The Catholic Parish of ${ m StJe}_{ m xxm}$

Perfection Ave cnr Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

Thirty First Sunday Ordinary Time 4-5 November 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

Today's readings invite us to examine our thoughts and behaviours. Are there groups of people whom we look down upon? Perhaps people from a different social, ethnic, or economic background? Maybe we look suspiciously at people who follow a different religion or who have different political convictions.

Of course, we should hold on to the truth as God has revealed it, but we should also treat everyone with the utmost respect. If Jesus valued them enough to die for them, shouldn't we treat them - and everyone we meet - with honour?

Let's pray that God may help us to treat other people with dignity.

NOV	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 6	
TUE 7	
WED 8	
THU 9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (F)
FRI 10	<i>Saint Leo the Great (M)</i> 7:15pm - BLAZE Night
SAT 11	St Martin of Tours (M)
SUN 12	Cake Angels stall Baptism - Kenneth

1. Children's sessions commence for Reconciliation this weekend Saturday or Sunday at 4.30pm at St Marks Staff Room.

J**_**hn

Gospel Reflection

There have been periods in the church's history where the burdens placed on the shoulders of people - particularly an exaggerated sense of guilt for certain sins - truly weighed people down, creating a terrible sense of unworthiness, leading to the living of distorted lives.

Our Lord makes it clear that leaders cannot evade responsibility for this by hiding behind honorific titles.

In the Gospels, we find the One who said: 'Come to me all you who toil and are burdened and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matt 11:28-30)

If people don't find that the burden laid on them by Church leaders (who often long to be greeted obsequiously) leads to refreshment and rest for their souls, then it is right to question the burden, and to question the leaders who impose such burdens.

Perhaps we could pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis whose favoured titles are simply: 'Bishop of Rome', 'Servant of the Servants of God'.

Fr Michael Tate





Parish News

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.

November Book of Remembrance

The process for entering the names of your departed loved ones in the November Book of Remembrance was well received last year. A book has again been placed in the sanctuary to enable you to write the names of your departed family and friends. This is more personal than the previous envelope system as you will be able to personally inscribe the names. Please place the envelope with your November mass offering in the Special Needs mailbox at the back of the church (at the sacristy door) – do not leave envelopes with money on the Book of Remembrance table

Petition on Euthanasia Please read and sign the petition to the Government of New South Wales regarding the proposed bill on euthanasia. This bill is due to be debated soon.





Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading Malachi 1:14 - 2:2. 8-10

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made vou contemptible and vile in the eves of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Communion Antiphon

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good news to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm *Ps 130*

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. R.

Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. **R**.

O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. R.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 23:9.10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!



G o s p e l *Matthew 23:1-12*

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention. like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi

You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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

6 Mon 31st week ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 11:29-36 Psalm Ps 68:30-31. 33-34. 36-37 Gospel Luke 14:12-14 7 Tues 31st week ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 12:5-16 Psalm Ps 130 Gospel Luke 14:15-24 8 Wed 31st week ordinary time 1st Reading Romans 13:8-10 Psalm Ps 111:1-2. 4-5. 9 Gospel Luke 14:25-33 9 Thu Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (F) 1st Reading Ezekiel 47:1-2. 8-9. 12 Psalm Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 3:9-11. 16-17 Gospel John 2:13-22 Saint Leo the Great (M) 10 Fri 1st Reading Romans 15:14-21 Sirach 39:6-10 Ps 97:1-4 / Ps 36:3-6. 30-31 Psalm Luke 16:1-8 / Matthew 16:13-19 Gospel 11 Sat St Martin of Tours (M) 1st Reading Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Isaiah 61:1-3 Ps 144:2-5. 10-11 Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 21-22. 25. 27 Gospel Luke 16:9-15 Matthew 25:31-40

Full weekly readings can be found in the parish website http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/ Copyright (c) LabOra Worship 2016

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: Thereisa Michael, Juliet Festejo, Francis Raja, Martin Siu Deceased:

Jerry Camilleri, Pauah Maddaya, Riolene & Aeldred Weber, Anthony S, Abigail & Annesley DeCruz, John Daiv, Joseph Daiv, Anthony Dasi, Clara Dasi, Fr T Rayapa, T.A. Joseph, Reno Camilleri

Anniversary:

Christopher, Carmen, Speditu, Ronnie, Tony, Sunny Baldacchino, Frank, Paul, Carmen Tedesco, Melanio Belton, Joseph Simon Francis Sick:

Evelyn Paguinto, Josephine Calabria, Genevieve D'Silva, Andrea Rodrigues,

Epifania Samaniego, Lucie Gallagher, Neil Buensuceso, Florence Cerdenia, Pat Daly, Jan Mandla, Sigrid Barredo, Cay Espanta, Lala Salonga, Alfred Miler, Anna Simic, Carmel Byrne, Julia Lapuz, Patria Baby Monica Cobarubbias, Reg Chapman, Patria Florence Cerdenia, Theresa Gallagher, Liezl Sultana, Karam Matte, Cora Salvador, Thanksgiving: Linda Zamora

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

"Preoccupation about the future, which arise from self-love, delay the work of God in us and hinder His purpose — Pope John XXIII

FAITH FORMATION

 \Rightarrow 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						
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	Sebastian	Magpayo	Shalini	Ivon	
Feb	6	13	20	27		
	available	available	available	available		

COMMUNITY BUILDING

 \Rightarrow 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.

EVANGELIZATION

 \Rightarrow 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



PPC

LITURGY

 \Rightarrow 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.

 \Rightarrow 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.

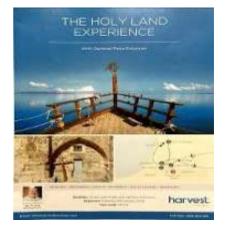
What's next?

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?

15 Day Pilgrimage

THE HOLY LAND Duration: 15 day pilgrimage plus optional extension Departure: Saturday 6th January 2018 Tour Code: 8PV03 Email: *info@harvestjourneys.com* Call 1800 819 156 Toll free Spiritual Chaplain: Fr John McSweeney Book now Deposit for the Pilgrimage has been reduced

Deposit for the Pilgrimage has been reduced from \$1000 to \$600 (*thanks to Fr John's intervention*)





Why we do what we do

Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water when entering a church?

When visiting a Catholic church for Sunday Mass, it is hard not to notice all the parishioners pause for a second as they file in through the various entrances. They stop, dip their fingers in a bowl of water and then make the sign of the cross over their body.

Why do they do that?

Besides remembering Christ's passion and professing their faith in the Holy Trinity, Catholics bless themselves with holy water primarily as a reminder of our Baptism.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains why water plays such an important role in the life of the Church.

"The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth: just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit. As 'by one Spirit we were all baptized,' so we are also 'made to drink of one Spirit.' Thus the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified as its source and welling up in us to eternal life" (CCC 694).

The Catechism further instructs about the need for a place within the church walls for a remembrance of this birth in the life of grace.

"The gathering of the People of God begins with Baptism; a church must have a place for the celebration of Baptism (baptistry) and for fostering remembrance of the baptismal promises (boly mater font)" (CCC 1185). Originally the water used for baptisms and holy water fonts was blessed once a year at the Easter Vigil and preserved for the whole year. A portion of the water is still blessed by the priest during a ceremony at the Easter Vigil where the congregation is reminded of the many saving acts of God in history that occurred through water. The blessing concludes when the Easter candle, representing the Light of Christ, is lowered into the water three times. By this act the water is deemed "holy" and set apart for this specific function.

Leaving the secular and entering the sacred

In addition to being a reminder of the rebirth experienced at Baptism, holy water fonts also provide a practical function that helps transition from the secular world into the House of God.

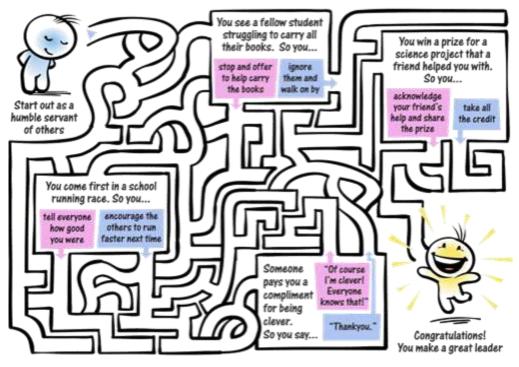
According to Fr. John Bartunek at *SpiritualDirection.com*, the holy water fonts were originally much bigger and were mainly used to cleanse a person's dirty body before walking into the sacred space.

"Even in ancient non-Christian religions (including Judaism), ritual ablutions (washings) were frequently an initial step in formal worship. And so, when the first Christian houses of worship were built, the atrium that formed a kind of transition space between the outside, public arena and the church proper, where the liturgy was celebrated, often contained a large fountain. Worshipers would stop at the fountain and bathe their hands and feet (shoes were not as common in ancient times as they are now, at least in the warmer climates) before entering the sacred space."



Kid's Corner

Complete the maze by making the right choices.



Why we do what we do

Even Jesus washed the feet of his disciples before celebrating the first Eucharist.

While not currently used in that same way, holy water fonts still provide a reminder that before we can enter the "Wedding Feast of the Lamb," we must wash ourselves and put on the "wedding garment" to be admitted to the table.

In the end, while it is sometimes easy to get into the habit of entering a Catholic

church and rushing through the ritual of blessing oneself with holy water, the symbolism behind the act is worth pausing a few extra seconds.

It is meant to be a reminder of our Baptism and provides an opportunity to leave behind the secular and enter into the sacred.

https://aleteia.org/2017/04/09/why-docatholics-bless-themselves-with-holy-water-whenentering-a-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: 26th November 2017 Topic: TBA Guest Speaker: TBA





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 teem.

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: 10th November 2017

Find us on facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays Praise & Worship Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

<u>YFC (Youth for Christ)</u> When: 3rd Sundays of the month

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

St John XXIII Catholic Church



Word Find

If you humble yourself you will be honoured



Find these words

Above banquet best do down help humble Messiah Moses obey Pharisees teacher Diocesan News <u>http://parracatholic.org/events/</u> <u>CatholicOutlo</u>ok E-edition <u>https://catholicoutlook.org/e-edition/</u>

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@grieftograceaus.org.au* or phone 0407704539. For more information visit *www.grieftograce.org*

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, epeoples9@gmail.com Facebook: Libby Peoples (events) 10 hn



STJOHN XXIII WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



Parish Priest: Fr John McSweene Asst. Priest: Fr Thomas Bui Deacon: Nicephorus Tan 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

- FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
- FrThomas@john23rd.org.au
- DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au

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



Chairman Bart Sarlabus Deputy Chairman Chris Drummond Secretary Nanette Gamboa Members Bernadette Virwani Gary Lee Julienne Crasto Nidarshi Fernando 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

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 0500 *stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au*Catholic Early Learning Centre
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(02) 9852 0585

St John XXIII Catholic Church