

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cnr Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens [www.john23rd.com](http://www.john23rd.com)

**Twenty Ninth Sunday Ordinary Time**  
**21 - 22 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."*

**To give to God what belongs to God is to share the goods of the earth!**

## From the Pastor's desk

The biblical texts of this Sunday invite us to refocus our life on God. As baptized and confirmed Christians, we are all sent to bear witness to the love that is in God. This will only be possible if we give it the first place in our everyday life.

In celebrating the Eucharist, we somehow give back to God what belongs to Him. We offer God all the acts of faith, hope and charity that enabled our lives. With God we pledge ourselves to do everything possible so that love prevails over hatred and violence. Let's also ask God to be with us so that the Gospel may be announced throughout the world. Amen

OCT	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 23	
TUE 24	
WED 25	Parents Meeting for Reconciliation - 7.30pm in Church
THU 26	9.00am - Liturgy of the Word
FRI 27	BLAZE Night
SAT 28	<i>Saints Simon &amp; Jude, Apostles</i>
SUN 29	<b>Baptism</b> - Sofia, Scarlett, Austin

- All Reconciliation 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 of \$50. Loose forms and money will not be accepted.  
 Please note the Parish Office will not be accepting any completed forms.
- Parents Meeting for Reconciliation will be on 25th October at 7.30pm in the Church.
- Father John will be on Annual Leave until 15 November.

## Gospel Reflection

*'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'*

These words have been a constant source of wisdom for the Church throughout her two thousand years. They have prompted many to think about the relation Christians should have with the world and the way the Church interacts with the State. At many times throughout those two thousands years Christians have enjoyed a peaceful cooperation with the world, contributing much to it. At other times they have had to withdraw from the world and the State because of persecution. This is currently the state of play for many Christians in China or Sudan, for example. The first reading reminds us that whatever the state of play is, God is over-looking everything; his providence is our guide; he rules the world. We should always take comfort in this and trust in it. Easier said than done, I suppose.

Yet even when things are well and we Christians can live peaceably in the world, there ought to be something that does not quite sit well with us, there is still some distance between us and the world, however much we should work for its good. The second reading gives us a clue as to why. We have been chosen; we have been called by God to a life beyond this one. Our eyes must be set on that life, on its promise, its hope, its joy, which means that our eyes cannot be set on this world, not entirely at least. We cannot become absorbed by the world because we know that our life is not bound by it. This means that we cannot render to Caesar certain things because God has already claimed them. We cannot give Caesar our whole mind, our unreserved obedience because God has a prior claim on these. We cannot live for the world. Jesus Christ has won for us a new life, an everlasting life and we must render to him what belongs to him. We should, as Christians, always feel a little uncomfortable or incomplete in the world because we know that our existence does not end here, that we are not fulfilled here. If we do not feel this discomfort, then perhaps we have not rendered to God what is God's, but handed it over to Caesar instead; perhaps we have not appreciated the grace that Jesus Christ has won for us. This week, let us ask ourselves what we have rendered to God, and what we have rendered to Caesar and make sure that the scales are properly balanced.

*Jack Green*

## Diocesan and Deanery Pastoral Councils – Why they Matter

How do we cooperate across parishes and regions in our mission to serve Jesus Christ? How do listen to one another, identify key priorities and make informed decisions to serve those in need and increase the faith and witness of our church? About five years ago, consultations took place across the Diocese of Parramatta, as lay people joined with clergy to consider what mattered in supporting our mission to follow Christ. Our resulting Diocesan Pastoral Plan, *Faith in our Future*, offers goals of growing our faith and sharing our faith to shape the life and structures of our Diocese.

Of course, we are called not to live these goals in isolation but as the Body of Christ. And while our main plan to love, know and serve Jesus Christ never changes, our particular goals grow and change, because our communities change, along with the issues affecting our local region. So, we need to continue to consult with our communities to ensure we are reading the signs of the times, and remaining attentive to what the church calls the *sensus fidelium*, in other words, the living voice of the whole people of God.

How do we ensure we are listening to the people of our Diocese? Successive papal and Vatican documents as well as the Code of Canon Law offer strong encouragement for the formation of councils of the faithful, especially of lay people. Such councils express the laity's rightful co-responsibility for the mission of the Church. Our Diocese has previously called upon each parish to establish a Parish Pastoral Council to support the pastoral priorities in each faith community. And now, Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, in his desire to enhance our communion and mission, has instituted Deanery Pastoral Councils and a Diocesan Pastoral Council. These bodies aim to strengthen the growing and sharing of faith in Christ within the Diocese of Parramatta. They are also formed to assist our collaboration with the wider Church in Australia as we look forward to the 2020 National Plenary.

### **RELATED: An invitation from Bishop Vincent**

We can be forgiven for being somewhat sceptical at the development of these councils. Why gather people to meet about things when we already have a plan? Why not just get on with it? Councils offer several important roles. The first, is to broaden the thinking about and responsibility for important matters beyond the clergy. Lay people can offer advice from a range of perspectives. After all, there is no point in rolling out actions if the very parishes these actions are supposed to benefit do not see the relevance of what is on offer. As such, councils have a significant consultative role. Secondly, councils enhance our Diocese's accountability for what we do. Diocesan agencies, works and clergy must consider many complex pastoral realities. While there are certain sensitivities surrounding many of these matters, there is also a need to ensure that key decisions are justifiable and transparent to the broader community being served. Councils offer a level of transparency and accountability to our leadership. Thirdly, councils witness to the role of all the baptised in the building up of the Church and the service of the mission. The Church is constituted both of laity and clergy, and when we work together, we can offer a far more enriching result in the service of our God. Bishop Vincent wants to hear the voices of everyday Catholics on the issues that matter to our Church and world. The Diocesan and deanery pastoral councils seek a cross-section of people from different places in the Diocese and from different ages, backgrounds and experiences. They will meet about four times a year. It would be great to have a range of inspiring and challenging voices contributing to the councils. As such, your help is needed.

## Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me,  
O God; turn your ear to me; hear my  
words. Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 45:1, 4-6*

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before  
his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to  
Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right  
hand to subdue nations before him and  
strip the loins of kings, to force gateways  
before him that their gates be closed no  
more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of  
Israel my chosen one, that I have called  
you by your name, conferring a title  
though you do not know me. I am the  
Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God  
besides me. Though you do not know  
me, I arm you that men may know from  
the rising to the setting of the sun that,  
apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those  
who fear him, who hope in his merciful  
love, to rescue their souls from death, to  
keep them alive in famine.

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10*

**R. Give the Lord glory and honour.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the  
Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations  
his glory and his wonders among all the  
peoples. **R.**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to  
be feared above all gods; the gods of the  
heathens are naught. It was the Lord who  
made the heavens. **R.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power, give the  
Lord the glory of his name. Bring an  
offering and enter his courts. **R.**

Worship the Lord in his temple, O earth,  
tremble before him. Proclaim to the  
nations: 'God is king,' He will judge the  
peoples in fairness. **R.**

**"We return glory to  
God by keeping His  
word"**

*The Word of God*

## Second Reading

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-5*

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Philippians 2:15-16*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*Matthew 22:15-21*

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

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

**23 Mon 29th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 4:20-25

Psalm Luke 1:69-75

Gospel Luke 12:13-21

**24 Tues 29th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 5:12. 15. 17-21

Psalm Ps 39:7-10. 17

Gospel Luke 12:35-38

**25 Wed 29th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 6:12-18

Psalm Ps 123

Gospel Luke 12:39-48

**26 Thu 29th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 6:19-23

Psalm Ps 1:1-4. 6

Gospel Luke 12:49-53

**27 Fri 29th week ordinary time**

1st Reading Romans 7:18-25

Psalm Ps 118:66. 68. 76-77. 93-94

Gospel Luke 12:54-59

**28 Sat Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles**

1st Reading Ephesians 2:19-22

Psalm Ps 18:2-5

Gospel Luke 6:12-19

Full weekly readings can be found in the  
parish website [http://john23rd.com/our-parish/  
daily-reading/](http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/)

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**If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in  
your home please contact the parish office.**

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Cleatus, Ernilda Peiris

### Deceased:

Frank Stivala, George W Flowers

### Anniversary:

Chackochan Thottupuraid,

Emilio Nacua, Ilar Anthony D'Souza,

Aloysius Stanley Reckennan,

Bienvenido Jimenez

### Sick:

Evelyn Paguinto, Josephine Calabria,

Genevieve D'Silva, Andrea Rodrigues,

Epifania Samaniego, Lucie Gallagher,

Neil Buensuceso, Florence Cerdania,

Pat Daly, Jan Mandla, Sigrid Barredo,

Cay Espanta, Lala Salonga, Alfred Miler,

Reg Chapman, Liezl Sultana,

Anna Simic, Carmel Byrne,

Karam Matte, Cora Salvador,

Patria Baby Monica Cobarubbias,

Theresa Gallagher

### Thanksgiving:

Bernadette & Ravi Virwani, Ricky

Reyes, Sonnel Cobarubbias

## 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, photocopyers, 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

### FAREWELL MORNING TEA

There will be a Farewell Morning Tea for Deacon Tan after 10.30am mass this Sunday, 22nd October. Please bring a plate to share.

### CATHOLIC OUTLOOK

Catholic Outlook: News from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is now digital.

**Catholic Outlook** is the official publication of the Diocese of Parramatta news.

To access the E-Edition follow the link <https://catholicoutlook.org/e-edition/>

### 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 Pastoral Corner

*"I have looked into your eyes with my eyes. I have put my heart near your heart." — 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
	Ivon	Sebastian	Pangilinan R	Shalini	Jacinta
Nov	7	14	21	28	
	Pangilinan R	Peiris	Ranasinghe	Manoj	
Dec	5	12	19	26	
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Erasmio	Paguinto M	
Jan	2	9	16	23	30
	Paguinto M	available	available	available	available

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### ⇒ Knitting club

There is no meeting for the month of October

#### ⇒ Cake Angels

On the 12th of November, the Cake Angels will be having their cake stall after the Sunday masses. Contributions of savoury or sweets would be greatly appreciated. Please call or SMS Jill on 0402 172346.

#### ⇒ 15th Anniversary celebration

Thank you to everyone who donated food, who made monetary contributions and all the helpers who made the event a big success. We did raise around \$400.00 which will go towards the supply for our Sunday morning tea.

### PASTORAL

#### ⇒ Pastoral Care Ministry

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Senior Moments' morning tea. It is good to see the interest of so many. We have raised \$359.60 and this will go towards the funding of our activities.



## 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 10am to 12 noon, followed by their commissioning at the 10.30am mass on Sunday the 26th of 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.

### ⇒ Alb fundraiser

The fundraising for the Altar Servers' alb has been quite a success. We were able to raise, \$806.50

- \$100. pledge collected
- \$270.00 pledge to be collected
- \$436.50 fundraised from games on 08/10/17
- pledge for the cost of 2 albs

Thank you all for your generosity. We are still open to for any monetary contribution towards this endeavour.

### What's next?

If we buy the textile, do you know any dressmaker or tailor who can sew the albs before Christmas? If not, do you know of any business who sells albs?

## THE HOLY LAND

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

**Departure:** Saturday 6th January 2018

**Tour Code:** 8PV03

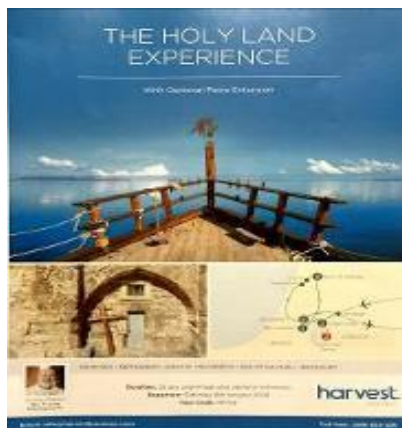
**Email:** [info@harvestjourneys.com](mailto:info@harvestjourneys.com)

**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*)



## 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

## HALLOWEEN: ITS ORIGINS AND CELEBRATION

*The celebration of Halloween has dual origins. The first is in a pre-Christian Celtic feast associated with the Celtic New Year. The second is in the Christian celebration of All Saints Day (Nov. 1st) and All Souls Day (Nov. 2). In the British Isles November 1st is called All Hallows, thus the evening before is All Hallows Eve.*

**The Celtic Feast:** The ancient Celtic peoples who inhabited England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Brittany (NW France) celebrated their New Year's Day on what would be November 1st on our calendar. Prior to their conversion to Catholicism these peoples practiced a pagan religion controlled by a priest class known as Druids. The Druids are most famous for the stone monument of Stonehenge and other astronomical calendars that remain in their former domains.

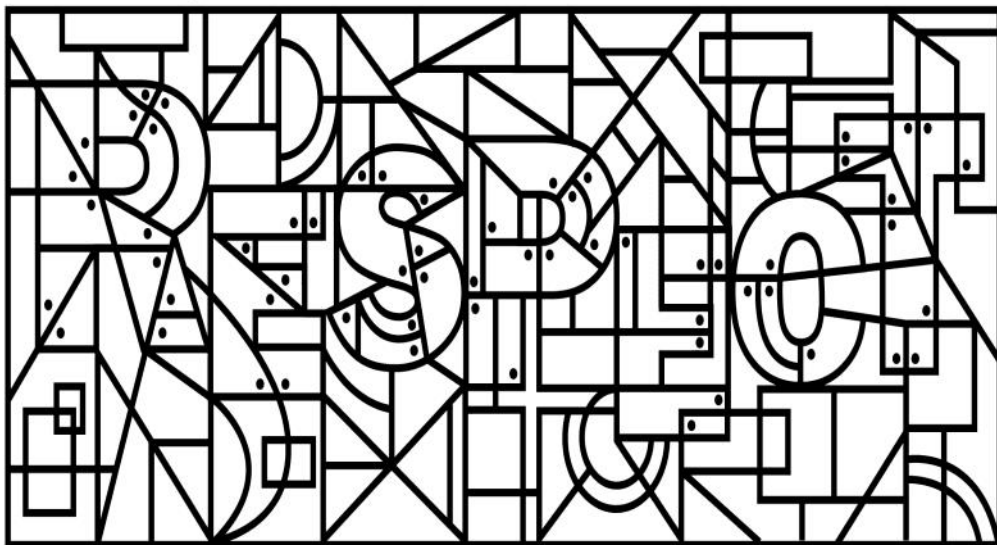
The period prior to the New Year, as the year wound down, was a time to consider the mystery of human death. It was believed that on the last night of the year the lord of death, Samhain, allowed the souls of the dead to return to their homes. Souls that had died in sin, and in Celtic belief imprisoned in the bodies of animals, could be released through gifts to the lord of death, including human sacrifices. It was also thought that evil spirits, demons, ghosts, witches were also free to roam around this night and could be placated by a feast. They would also leave you alone if you dressed like them and thus appeared to be one of them. Families would also extinguish their hearth fires on this evening to be re-lit from a common New Year's bonfire built on the hilltops, which was meant to symbolize the driving away of darkness and evil with the coming of the new year. The jack-o-lantern as a means of scaring away evil and providing light may be a vestige of this custom. When the Romans conquered Gaul (France) and Britain (excluding Scotland and Ireland) in the century before and after Christ, the bloody elements of Druidic practice were banned.

**The Christian Feasts of All Saints and All Souls:** During the first three centuries of Christianity the Church frequently had to operate "underground" due to the persecutions of the Roman state against her. During these periods there were many martyrs who died for their faith in Jesus Christ. The most renowned of these were honored locally by the preservation of the relics (if available) and by the celebration of the anniversary of their death, as a feast in honor of their birth into eternal life. As time passed, neighboring dioceses would honor each others martyrs and even exchange relics for veneration, the way the first century Christians kept the clothes and handkerchiefs touched by St. Paul (Acts 19:12).

At the end of the third century and the beginning of the fourth the most vicious of all persecutions occurred, that of the emperor Diocletian (284-305). The martyrs became so many that in some places it was impossible to commemorate even the most significant of them. The need for a common feast of all martyrs was becoming evident. This common feast became a reality in some places, but on various dates, as early as the middle of the fourth century. As far as Roman practice goes it is known that on 13 May 609 or 610, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the ancient Roman Pantheon as a temple of the Blessed Virgin and All Martyrs. Beginning with Gregory III (731-741) the celebration of a feast of All Saints was commemorated at St. Peters on November 1. Gregory IV (827-844) extended this feast to the entire Church.

The feast of All Souls developed more gradually, first with a monastic celebration of their departed on October 1st. This seems to have occurred first in Germany in the

Color in shapes that contain dots to reveal something that Jesus wants us to show others



900s. The patronage of St. Odilio of Cluny extended this feast to other monasteries, first of his own Order, then to Benedictines and others, from where it spread to dioceses, including Rome. It was only in 1915 that the special privilege of three Masses was granted to all priests by Pope Benedict XV.

**Halloween during Christian Times:** The conversion of Celtic peoples to Christianity did not dampen their enthusiasm for the pre-Christian year-end custom of feasts, bonfires, and masks, essentially new year's eve costume parties. The proximity to the developing Christian feasts of All Saints and All Souls resulted in an attempt to move the celebration to the evening before All Souls, when children would go door to door receiving treats for a promise of prayer for the dead of the household. This attempt to associate the Celtic remembrance of the dead with the Christian memorial ultimately failed and the celebration remained a year-end custom (*by the old Celtic calendar*), though Halloween remains primarily a children's feast.

With the massive emigration of Irish in the last century the All Hallows Eve customs of costumes, jack-o-lanterns and trick or treating, were transported to North America. Scary costumes remain the historical norm for Halloween, though the advent of more sinister and violent times has encouraged many parents to take a gentler approach. Today many families, and even parishes, hold group celebrations, often with costumes of the saints, the poor souls or famous Catholics (*such as the Pope, Mother Teresa or the like*) and other elements which re-enforce the Christian side of Halloween's origins.

<https://www.enwtm.com/library/marty/halloween.htm>

## SJ 23rd Youth Ministry

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

### IGNITE - Enkindling the fire of faith

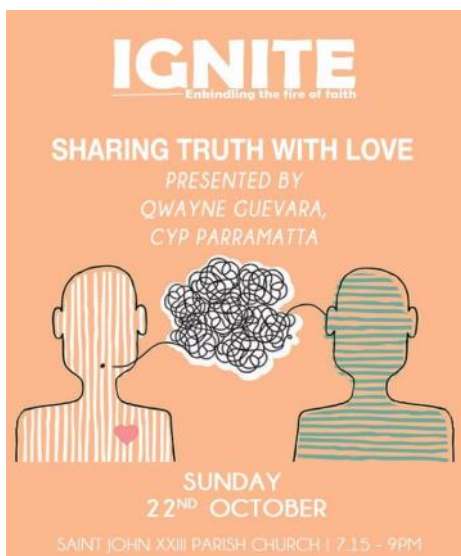
Young adults from 16 - 35 years of age meets every **4th Sunday of the month after the 6:00pm mass**. Meet new people, enjoy some food and develop your relationship with God and those around us through prayer, reflection and good discussions with insightful guest speakers.



**Next session:** 22 October 2017

**Topic:** Sharing Truth with Love

**Guest Speaker:** Qwayne Guevara



### 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:** 27 October 2017



### 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

✉ For all youth ministry enquiries, email us at [youth@john23rd.com](mailto:youth@john23rd.com)

# Word Find

Give to God what belongs to God

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

*Find these words*

Belongs coins Emperor honest Pharisees respect  
Silver taxes teacher test trick truth

### **Call for Nominations: Deanery & Diocesan Pastoral Councils**

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv is calling for nominations for Deanery Pastoral Councils and the Diocesan Pastoral Council. For more information, including the nomination kit, please visit [parracatholic.org/advisorycouncils](http://parracatholic.org/advisorycouncils) or contact Richard or Tanya from the Diocesan Ministry Centre on 02 8838 3460. Nominations close on Sunday, 5 November 2017. 18 Oct: National Catholic Mission and Identity Symposium

### **Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse**

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing [info@griegtogracesaus.org.au](mailto:info@griegtogracesaus.org.au) or phone 0407704539. For more information visit [www.griegtogracesaus.org](http://www.griegtogracesaus.org)

### **3-5 November: Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat**

This weekend retreat in Sydney is designed to bring psychological and spiritual healing to anyone who has been affected by an abortion experience including women, men, couples and grandparents. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Australia is supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Confidential inquiries: tel or SMS 0400 092555, [info@rachelsvineyard.org.au](mailto:info@rachelsvineyard.org.au) For more information visit: [www.rachelsvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.au)

### **5 November: Mass in the African tradition**

Join us as we celebrate Mass in the African tradition. Very Rev Peter G Williams will celebrate Mass at 2.00pm at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown. Contact Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

### **12 November: Nigerian Mass in Igbo**

Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, will celebrate Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Contact Fr Akamadu tel 0451 174 438, Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

### **18 November: St Philomena Association Holy Mass**

St John Vianney was very devoted to St Philomena. Pope Gregory XVI called her "*the great wonder worker*". Mass at noon with Confession from 11.30am. St John Vianney's Church, 17 Cameron St, Doonside. A short walk north from Doonside station, the one past Blacktown. Please bring a snack to share. Elizabeth tel or text 0423 154463, [epoples9@gmail.com](mailto:epoples9@gmail.com) Facebook: Libby Peoples (events)

### **Diocesan and Deanery Pastoral Councils – Why they Matter**

**3** Please consider people you might encourage to nominate. Maybe you are one of those people. Details, including the nomination kit, are available from <http://parracatholic.org/advisorycouncils/> or by contacting Tanya or Richard from the Diocesan Ministry Centre on 02 8838 3460. Nominations close on Sunday, 5 November 2017.

Let us pray that these councils make a difference in our mission to grow our faith and share our faith in Jesus Christ.

By Richard McMahon

Director, Pastoral Planning & Implementation



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<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr John McSweeney	✉	<a href="mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au">FrJohn@john23rd.org.au</a>
<b>Asst. Priest:</b> Fr Thomas Bui	✉	<a href="mailto:FrThomas@john23rd.org.au">FrThomas@john23rd.org.au</a>
<b>Deacon:</b> Nicephorus Tan	✉	<a href="mailto:DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au">DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au</a>

### Mass Times

*Monday to Friday* 9:00am  
*Also Wednesday* 9:00am Holy Cross  
                                 Primary during school term  
*Saturday* 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)  
*Sunday* 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am  
                                 6:00pm (Youth)

**Baptism** 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

### Reconciliation (First Rite)

*Saturday* 5:00 - 5:45pm  
                                 And after any weekday masses

### Parish Office Hours

*Tuesday to Friday* 8.30 - 4.00pm

### Parish Office Contacts

☎ (02)9852 0580    📠 0403 766468 AH  
 Secretary: Tanya Gatt  
                   ✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)  
 Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)  
                   ✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)  
 Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues, Wed & Fri)  
                   ✉ [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)  
 Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)  
                   ✉ [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

## Devotions & Prayers

### Novena Masses

*Tuesday* 7:30pm  
                   Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
*First Friday* 7:30pm  
                   Sacred Heart of Jesus

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*Tuesday* after the 7:30pm novena mass  
*First Friday* 6:30pm followed by  
                   7:15pm Benediction  
*Saturday* 8:00 - 9:00am (*Vocations*)

### Sacrament of the Sick

*First Saturday* 9:00am Mass or upon request

### Divine Office

*Friday* 12:00pm with Adoration  
*Sunday* 8:15am

### Praise & Worship

*3rd Saturday* 7:30pm  
                   led by SJ23rd Prayer Group  
*2nd Saturday* 7:30pm  
                   led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)  
*Friday evenings* 6:30pm  
                   led by Christ Catholic Community Prayer  
                   Group at the Parish Office's kitchen



#### Chairman

Bart Sarlabus

#### Deputy Chairman

Chris Drummond

#### Secretary

Nanette Gamboa

#### Members

Bernadette Virwani

Gary Lee

Julienne Crasto

Nidarshi Fernando

## Our School 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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