

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
16 - 17 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."*



**From the Pastor's desk**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Traditionally this Sunday is considered the halfway point towards Christmas; and, like with the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the liturgical colour is Rose... symbolising joy. We rejoice that this Season of Preparation (Advent) is now entering its final phase, encouraging us to be ready for the Lord's Coming to us once again this Christmas. Because this year we have the shortest Advent possible (as the Fourth Sunday of Advent is actually Christmas Eve), let's make the most of our final week of reflection on Christ's many gifts to us, especially that of his Incarnation.

1. Please note that there are four (4) Sunday masses next weekend: Saturday Vigil (6pm), Sunday morning only (7:30, 9 & 10:30).

Sunday evening is the Vigil of Christmas! Masses are 6pm Family Vigil (this year in our parish church), 9pm Vigil, and Midnight.

On Christmas Day there are only two (2) masses: 9am and 10:30am.

There is NO Christmas Evening mass in our Church. There is, however, a 6pm Christmas evening mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

2. Rooster masses are underway at 6am each morning. Please note that the final Rooster Mass on Christmas Eve (next Sunday) will be the 7:30am Sunday morning mass. Given the above timetable, an extra mass that day is not permissible.

3. SECOND RITES OF RECONCILIATION - will occur on Wednesday 20/12 at 7.30pm at Castle Hill; and on Thursday 21/12 at 7.30pm at Kellyville. We will also have FIRST RITE next Saturday after the 9am Mass and from 4.45pm - 5.45pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all that you do for this Parish Community. We are so blessed to have such a vibrant parish.

God's Blessings always!

*Fr John*

DEC	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
MON 18	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster
TUE 19	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster
WED 20	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster Second Rite: 7.30pm Castle Hill
THU 21	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster Secon Rite: 7.30pm Kellyville
FRI 22	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster
SAT 23	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster
SUN 24	7:30am - Mass of the Rooster

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## Gospel Reflection

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14: 3- 12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Roque Dias

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## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**6pm:** Family Vigil (in church)  
**9pm:** Vigil Mass  
**12am:** Midnight Mass  
**9am & 10.30am :** Masses for Christmas Day

**NO CHRISTMAS EVENING MASS**

Dear friends,

**Re: Royal Commission Update**

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will shortly release its final findings on public hearings, and its recommendations, related to the Catholic Church in Australia.

These case studies included evidence around the pain and hurt that was inflicted upon victims of abuse by Church authorities, including Diocese of Parramatta personnel.

Once again, I apologise on behalf of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Parramatta for the irreparable harm caused to people who were betrayed by clergy, religious and lay people who were entrusted to lead ministry in this Diocese. Our response and processes at the time were clearly inadequate. For these failings, I wish to express my profound sorrow.

Throughout the Royal Commission, the Diocese of Parramatta has strived to engage in their processes with openness, transparency and a commitment to learning about our history so that our child protection policies and procedures are strengthened and there is restored confidence in Church ministry.

As we await the final reports and recommendations to be handed down, I would like to remind you that should anyone wish to report abuse by Church personnel to the Diocese, or require support for the impact upon them from abuse by Church personnel, that they may contact the Office for Safeguarding & Professional Standards on 02 8838 3419 or [safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au). Any matter of a criminal nature should be reported to the NSW Police on 131 444.

For any media related questions, please direct them to Joseph Younes, Communications Director on 02 8838 3435 or [jyounes@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:jyounes@parra.catholic.org.au).

Yours sincerely in Christ,



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**Deanery Christmas Second rites of Reconciliation 2017**

**Wednesday, 20 December 7:30 PM** St Bernadette's Church,  
254 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill.

**Thursday, 21 December 7:30 PM** Our Lady of the Rosary Church,  
8 Diana Avenue, Kellyville.

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

## Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice Indeed, the Lord is near.

## Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Luke 1:46-50, 53-54*

**R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

## Second Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

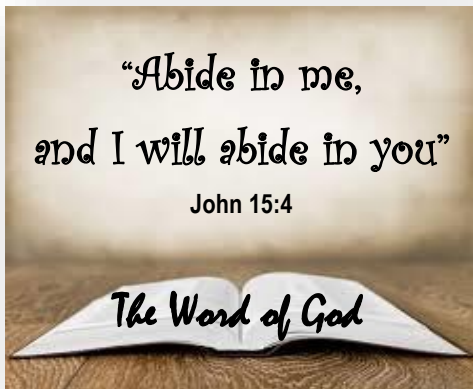
Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Acclamation

*Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

## Gospel

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

### **18 Mon 3rd week of Advent**

1st Reading Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 12-13. 18-19  
Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

### **19 Tues 3rd week of Advent**

1st Reading Judges 13:2-7. 24-25  
Psalm Ps 70:3-6. 16-17  
Gospel Luke 1:5-25

### **20 Wed 3rd week of Advent**

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm Ps 23:1-6  
Gospel Luke 1:26-38

### **21 Thu 3rd week of Advent**

1st Reading Song of Songs 2:8-14  
Psalm Ps 32:2-3. 11-12. 20-21  
Gospel Luke 1:39-45

### **22 Fri 3rd week of Advent**

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:24-28  
Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1. 4-8  
Gospel Luke 1:46-56

### **23 Sat 3rd week of Advent**

1st Reading Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24  
Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14  
Gospel Luke 1:57-66

Full weekly readings can be found in the parish  
website <http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/>  
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## GRADUATION BLESSING YEAR 6

During the 1030am Mass on Sunday the 17th December there will be a special  
Blessing to celebrate the graduation of Year 6 from John the XXIII Primary  
School.

There was a Graduation Mass for Year 6 Holy Cross Primary on Thursday  
evening 14th December at 7.00pm

Let us keep these young people in our prayers at this time of transition.

**Recently Deceased:**

Oszy D'Sa, Julia Lapuz, Alfie Docena, Elpidio Beltran

**Deceased:**

Mark de Jesus, Jeffrey Turner

**Anniversary:**

Joseph Camilleri, RJ Rosales, Jeffrey Turner, Louthumalar, Irene Cherry, Gerindio Parungao, Thereria Maria, Nany Theresiawati, John Newnes, Leonilo Gonzalez

**Sick:**

Greg Chapman, Natasha Henricks, Maria Pinky Baartz, Cely Macrohon, Charmaine Beltran, Amando Magno, Jovie Disterhofft, Elgin Duenas, Pat Daley, Karam Matte

**Thanksgiving:**

Charley Guerrero

**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

*“Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.”*  
— Pope John XXIII

### 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 Coutinho on [theresecontinho1689@gmail.com](mailto:theresecontinho1689@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. Practice to be held in the Church on Sunday 17th December from 3-5pm.

#### ⇒ Mass of the Rooster (Misa de Gallo)

A nine day novena Mass {Mass of the Rooster} will start on the 16th of December until the 24th of December at St. John XXIII parish in preparation for Christmas. Masses will be held at 6:00a.m. daily during this period except Christmas Eve, when it will be the normal 7.30am Mass.



### 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

	5	12	19	26	
Dec	<i>Paguinto S</i>	<i>Drummond</i>	Erasmus	Paguinto M	
Jan	2	9	16	23	30
	Paguinto M	Magpayo	Sebastian	Shalini	Ivon
Feb	6	13	20	27	
	Manalo	Houghton	Dasan	Tiong	
Mar	6	13	20	27	
	Paguinto R	Sebastian	Shalini	Viola	
Apr	3	10	17	24	
	<i>Available</i>	<i>available</i>	Sebastian	Shalini	

**PASTORAL**⇒ **DRIVERS NEEDED**

Looking for Parishioners who can drive a Parishioner to Mass every Sunday. Could you please call the Parish Office if you are able to help.

**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.

**PARISH COLUMBARIUM**

The parish is planning a major project to build a columbarium in the memorial garden. The details are in the flyer in the pews.

The launch, early-bird costs are:

1<sup>st</sup> niche \$2 000

2<sup>nd</sup> niche \$1 800

3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent niches \$1 500 each

These costs apply to 30 June 2018, after which we anticipate they will increase. We would encourage you to discuss this with your family and indicate your interest as soon as possible. There will be a form at the front door or you may email [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest and will accept payments once our Development Application from Blacktown Council is approved. At that stage payment in full will secure your niche/s and their place in the wall.

**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.

**BIGGEST LOSER**

We have had to postpone the Biggest Loser Challenge as we do not have sufficient administrative support. We hope to run the Challenge soon after Easter – a good opportunity to lose that Easter egg over-indulgence!

Apologies to all the would-be challengers who had indicated their interest. We need 8-10 people to join the Fundraising Committee and assist with such ventures.

Please contact Nanette Gamboa care of Parish Office 98520580.

### Why do we have Nativity Scenes

The Christmas crèche, or Nativity scene, remains the best reminder of the infinite gift of love that God gave us at Christmas. Perhaps the Nativity scene in your home has been in place for weeks or will take shape soon. St. John's Abbey has a large collection of Nativity scenes, from many countries, in many styles.

I have a much smaller collection of Nativity scenes: a Mexican ceramic one with tiny figures (I wish this set had more of them for me to arrange); a Polish wooden one with the heads of the ox and donkey peeking over their stall that my father Joseph bought for me; and a fabric one from Guatemala that I bought for my mother Josephine when she lived at Assumption Home in Cold Spring (Mary and Joseph are dressed in brightly-colored clothes, as befits the festive occasion).

I display these crèches in alternate years in my suite in St. Patrick Hall at St. John's. My few Nativity scenes will join the many at St. John's when I'm gone. But my collection and I are in no hurry for that.

### Where the mystery starts

It is kneeling or standing before such visual representations of the birth of Jesus that we often get our first inklings of the Christmas mystery.

I retain a photo of myself as a youngster standing before my family's crèche; my hands folded reverently, my face aglow with wonder before the arrangement of worn plaster figures from at least two different sets. My family didn't have one of those elegant, upscale stables that I see in department stores and at craft sales.

At some point in my childhood my parents let me begin replacing the worn plaster figures with new ones from Woolworth's, the dime store on West Broadway in north Minneapolis.

Using my hard-earned allowance money and other sources of juvenile income, I would buy one or two figures at a time: first, essential figures like Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus; later, less essential but still desirable figures like the shepherd's dog. It took a while, but eventually everyone and everything was there.

### Essential vs. nonessential

To arrange the various figures in the Nativity scene does not require lots of practice or expertise; children become quite skillful at it very quickly.

This presupposes, of course, that all the figures are there to begin with.

We might easily do without one of the sheep (maybe it got lost or turned into mutton since last Christmas); and we might not be too upset if one of the multiple shepherds should meet with a tragic accident and be unable to make his yearly visit to the crib.

But we certainly couldn't imagine a Nativity scene without the centerpiece, the guest of honor, the birthday boy himself: the Baby Jesus in the manger.

### A place in our hearts

No, we couldn't imagine a Nativity scene without the Baby Jesus, and rightly so. But how sad it is if we add Jesus to the Nativity scene in our homes at Christmas and then fail to place him at the center of our lives all year long.

We who place the Christ Child in his crib at Christmas must place him at the center of our lives every day. If we don't, we fail to honor Christ the Lord present in ourselves and in other people, his sisters and brothers.

To place him at the center of our lives is to live with his presence in our hearts.

To place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is to embrace the grace and truth he brought us in his living and dying



and rising as one of us.

To place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is to hear, really hear, God speaking to us in his beloved Son, speaking a message of good news, offering us salvation and peace both in this life and in eternal life.

To place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is to welcome God's everlasting light and life in him, so that we can live as the children of God. To place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is to find ourselves at the center of God's love, at Christmas and forever.

May you enjoy a most blessed and merry Christmas, and may you know throughout the Christmas season the love of God present in your lives.

*Benedictine Father Michael Kwatera, a monk of St. John's Abbey in Collegenille, serves as the abbey's director of liturgy. Please send your questions on liturgy to him at [mkwatera@csbsju.edu](mailto:mkwatera@csbsju.edu) or at St. John's Abbey, P.O. Box 2015, Collegenille, MN 56321-2015. Father Michael enjoys giving workshops and presentations on liturgical topics to parish groups. Reach him at the email or postal addresses listed here.*

*<http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org/liturgy-answers/why-do-we-have-nativity-scenes/>*

## 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' explored 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:** tba



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

## Word Find

Prepare for the Lord Jesus

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

*Find these words*

Answer	desert	Elijah	first	good	Jerusalem
Leaders	Pharisees	ready	River	temple	water

### Positions Vacant

Youth Minister – St Bernadette’s Parish, Castle Hill. More details at: [www.parracatholic.org/employment](http://www.parracatholic.org/employment)

### Volunteers for the homeless needed

The Order of Malta requires volunteers to visit ‘homeless hotspots’ around Parramatta. Volunteer drivers, nurses and paramedics are needed to provide this service to Parramatta’s homeless. If you would like to learn more, please email [info@smom.org.au](mailto:info@smom.org.au)

### Kid’s Corner

Decipher the message that John the Baptist gave to the priests and temple helpers



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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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 or call 0478 173 474  
 MARN 1461332

**Parish Priest:** Fr John McSweeney ☒ [FrJohn@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
**Asst. Priest:** Fr Thomas Bui ☒ [FrThomas@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrThomas@john23rd.org.au)  
**Deacon:** Rodrigo Rupac ☒ [DeaconRudy@john23rd.org.au](mailto:DeaconRudy@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](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

☒ [celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)