.30am & 6pm

Please put your form in a **sealed** envelope with the course fee. Loose forms and money will not be accepted.

Please note the Parish Office will not be accepting any completed forms.

## Entrance Antiphon

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 5:1-7*

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend has a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Communion Antiphon

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20*

**R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

Don't allow *your* doubts  
to **drown** out the Word.  
*Allow* the Word to  
**drown out** your doubts

*The Word of God*

## Second Reading

*Philippians 4:6-9*

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*cf John 15:15*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*Matthew 21:33-43*

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

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

**9 Mon 27th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Jonah 1:1 - 2:1. 11

Psalm Jonah 2:3-5. 8

Gospel Luke 10:25-37

**10 Tues 27th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Jonah 3:1-10

Psalm Ps 129:1-4. 7-8

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

**11 Wed 27th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Jonah 4:1-11

Psalm Ps 85:3-6. 9-10

Gospel Luke 11:1-4

**12 Thu 27th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Malachi 3:13-20

Psalm Ps 1

Gospel Luke 11:5-13

**13 Fri 27th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2

Psalm Ps 9:2-3. 6. 16. 8-9

Gospel Luke 11:15-26

**14 Sat 27th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Joel 4:12-21

Psalm Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 11-12

Gospel Luke 11:27-28

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, Lydia Babista Sererno

### Deceased:

Sammy Formosa, Reno Camilleri

### Anniversary:

Ismaelie Nelson, Emiliana Baltazar

### 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,  
Baby Monica Cobarubbias

### Thanksgiving:

Ruel & Samara Gonsalves

## 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

*“A peaceful man does more good than a learned one” — Pope John XXIII*

### FAITH FORMATION

#### ⇒ Our Lady of Perpetual Help Statue

We continue to ask for host families to pray the Rosary at home and request our Blessed Mother's intercessions. Tuesday nights beginning with Evening Prayer at 6.30pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, Mass and Novena prayers at 7:30pm with sung Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the novena mass.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home contact Bart Sarlabus [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](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					
Oct	3	10	17	24	31
	<i>Ivon</i>	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	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>

#### ⇒ 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 [bobagbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bobagbulos@gmail.com) or call 0422 106525 for more details.

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### ⇒ Knitting club

There will be no meeting for the month of October

#### ⇒ Cake Angels

12th November, the Angels will be having their cake stalls.. Contribution of savouries or sweets would be greatly appreciated, please call or SMS Jill on 0402 172 346.



## 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

### LITURGY

⇒ **Junior Altar Servers training**

We are having our Junior Altar Server Training over two Saturdays, the **11th and 18th of November**. The two sessions will be held in the church from 10 am to 12 noon, followed by their commissioning at the 10.30 am mass on Sunday the 26th November.

To be an altar server,

- you need to be over 10 years old;
- have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion; and,
- are prepared to assist before, during and after the mass.

For further details, contact Bob Agbulos from the Liturgy team. Application forms are available at the foyer, in our parish website and in our parish Facebook page.

## 15 Day Pilgrimage

### THE HOLY LAND

**Duration:** 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension

**Departure:** Saturday 6th January 2018

**Tour Code:** 8PV03

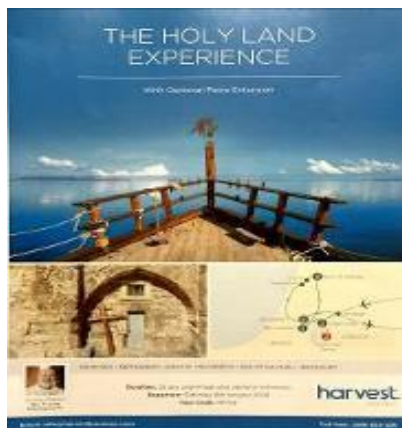
**Email:** [info@harvestjourneys.com](mailto:info@harvestjourneys.com)

**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 do we offer Mass for the repose of souls?

The practice of offering the holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased originates in the early church. The catechism teaches, *“From the beginning the church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God”* (No. 1032).

Praying for the repose of the souls of the deceased is rooted in the Old Testament. Judas Maccabees offered prayers and sacrifices for the Jewish soldiers who had died wearing pagan amulets, which were forbidden by the Torah. II Maccabees reads, *“Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out”* (12:43). Continuing, *“(Judas Maccabees) took up a collection among all his soldiers, ... which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin”* (12:46).

In light of the saving work of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that when a person dies, he faces his particular judgment and must render an account of his life. If that person has died fundamentally believing in God and in a state of grace, but with venial sins and the hurt caused by sin, then God in His divine love and mercy will first purify the soul. After this purification has been completed, the soul will have the holiness and purity needed to share in the beatific vision in heaven.

The faithful here on earth can help those souls undergoing purification. The Vatican Council II affirmed: *“This sacred council*

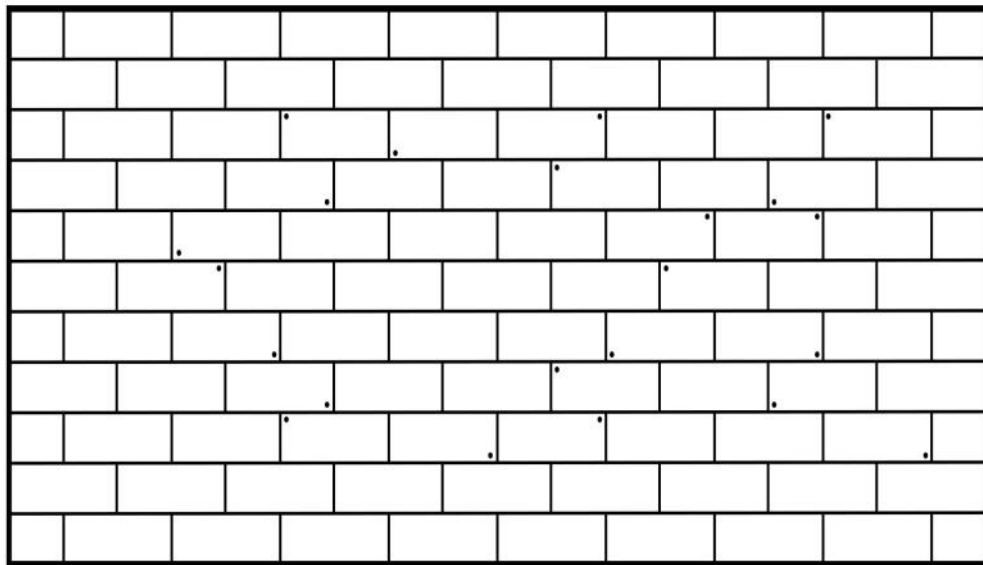
*accepts loyally the venerable faith of our ancestors in the living communion which exists between us and our brothers who are in the glory of heaven or who are yet being purified after their death.”* (“Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,” No. 51). Therefore, just as we pray for each other and share each other’s burdens now, the faithful on earth can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical “Mirae Caritatis” (1902) beautifully elaborated this point and emphasized the connection between the communion of saints with the Mass: *“The grace of mutual love among the living, strengthened and increased by the sacrament of the Eucharist, flows, especially by virtue of the sacrifice (of the Mass), to all who belong to the communion of saints. For the communion of saints is simply ... the mutual sharing of help, atonement, prayers and benefits among the faithful, those already in the heavenly fatherland, those consigned to the purifying fire, and those still making their pilgrim way here on earth. These all form one city, whose head is Christ, and whose vital principle is love. Faith teaches that although the august sacrifice can be offered to God alone, it can nevertheless be celebrated in honor of the saints now reigning in heaven with God, who has crowned them, to obtain their intercession for us, and also, according to apostolic tradition, to wash away the stains of those brethren who died in the Lord but without yet being wholly purified.”* Therefore, the offering of Mass and other prayers or sacrifices for the intentions of the faithful departed are truly good and holy acts.

Please note that this belief not only has its origins in our Old Testament roots but also in the early history of the church. Inscriptions uncovered on tombs in the Roman catacombs of the second century evidence this practice. For example, the epitaph on the tomb of Abercius,

Color in the bricks that contain a dot • to reveal a special symbol.

Do you know what it stands for?



bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia (d. 180), begs for prayers for the repose of his soul. Tertullian in 211 attested to observing the anniversary of death of the faithful departed with prayers. Moreover, the Canons of Hippolytus (c. 235), one of the earliest missals, explicitly mentions the offering of prayers for the dead during the Mass. The testimony of many of the church fathers also beautifully supports this belief: For example, St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386), in one of his many catechetical discourses, explained how at Mass both the living and dead are remembered, and how the Eucharistic sacrifice of Our Lord is of benefit to sinners, living and dead; and St. Ambrose (d. 397) preached, “*We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death,*

*until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord.*”

When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. Most importantly, we always should remember our own dearly departed loved ones in the holy Mass and through our own prayers and sacrifices to help in their gaining eternal rest. Having just celebrated the feast of All Souls (Nov. 2), let us keep in our prayers all of our faithful departed.

<http://catholicstraightanswers.com/offer-mass-repose-souls/>

## 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:** TBA

**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](mailto:youth@john23rd.com)

## Word Find

Do what God commands

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

*Find these words*

Country	dug	grapes	harvest	have	important	pit
Respect	servants	son	tower	wall		

## 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>

## 18 Oct: National Catholic Mission and Identity Symposium

BBi is hosting an exciting and ground-breaking event that will bring together respected and dynamic leaders in Catholic education, along with esteemed Bishops and mission identity thought leaders. The purpose of the symposium is to engage Australian educational leaders in the most essential issue in Catholic education: honouring the call to prophetic leadership for the 21st century. For more details please visit: [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)

## 22 Oct: Q & A Programme “Let’s Talk About What Matters”

Held at The Crypt, St Patrick’s Church, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, 1.30pm – 3.00pm. October 22 “*Finding the Courage to make a Difference*” Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO and Alpha Cheng. No need to book. No charge. Further info website: [catalyst-for-renewal.com.au](http://catalyst-for-renewal.com.au) Email: [catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au](mailto:catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au) or 02 9990 7003

## 22 Oct: Holy Hour for Vocations

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations from 6:30pm-7.30pm for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time at Mt Schoenstatt Shrine. For information about the priesthood in the Diocese of Parramatta and Holy Spirit Seminary, please contact Fr John Paul Escarlan, Director of Priestly Vocations, [vocations@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@parra.catholic.org.au)

## 4 Nov: 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](http://parracatholic.org/ofw) or Office for Worship [ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au)

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<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr John McSweeney	✉	FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
<b>Asst. Priest:</b> Fr Thomas Bui	✉	FrThomas@john23rd.org.au
<b>Deacon:</b> 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](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 Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

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