

Christ the King
25 - 26 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."

*"Truly I tell you ,
Whatever you did for one of
the least of these brothers
and sisters of mine,
you did for me"*

From the Pastor's desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

On this Solemn Feast of Christ the King of the Universe, we are invited to reflect on the marvellous Last Judgment scene from Matthew's Gospel.

This parable makes it clear that the way in which we live our lives now - in this world - will have an effect on our eternal life. So...

Have we opened our hearts to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Have we striven to rejoice in Christ's peace in times of crisis and tension?

Have we gloried in God's justice, respecting all people as God's gifts to us?

Have we tried to live lives of unconditional love in imitation of the Lord?

Let us always remember the words of Jesus Christ: 'insofar as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me'.

1. First Friday Novena Mass this week at 7:30pm. All welcome
2. First Saturday Mass at 9am will have the Anointing of the Sick, and will be followed by Adoration and Benediction. Again, all welcome.
3. There are two Readers Preparation meetings this week: Thursday at 7:30pm or Saturday at 10am - both in the Church. All Readers are expected to attend one of these meetings, please.
4. The Parish Advent Retreat is this coming Saturday morning, commencing with the 9am Mass. All are invited to take some hours out of busy schedules - and reflect on our preparations for the Coming of the Lord.
5. Please pray for those men who are discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate. With their wives, they will be in our Parish on Sunday afternoon, and will join us for the Sunday 6pm Mass.

NOV		PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON	27	
TUE	28	
WED	29	
THU	30	<i>Saint Andrew, Apostle (F)</i>
DEC		
FRI	1	7:30pm - First Friday Novena
SAT	2	9:00am - Anointing of the Sick/Parish Advent Retreat
SUN	3	Baptism - Raziel, Breeze, Isaiah, Gabriel, Ezra

Gospel Reflection

This week is the last week in the liturgical year and is called the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King for short. It might seem strange to most people to celebrate this feast, however. After all, Jesus does not seem to be the King of the Universe with so much going wrong with the world. Despite these doubts, the Church asks us to celebrate this feast for two reasons: first, to correct our faith; second, to correct our hope.

This feast corrects our faith because it challenges us to consider whether we truly believe that Jesus Christ is King of the Universe. So often people see Jesus as a nice man, perhaps even the best man, but would hesitate to see him as the one who rules over all creation, all time, all people whether they believe in him or not. Yet that is precisely what this feast teaches us. Indeed the Gospel from today recounts Jesus instructing the disciples about how he will judge all people at the end of time. Jesus Christ did not become incarnate and die simply to be considered a nice man.

He came and died so that he can live in us, in all people, and so that all people may live in him. His reach is as big as the universe because he made the universe and died to save it – all of it. This feast also corrects our hope insofar as it forces us to ask ourselves: ‘in whom do I place my hope? To whom do I turn when the world seems to crumble around me? Or, to whom do I turn for my everyday needs?’

If Jesus Christ is King of the Universe, then our hope in him should be firm, unwavering, and total. We would not turn to anyone or anything else when things get rough, or rely on anyone or anything else for getting through the day because we would know that ultimately, everything is his gift to us and he will not abandon us.

This is difficult for us who live in an age that praises self-motivation, self-reliance, being driven etc., and these are good things in their place. But they are ultimately worthless unless we realise that the buck stops with Jesus Christ: we are utterly reliant upon him. If we do not sense this, then this week is a good opportunity to ask Jesus for an increase in hope, and at the same time an increase in faith so that he may not only conquer the Universe and rule it, but our hearts too. May Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, reign in our hearts!

Jack Green

ST JOHN XXIII WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE & FUNDRAISER

There have been a number of request to start the Biggest Loser challenge after the holidays so the event will commence on Sunday 4 February. It will now continue for 8 weeks, concluding as planned on Palm Sunday 25 March.

Roughly based on The Biggest Loser, there are three elements and here are the details

THE BIGGEST LOSER

- Participants/challengers will pay a \$20 entry fee
- The challenge will commence on the first weekend after the holidays (4 February) and continue for 8 weeks, concluding on Palm Sunday (25 March). This provides an added incentive for those wishing to extend their Lenten sacrifice.
- Weigh-in of all competitors at the start – if you are shy about your weight, it won't be revealed other than to the supervisor
- Challengers will be encouraged to seek the advice of their GP or dietitian – a suggested diet – honey & locusts?
- Challengers will be encouraged to get family and friends to sponsor them at \$x per kilo lost
- Weigh-in each week during the challenge to encourage challengers and maintain interest
- Challengers will be encouraged to form support groups to exercise together – maybe a daily walking group eg Perfection Pack, Padre's Patrol
- Our Zumba guru, Rudi Yap, has offered to run get-fit/weight-loss classes for challengers
- Weigh-in on the final day – 25 March
- Winner will be the person who has lost the MOST body-weight percentage
- Prize is 40% of the entry fees
- Parish fundraising will receive 50% of the entry fees and 100% of the sponsorship monies

STICK TO IT

To encourage challengers to maintain their weight loss, there will be another weigh-in 12 weeks after the first challenge is closed – Sunday 17 June

The person who has gained the LEAST weight in that time will win the remaining 10%.

WHO ELSE CAN WIN?

- People will be able to try to predict who will be the Biggest Loser
- The minimum entry fee will be \$5 and the maximum \$50 per entry
- They will be able to make predictions at any time during the challenge and may make more than one prediction
- The people who predict the winner will share 50% of all entry fees in proportion to the money they have invested
- The remaining 50% will go to parish fundraising

Come and join Fr John in a weight-loss program and stand to win a prize.

Our resident Zumba guru, Rudi Yap, has offered to run weight-loss/get-fit classes for challengers. We are starting to gather names of interested parties. For further queries, please contact the John McCartney, St John XXIII Business Manager tel: 9899 2473 or the parish office on 9852 0580.

Entrance Antiphon

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in the proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-3, 5-6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. **R.**

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

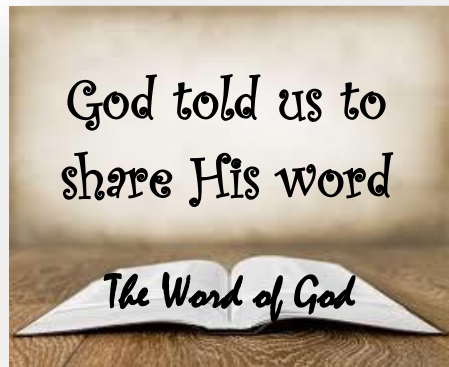
Gospel Acclamation

Mark 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!



Gospel (long)

Matthew 25:31-46

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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

27 Mon 34th week ordinary time

1st Reading Daniel 1:1-6. 8-20

Psalm Daniel 3:52-56

Gospel Luke 21:1-4

28 Tues 34th week ordinary time

1st Reading Daniel 2:31-45

Psalm Daniel 3:57-61

Gospel Luke 21:5-11

29 Wed 34th week ordinary time

1st Reading Daniel 5:1-6. 13-14. 16-17. 23-28

Psalm Daniel 3:62-67

Gospel Luke 21:12-19

30 Thu Saint Andrew, Apostle (F)

1st Reading Romans 10:9-18

Psalm Ps 18

Gospel Matthew 4:18-22

December

1 Fri 34th week ordinary time

1st Reading Daniel 7:2-14

Psalm Daniel 3:75-81

Gospel Luke 21:29-33

2 Sat 34th week ordinary time

1st Reading Daniel 7:15-27

Psalm Daniel 3:82-87

Gospel Luke 21:34-36

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:

Carmelita Boado, Fr Robert Young,
Peter Paul, Thereisa Michael

Deceased:

Ivan Wijesuriya

Anniversary:

Puvirajasingam Sebastian, Leo Meduro,
John Byrne, Teresita Pangilanan,
Mark De Jesus

Sick:

Pat Daly, Julia Lapuz, Evelyn Paguinto,
Josephine Calabria, Genevieve D'Silva,
Andrea Rodrigues, Epifania Samaniego,
Lucie Gallagher, Neil Buensuceso,
Florence Cerdania, Theresa Gallagher,
Sigrid Barredo, Elpidio Beltran,
Cay Espanta, Lala Salonga, Alfred Miler,
Anna Simic, Carmel Byrne, Julia Lapuz,
Liezl Sultana, Karam Matte,
Cora Salvador, Reg Chapman,
Patria Baby Monica Cobarubbias

Thanksgiving:

Joshua Reddy, Neville Reynolds

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, photocopies, 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.



COUNCIL PLANT ALLOCATION

Thank you to everyone who signed the form to allow the parish to take over your plant allocation from Blacktown Council. We have been allocated over 100 plants – which

Parish Pastoral Corner

"Human life is sacred - all men must recognize that fact. From its very inception it reveals the creating hand of God"
— Pope John XXIII

FAITH FORMATION

⇒ Our Lady of Perpetual Help Statue

We continue to ask for host families to pray the Rosary at home and request our Blessed Mother's intercessions. Tuesday nights beginning with Evening Prayer at 6.30pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, Mass and Novena prayers at 7.30pm with sung Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the novena mass.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home contact Bart Sarlabus bart.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto (*after novena mass*). Pick up the statue after the novena mass and return a week after, before the start of the novena mass. ***"A family that prays together, stays together: Fr Patrick Peyton"***

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

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	Magpayo	Sebastian	Shalini	Ivon
Feb	6	13	20	27	
	Manalo	Viola	Dasan	Tiong	

⇒ Advent Retreat 2017

Do I Need a Saviour? (A retreat guide on the prophet Isaiah)

Join us for our annual retreat in preparation for Christmas!

Date: 02 Dec 2017 **Time:** 9:00a.m. to 2:30p.m.

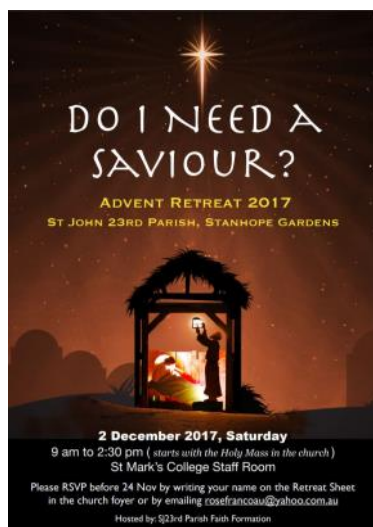
Venue: St John XXIII Parish Church then proceed to St. Mark's Staff Room

Retreat Programme

(Video Presentation by Fr. John Bartunek, LC)

- Mass and Benediction (church)
- Morning Tea (St. Mark's Staff Room)
- Introduction
- First Meditation – Who Will Be My Saviour
- Second Meditation – The Saviour Comes
- Lunch
- Conference – Your Prophetic Mission

RSVP to rosefrancoau@yahoo.com.au by 24 Nov. 2017 for purposes of handouts and catering.



LITURGY

⇒ Junior Altar Servers training

Commissioning of our new altar servers will be on Sunday the 26th of November at the 10.30am mass. 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 interest please contact Bob Agbulos from the Liturgy team.

⇒ Alb fundraiser

The fundraising for the Junior Altar Servers' albs was a big success. Our total collection is \$1,206.50 from individuals' donations and from the games we conducted during the Parish Anniversary on 08/10/17. We are still accepting any monetary contributions for this endeavour. Thank you once again for your generosity.

PASTORAL

⇒ SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Dear Seniors, you are invited to a Christmas Lunch just for you on Sunday, 3 December, 12pm at the St Mark's school hall.

If you are coming, please write your name and number down on the sheet provided in the church foyer. For any enquiries, please call Jill on 0402 172 346



Helpers and Food donations needed for Seniors' Christmas Party. The Pastoral Care Ministry is hosting a Christmas lunch for our parish's seniors on Sunday 3rd December, 12pm at the St Mark's school hall.

Your help and support will be greatly appreciated as we hope to make this a memorable event for our seniors. Please contact Jill on 0402 172 346 for more information.

VINNIES

⇒ Vinnies 2017 Christmas Appeal

Every year, during the Christmas season, the St Vincent de Paul Society, Stanhope Gardens Conference, brings cheer to families in need in our community by providing them with Christmas hampers. This year, we are also helping some of our neighbouring communities who have no conference of their own, namely, Quakers Hill and Doonside.

Commencing on the 1st December, you can help fill up these hampers by picking a small star or stars from the Christmas tree and purchasing the item indicated. Another option would be to pick one of the bigger stars containing the profile of one of the families we help and preparing a hamper suitable for that particular family. Or you may take one of the Vinnies envelopes found on the pews and drop your donation in the Vinnies buckets at the church entrance.

Please bring all your donated goods (**preferably in reusable shopping bags, e.g. calico**) no later than the 11th of December. Thank you very much for your kind generosity.

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

Why we do what we do

How should we prepare for Christmas?

Avoiding the commercialization of Christmas is a real challenge. For Catholics, the liturgical season of Advent helps us focus on the spiritual preparation for Christmas and on the coming of Our Lord. (*Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming.”*) The catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this “coming”: “*When the church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming*” (No. 524). Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back on Our Lord’s first coming when He humbled Himself, becoming incarnate and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the creed that Our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him. So here are some good suggestions to prepare for Christmas.

First, make an Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: God is eternal, and His love for us is everlasting. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new, everlasting life through His passion, death and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished and Christ will soon come. The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet Our Lord. Make the Advent wreath the centerpiece of the dinner table. Light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers along with grace before meals. This daily practice will help each member of the family keep focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

Second, pray. Hopefully prayer already is part of the daily routine, but if not, make it one. Schedule a regular time for prayer. Also, pray the rosary, individually or as a family. Ponder the various events in the life of Our Lord, and the example of Mary, “the handmaid of the Lord,” who gave of herself to receive the gift of the Savior. For little children, who have a shorter attention span, maybe just pray a decade each night, looking at one mystery; over the four weeks of Advent, all the mysteries will have been prayed.

Third, read sacred Scripture. This liturgical year, the Sunday Gospel passages will be taken primarily from St. Matthew. However, do not just read the Gospel; rather, spend a few minutes reflecting upon it, inserting oneself into the passage, and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak in the quiet of one’s heart.

Fourth, take the time for confession. Do a thorough examination of conscience. If it has been a while since the last confession, find a good examination of conscience, and over the course of the week — praying for help from the Holy Spirit — write down those sins that come to mind. Bring that examination to confession, receive absolution, and do the prescribed penance. Remember Psalm 51: “*A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.*”

Fifth, teach. For children especially, read to them the stories of St. Francis and the first Christmas crèche, St. Boniface and the first Christmas tree, or St. Nicholas who is Santa Claus. There are other good stories about the religious significance of Christmas greenery, poinsettias and window candles.

Sixth, preach. To preach, one does not have to stand before a crowd or on the corner shouting Bible verses. There are subtle ways to preach Christmas: Most of us send some

kind of greeting card — use religious cards and religious stamps and sign them with “*May God bless you*” or “*I’ll be praying for you at Christmas.*” When greeting people, say, “*Merry Christmas,*” not “*Happy holidays*” or “*Seasons greetings*”; people of goodwill will not be offended.

At social gatherings, preach by actions. St. Paul warns us to be temperate and not overindulge. We do not want to act in a way unbecoming of a Christian; a Christmas party should not be a bacchanalia. The topics of religion and politics inevitably emerge; some know-it-all will make derogatory comments about our church, usually out of ignorance. Defend the faith, speak the truth clearly and teach with love. We all know the hot topics, so be prepared. The angels announced good news on Christmas; we too are to be the messengers of the Gospel.

Finally, give. Give of yourself by doing good works. Good works help heal the hurts caused by sin, including our own. Remember the Advent calendars from Germany, where a door is opened each day, showing a little picture, and ends at Christmas? Start with a blank calendar. Each day, do a good work — say a prayer for a person, help a neighbor in need or make a sacrifice for a special intention. Whatever the good work, write it in the blank space. At the end of Advent, one will have a beautiful gift for the Lord.

Or, for families with children, set up the crèche with all of the figures except baby Jesus. Write the good work on a piece of paper and place it on the floor of the crèche or in Christ’s crib; then on Christmas, Jesus, Mary and Joseph will have a home filled with our love.

Or, clean out the closets of old clothes or toys, and give them to a charity. St. Francis said, “*It is in giving that we receive,*” and through our charitable works, we will receive the love of Christ Himself.

So, prepare this Advent to receive Christ as though He were coming for the first time. Make this Christmas a celebration of the birth of Our Savior and the great gift of faith we have received. By striving to live in the presence of Christ during Advent, we will receive the best present of all — Our Savior.

<http://catholicstraightanswers.com/prepare-christmas/>

9

MINISTRY SUNDAY – 25-26 NOVEMBER

Your parish really needs your help to keep it running smoothly. A number of groups need more people to offer a few hours of their time each month

- * Gardening - look after a small part of the garden (at least 10 more people)
- * Cleaning – assist with cleaning the church (at least 15 more people)
- * Altar Society – preparing the altar for mass and other liturgies; cleaning and mending altar cloths (at least 6 more people)
- * Counting – counting the weekend collections (at least 10 more people)
- * SRE Teaching – sharing your faith with school students at our Public Schools (at least 15 more people)
- * Acolytes/Senior Servers – (at least 6 more people)
- * Welcomers – welcoming people to Sunday mass (at least 15 more people or families)
- * Handyman – a range of skills experience, eg plumbing, electrical, general repairs and maintenance

Please think how you could give back to your parish. Fill in the form on Ministry Sunday or don’t wait until then, call or email the parish office today businessmanager@john23rd.org.au or 9852 0596.

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: 2018

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 7 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 4 Series, 'Fake News' explores the Good News of Jesus, not fake news. It looks at who Jesus really is - the God who became man, died for our redemption, and rose from the dead. It dispels myths that Jesus is just a good guy, who teaches us how to be good, is tolerant of our life choices, and chooses the path of least resistance. His Passion and Death is certainly not the path of least resistance, and we are called to follow in His footsteps.



Next Session: 8th December 2017



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

Word Find

Come and receive the kingdom that is prepared for you

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

Find these words

Before eternal glory nations right separate sheep
 Sick stranger thirsty throne unimportant

MEDIA RELEASE



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

15th November 2017

Same-sex marriage postal survey result

The Diocese of Parramatta respects the will of the Australia people as expressed through the results of the same-sex marriage postal survey.

It now seems likely that civil marriage will be open to people of the same-sex and we respect that outcome.

The Catholic Church will continue to promote and practice the tenet of our faith that marriage is a lifelong union of a man and a woman, open to the possibility of children. The survey has confirmed that this is a position shared by millions of people in this country.

The focus is now on our parliament to ensure that the proper freedoms are legislated to guarantee that the many people who remain in favour of the traditional definition of marriage are free to speak, teach and act on this belief.

Media inquiries - Joseph Younes, Director of Communications,

(02) 8838 3435, 0416 619500, JYounes@parra.catholic.org.au

Kid's Corner

Help the sheep find its way to Jesus.



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Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney ✉ FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
Asst. Priest: Fr Thomas Bui ✉ FrThomas@john23rd.org.au
Deacon: Nicephorus Tan ✉ DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au

Mass Times

Monday to Friday 9:00am
Also Wednesday 9:00am Holy Cross
 Primary during school term

Saturday 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
 6:00pm (Youth)

Baptism 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

Reconciliation (First Rite)

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

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 8.30 - 4.00pm

Parish Office Contacts

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

Devotions & Prayers

Novena Masses

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Sacrament of the Sick

First Saturday 9:00am Mass or upon request

Divine Office

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

Praise & Worship

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



Chairman

Bart Sarlabus

Deputy Chairman

Chris Drummond

Secretary

Nanette Gamboa

Members

Bernadette Virwani

Gary Lee

Julienne Crasto

Nidarshi Fernando

Our School Community

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au