

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**2 - 3 December 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."*

**"...suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH"**

**From the Pastor's desk**

Dear sisters and brothers

Advent is upon us! A time of expectant waiting for the Lord!

We wait with joyful anticipation for the coming of Christmas, so that we can celebrate once again the marvellous gift of the Incarnation - the gift of God-made-man for our Salvation.

We wait in steadfast faith for the coming of Christ at the End of time, trying in as many ways as we can to remain alert and awake, striving to be people of unconditional love and loving actions.

Advent: a time of expectant waiting for the coming of the Lord!

1. The Seniors Christmas Luncheon occurs on Sunday (3/12) from 12:00pm.
2. The Parish Finance Committee meets on Tuesday at 7:30pm.

DEC	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 4	
TUE 5	
WED 6	
THU 7	<i>Saint Ambrose (M)</i>
FRI 8	<i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)</i> 7:30pm - BLAZE
SAT 9	
SUN 10	<b>Baptism - Nathanael</b>

Let's continue to pray for each other in this joyful season, aware of the need for spiritual preparation for us all during this time.

God Bless you all.

Fr. John

## Gospel Reflection

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

Michael Tate

## Parish News

### MINISTRY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who responded so wonderfully to our request for volunteers last weekend; over 110 people responded. The respective ministry groups will be contacting you in the coming weeks. If you do not hear from them in the next week or two please contact John McCartney –

[businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

0414 909178

### COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The new year is coming up soon – do you have your calendar for 2018? There are a few Columban calendars at the front door. Please leave your \$10.00 in the suggestion box next to the calendars.

### TALL POPPY SYNDROME?

We have identified the person who removed some plants from our church gardens last Tuesday, 21 November (5.07pm). We will not pursue the matter but the person may wish to consider replacing the plants or making some other restitution.

### ROAD WORK

Bentwood Terrace will be closed on 4th December from 7-5pm as they will fixing the road.

## **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

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8*

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand..

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

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

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

## Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

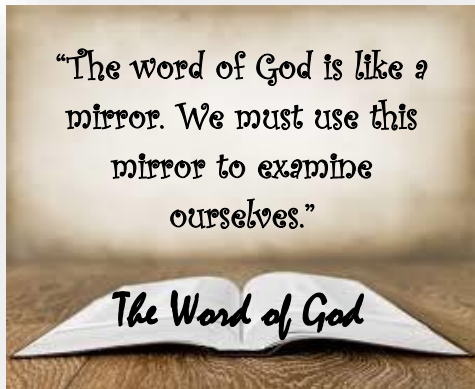
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!



## Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus  
Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was  
buried; he descended into hell; on the third  
day he rose again from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and is seated at the  
right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of  
the body, and life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Readings for Next Week

### **4 Mon 1st week of Advent**

1st Reading Isaiah 4:2-6

Psalm Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9

Gospel Matthew 8:5-11

### **5 Tues 1st week of Advent**

1st Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17

Gospel Luke 10:21-24

### **6 Wed 1st week of Advent**

1st Reading Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalm Ps 22

Gospel Matthew 15:29-37

### **7 Thu Saint Ambrose (M)**

1st Reading Isaiah 26:1-6 / Ephesians 3:8-12

Psalm Ps 117:1. 8-9. 19-21. 25-27

Ps 88:2-5. 21-22. 25. 27

Gospel Matthew 7:21. 24-27

John 10:11-16

### **8 Fri Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)**

1st Reading Genesis 3:9-15. 20

Psalm Ps 97:1-4

2nd Reading Ephesians 1:3-6. 11-12

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

### **9 Sat 1st week of Advent**

1st Reading Isaiah 30:19-21. 23-26

Psalm Ps 146:1-6

Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:1. 6-8

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:

Christian Millott, Ramon Chito Reyes,  
Wayne Auld, Reynaldo Tiga, Des Ballangue

### Deceased:

Joseph Simon Francis, Mr & Mrs Dasan,  
Mr & Mrs David, Joseph David

### Anniversary:

Paul Camilleri, Alfredo Pangilinan Sr,  
Richard D'Souza, , Giuseppe Perrone,  
Vince Perrone, Craig Drummond,  
RJ Rosales,

### Sick:

Cely Macrohaon, Maria Pinky Baartz,  
Charmaine Beltran, Amando Magno, Jovie  
Disterhofft, Mark de Jesus, Elgin Duenas,  
Pat Daley, Karam Matte

### Thanksgiving:

Claudio Beng Savet Jr, Amelia Supe,  
Sarah-Grace Paguinto,  
Reddy Ontedhu Family

## 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.



### 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 we now need to plant of course!



## Parish Pastoral Corner

*"The true and solid peace of nations consists not in the equality of arms, but in mutual trust alone"*  
— 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

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	
Mar	6	13	20	27	
	Sebastian	available	Shalini	available	

### LITURGY

#### ⇒ "Family Christmas Mass"

The Family Christmas Mass will be held at 6pm on 24th December in our church. We will include a short play of the Nativity story before the mass commence as we have done in the past.

We are inviting children to take part in the Nativity play to:

1. play characters from the Nativity story,
2. narrate the Nativity story,
3. read during the Mass, or
4. participate in the offertory procession.

Please contact Therese on [theresecoutinho1689@gmail.com](mailto:theresecoutinho1689@gmail.com) for more details if your child can take part or if you can assist in any way for the Nativity story at the Family Christmas Mass.



## 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.



## 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

## 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 of December, you can help fill up these hampers by **picking a star or stars** from the Christmas tree and purchasing the item indicated. Another option would be to pick one of the **index cards containing the profile of one of the families we help from the cork board** and preparing a hamper suitable for that particular family. **You** may also take one of the Vinnies envelopes found on the pews and drop your donations in the Vinnies buckets at the church entrance **or in any of the collections during Mass.**

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.

## Why we do what we do

### 10 Things You Need to Know About Advent

Jimmy Akin

*Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st.*

*Most of us have an intuitive understanding of Advent, based on experience, but what do the Church's official documents actually say about Advent? Here are some of the basic questions and (official!) answers about Advent. Some of the answers are surprising! Here we go...*

#### 1. What Is the Purpose of Advent?

Advent is a season on the Church's liturgical calendar--specifically, it is as season on the calendar of the Latin Church, which is the largest Church in communion with the pope. Other Catholic Churches--as well as many non-Catholic churches--have their own celebration of Advent. According to the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar:

Advent has a twofold character:

- as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered;
- as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.

Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation [Norms 39].

We tend to think of Advent only as the season in which we prepare for Christmas, or the First Coming of Christ, but as the General Norms point out, it is important that we also remember it as a celebration in which we look forward to the Second Coming of Christ.

Properly speaking, Advent is a season that brings to mind the Two Comings of Christ.

#### 2. What Liturgical Colors Are Used in Advent?

Particular days and certain types of celebrations can have their own colors (e.g., red for martyrs, black or white at funerals), but the normal color for Advent is violet. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal provides:

*The color violet or purple is used in Advent and Lent. It may also be worn in Offices and Masses for the Dead [346d].*

In many places, there is a notable exception for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday:

*The color rose may be used, where it is the practice, on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and on Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent) [GIRM 346f].*

#### 3. Is Advent a Penitential Season?

We often think of Advent as a penitential season because the liturgical color for Advent is violet, like the color of Lent, which is a penitential season.

However, in reality, Advent is not a penitential season. Surprise!

According to the Code of Canon Law:

*Can.1250 The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.*

Although local authorities can establish additional penitential days, this is a complete listing of the penitential days and times of the Latin Church as a whole, and Advent is not one of them.

#### 4. When Does Advent Begin and End?

According to the General Norms:

*Advent begins with evening prayer I of the Sunday falling on or closest to 30 November and ends before evening prayer I of Christmas [Norms 40].*

The Sunday on or closest to November 30 can range between November 27 and December 3, depending on the year.

In the case of a Sunday, Evening Prayer I is said on the evening of the preceding day (Saturday). According to the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours:

*96. Evening prayer, celebrated immediately before Mass, is joined to it in the same way as morning prayer. Evening prayer I of solemnities, Sundays, or feasts of the Lord falling on Sundays may not be celebrated until after Mass of the preceding day or Saturday.*

This means that Advent begins on the evening of a Saturday falling between November 26 and December 2 (incl), and it ends on the evening of December 24, which holds Evening Prayer I of Christmas (December 25).

## 5. What Is the Role of Sundays in Advent?

There are four Sundays of Advent. The General Norms state:

*The Sundays of this season are named the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays of Advent [Norms 41].*

We have already mentioned that the Third Sunday of Advent has a special name--Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for "Rejoice," which is the first word of the introit of the Mass for this day.

The Church ascribes particular importance to these Sundays, and they take precedence over other liturgical celebrations. Thus the General Norms state:

*Because of its special importance, the Sunday celebration gives way only to solemnities or feasts of the Lord. The Sundays of the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter, however, take precedence over all solemnities and feasts of the Lord. Solemnities occurring on these Sundays are observed on the Saturdays preceding [Norms 5].*

You also cannot celebrate Funeral Masses on the Sundays of Advent:

*Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for Solemnities that are Holydays of Obligation, Thursday of Holy Week, the Paschal Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, with due regard also for all the other requirements of the norm of the law [GIRM 380].*

## 6. What Happens on Weekdays in Advent?

It is especially recommended that homilies be given on the weekdays of Advent. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states:

*On Sundays and Holydays of Obligation there is to be a Homily at every Mass that is celebrated with the people attending and it may not be omitted without a grave reason. On other days it is recommended, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Lent and Easter Time, as well as on other festive days and occasions when the people come to church in greater numbers [GIRM 66].*

The General Norms also point out a special role for the weekdays of the week preceding Christmas:

*The weekdays from 17 December to 24 December*

*inclusive serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth [Norms 41].*

This special role is illustrated, for example, by the Scripture readings used in the liturgy on these days.

## 7. How Are Churches Decorated During Advent?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes:

*During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord. During Lent it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts [GIRM 305].*

## 8. How Is Music Performed During Advent?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes:

*In Advent the use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord. In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts [GIRM 313].*

## 9. Is the Gloria Said or Sung During Advent?

Neither. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal provides:

*[The Gloria or "Glory to God in the highest"] is sung or said on Sundays outside Advent and Lent, and also on Solemnities and Feasts, and at particular celebrations of a more solemn character [GIRM 53].*

## 10. What Private Devotions Can We Use to Grow Closer to God During Advent?

There are a variety of private devotions that the Church has recognized for use during Advent. The most famous is the Advent Wreath.

You can read about these devotions in the [Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy](#) (starting at no. 96).

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/jimmy-akin/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-advent1>

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

## Word Find

Stay awake!

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

*Find these words*

dawn	everything	guard	house	know	master	midnight
	ready	servants	sleep	time	watchmen	

**Diocesan News** <http://parracatholic.org/events/>  
**CatholicOutlook E-edition** <https://catholicoutlook.org/e-edition/>

**PILGRIM STATUE OF  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA 1917-2017**  
*coming to St Bernadette's, Castle Hill*

**WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER**



*Don't miss this special  
opportunity to celebrate  
100 years since the  
miracles in Fatima*

*Hear Our Lady's  
message through  
Fr Gerard Ryan*

*Present special petitions  
for personal intentions*

*— Schedule 6 December —  
6.30pm opportunity for sacrament of  
penance for early birds  
7.00pm Introduction + Rosary  
7.30pm Mass  
7.50pm Talk on the messages of  
Our Lady of Fatima  
8.50pm Benediction + individual  
priestly blessing*

**6 December - Our Lady of Fatima**

Hear Our Lady's message through Fr Gerard Ryan

6:30pm Sacrament of penance for early birds

7:00pm Introduction + rosary

7:30pm Mass

7:50pm Talk on the messages of Our Lady of Fatima

8:50pm Benediction + individual priestly blessing

Don't miss this special opportunity to celebrate 100 years since the miracles in Fatima at St Bernadette's Parish Church, Castle Hill.

**Kid's Corner**



**Christmas**

Rearrange the following words  
to complete the sentence below

**Jesus**

**prepare**

**season**

is the

when

**arrival**

we

for the

**Advent**

of

at



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<b>Parish Priest:</b>	<b>Fr John McSweeney</b>	✉	<b>FrJohn@john23rd.org.au</b>
<b>Asst. Priest:</b>	<b>Fr Thomas Bui</b>	✉	<b>FrThomas@john23rd.org.au</b>
<b>Deacon:</b>	<b>Rodrigo Rupac</b>	✉	<b>DeaconRudy@john23rd.org.au</b>

### 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

✉ hollycross@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

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