

### 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."*

**BELIEVE**  
for nothing will be impossible  
with **GOD**

### From the Pastor's desk

Dear sisters and brothers

With this weekend we reach the end of our Advent Waiting and move quickly to celebrate the Birth of the Saviour.

With our Blessed Lady, let us always try to be obedient to the Will of God, so that Christ will live within...

And may the Christ Child bless all our families this Christmas!

1. On behalf of Fr Thomas, Deacon Rudy, and all on the Parish Team, including our *deacon-in-training*, Roque Dias, and *Seminarian*, Jack Green... may I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a ***Blessed Christmas and all the best for 2018.***

It is a privilege to be a ministerial priest in this Parish Community; and see and feel the extraordinary ways that so many respond to their Baptismal Vocation of Service. Let us continue to pray for one another in the year ahead, especially in these post-Royal Commission times. Mutual Prayer and practical Support & Care will enable us to witness to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ for all...

2. It is with much sadness that we have to say 'Farewell' to our seminarian, Jack Green, who finishes up with us on Christmas morning and will move to Westmead Parish in the New Year. Jack has been an active and much-loved member of our Parish Team for over 12 months, and will be missed. Let us keep him in our prayers in a special way over the next 12 months or so, as he prepares, firstly, for Diaconate and then for Priesthood in our Diocese.

DEC	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
SUN 24	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 5.15pm - Nativity story commencing prior to Family Mass 6pm - Christmas Vigil Mass 9pm - Christmas Vigil Mass
MON 25	<i>Nativity of the Lord</i> 12am - Midnight Mass 9:00am - Christmas mass 10:30am - Christmas mass
TUE 26	<i>Saint Stephen (F)</i> NO NOVENA MASS
WED 27	<i>St John the Apostle (F)</i>
THU 28	<i>The Holy Innocents (F)</i>
FRI 29	
SAT 30	
SUN 31	<i>Holy Family (F)</i>

## From the Pastor's desk

3. As always, the Music Ministry has a break in January, so come prepared for some quiet masses.  
Ray Samonte, who has been Music Coordinator in the Parish since 2002, is retiring from this role from Christmas. We thank Ray for his outstanding work in establishing and growing our magnificent music ministry over one and half decades! Ray - God bless you and your wife, Lorraine, and all the family at this time of grace.
4. The ***Parish Office is now closed and will re-open on Tuesday 9th January***. The Emergency Phone Number (listed on the back page and on our webpage) will be the way to contact one of the priests *when a serious need arises*.
5. There will be no full bulletin until the weekend after Australia Day. Mass sheets only will be provided over the next few weekends. No need to take them Home!
6. I will be heading off on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on 6th January and will return on 29th January. I will be visiting India on the way back, staying with Fr Robert William and his family in Tamil Nadu. Please support Fr Thomas during this time when he will be in charge.

God bless you all during this grace-filled time.

*Fr John*



### ADVENT

In the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent Mary is promised a child, a Holy Child. I wonder: did Mary hope for great things for her child? He was destined to be a 'king'; what did this mean? Glory, Grandeur? But the Promise of the Holy Child resulted in the Way of the Cross. And yet, when all seemed to be falling down around her, Mary continued to trust, loving God and remaining obedient to God's Will. Both you and I are invited to be like Mary...

\* to trust that God fulfils God's promises

\* to love God and others as our Response to God's first loving us

\* to obey and remain faithful to God in the midst of Life's trials and upsets - believing that God will come through in God's own way.

If we are able to take these lessons from the the life of Our Blessed Lady to heart and live them, then we, too, will share in Elizabeth's Praise of Mary:

**"Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled!"**

### CHRISTMAS

**"The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light".**

Although humanity often finds itself in the midst of darkness, there is a light that shines, a light (that St John's Gospel declares) 'has overcome the darkness': the Word made Flesh who brings New Life.

At Christmas we celebrate the Birth of a Child who would be the Light to the Nations, the Saviour of the World.

**"Today a child has been born for us; he is Christ the Lord"**

So many come to Church at Christmas, because there remains a spark of the Light that was given at Baptism in most good people. We come to Mass, not only because it is the family or social custom, but so that we can give thanks to God for the year past, and pray for the year ahead. We also hope to renew our contact with the Lord and his People, the Church. We express in different ways the belief that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life for our world - and that, without He who is the Light of the World, we should wander around lost, destined to walk in the darkness of ignorance forever!

Despite the sins and crimes of a few of our 'brothers and sisters' in the Catholic Church in Australia, we remain confident that God will continue to pour out his abundant Grace on all who strive to remain faithful to the Good News and who acknowledge God's presence in their lives. Let us move into the New Year full of hope and trust that we will learn from the past and embrace the new things to come. Let us never forget that the Child, whose Birth we celebrate this Christmas, grew up to say that true leadership is an act of service: **"for the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his Life as a ransom for many".**

Let Mary's Obedience to God's Will and Jesus' example of unconditional Love in the Service of all guide our every thought, word, and deed in the New Year ahead!

Fr John

## Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a  
Saviour.

## Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a  
son; and his name will be called  
Emmanuel.

## First Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16*

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight  
of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and  
the Lord had given him rest from all the  
enemies surrounding him, the king said to  
the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a  
house of cedar while the ark of God dwells  
in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and  
do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is  
with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord  
came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the  
Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me  
a house to dwell in? I took you from the  
pasture, from following the sheep, to be  
leader of my people Israel; I have been  
with you on all your expeditions; I have cut  
off all your enemies before you. I will give  
you fame as great as the fame of the  
greatest on earth. I will provide a place for

my people Israel; I will plant them there  
and they shall dwell in that place and never  
be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked  
continue to oppress them as they did, in  
the days when I appointed judges over my  
people Israel; I will give them rest from all  
their enemies. The Lord will make you  
great; the Lord will make you a House.  
And when your days are ended and you are  
laid to rest with your ancestors, I will  
preserve the offspring of your body after  
you and make his sovereignty secure. I will  
be a father to him and he a son to me.  
Your House and your sovereignty will  
always stand secure before me and your  
throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29*

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of  
the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim  
your truth. Of this I am sure, that your  
love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly  
established as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen  
one; I have sworn to David my servant: I  
will establish your dynasty for ever and set  
up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my  
God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep  
my love for him always; for him my  
covenant shall endure. **R.**

## Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen..

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**We can't OBEY God  
until we first LISTEN  
to His WORD**

*The Word of God*

## 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

### **25 Mon Nativity of the Lord**

1st Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29

2nd Reading Acts 13:16-17. 22-25

Gospel Matthew 1:1-25 (long)  
Matthew 1:18-25 (short)

### **26 Tues St Stephen (F)**

1st Reading Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Psalm Ps 30:3-4. 6. 8. 16-17

Gospel Matthew 10:17-22

### **27 Wed St John the Apostle (F)**

1st Reading 1 John 1:1-4

Psalm Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 11-12

Gospel John 20:2-8

### **28 Thu The Holy Innocents (F)**

1st Reading 1 John 1:5-2:2

Psalm Ps 123:2-5. 7-8

Gospel Matthew 2:13-18

### **29 Fri 5th day of Christmas Octave**

1st Reading 1 John 2:3-11

Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 5-6

Gospel Luke 2:22-35

### **30 Sat 6th day of Christmas Octave**

1st Reading 1 John 2:12-17

Psalm Ps 95:7-10

Gospel Luke 2:36-40

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:

Father Brian Rooney, Ricky Labastida,  
Oszy D'Sa, Julia Lapuz, Alfie Docena,  
Elpidio Beltran

### Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner, Vince Perrone, Joseph  
Formosa and Family, Tomas Ferino Sr,  
Fraternidad Ramirez, William, Emilia,  
Debbie Mifsud,  
Sammy Formosa, Lawrie Noronha

### Anniversary:

Mark de Jesus, Giuseppe Perrone, Craig  
Drummond, RJ Rosales, Sew Lin Wong,  
Rose Garcia, Nenita Bernardo, Maria Pinky  
Baartz, Owen Jacobs, Sinforoso Chua

### Sick:

Dita Banez, Greg Chapman, Charmaine  
Beltran, Natasha Henricks, Cely Macrohon,  
Amando Magno, Jovic Disterhofft,  
Elgin Duenas, Pat Daley, Karam Matte

### Thanksgiving:

Melva Paguinto

## Paying our debt together

**The First Collection** – for the diocese.  
The 1st Collection is used for the support  
of the Bishop and priests of the Diocese.

**The Second Collection** – for the parish.  
The 2nd Collection is used to meet our  
parish running costs (*rates, utilities, insurance,  
telecommunication, computers, photocopiers,  
stationery and postage, church and altar requisites,  
repairs and maintenance of the church, presbytery,  
office buildings and grounds*).

It is used to pay the team/staff salaries,  
superannuation and each priest's car  
expenses, loan interest and loan repayment.  
It is also used to provide for our pastoral  
and ministry outreach activities from the  
parish.

Money received in the 2nd collection is  
banked into the parish "Church Account".

If you would like to be a part of the  
church's plan giving program, an  
**SJ23rd form** (white) is available at the  
church foyer or contact the parish office.

### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

If you wish to change your pledge please  
contact the parish office. We would  
encourage you to change from the envelope  
system to either direct debit or credit card.



## Parish Pastoral Corner

*"I live by the mercy of Jesus, to whom I owe everything and from whom I expect everything."*  
— 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	
	<i>Paguinto S</i>	<i>Drummond</i>	<i>Erasmus</i>	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	
	Cendana	Manalo	Sebastian	Shalini	
May	1	8	15	22	29
	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	Manalo	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>

### 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.



## 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.

### NEW TO OUR PARISH?

On behalf of St John XXIII Parish, welcome to our faith community!

Moving into a new area can be quite a challenge, let alone finding a new church community in which to worship and interact. I hope our parish will be able to provide support and assistance while you move into your new home – geographically as well as spiritually.

The parish has many ministry and support groups, detailed in the welcome envelopes at the front of the church – “Parish Information for New Parishioners”. If you would like to lend a hand in any parish activities please contact the parish office. Of course, if you have a need of any of our support services or would like your home blessed, again, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.

I would ask you to complete the enclosed census form in the welcome pack or at the church foyer to enable us to keep you informed of parish activities.

And to enable us to plan and budget for the projects we have planned for the coming years, as well as the daily running of the parish, I would encourage you and the adult members of your family to consider enrolling in our planned giving programme. You may contribute by direct debit or credit card (our preferred methods) or by envelope.

All forms are available at the church foyer or by contacting the parish office.

I wish you every success and happiness at St John XXIII, a community which looks forward to a future of growth and prosperity with you and your family in our midst.

Yours in Christ

Fr John McSweeney

Parish Priest



## Why we do what we do

### **Vatican: Ashes must not be scattered or kept at home**

The Vatican has set out guidelines for Catholics who want to be cremated, saying their remains cannot be scattered, divided up or kept at home but rather stored in a sacred, Church-approved place.

The new instructions were released on Tuesday by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

For most of its 2,000-year history, the Catholic Church only permitted burial, arguing that this best expressed the Christian hope in resurrection. But in 1963, the Vatican explicitly allowed cremation as long as it didn't suggest a denial of faith about resurrection.

The new document repeats that burial remains preferred but lays out guidelines for conserving ashes for the increasing numbers of Catholics who choose cremation.

It said it was doing so to counter what it called "new ideas contrary to the Church's faith" that had emerged since 1963, including New Age ideas that death is a "fusion" with Mother Nature and the universe, or the "definitive liberation" from the prison of the body.

The Vatican said ashes and bone fragments cannot be kept at home, since that would deprive the Christian community as a whole from remembering the dead. Rather, Church authorities should designate a sacred place, such as a cemetery or church area, to hold them.

Only in extraordinary cases can a bishop allow ashes to be kept at home, it said.

The document said remains cannot be divided among family members or put in lockets or other mementoes. Nor can the ashes be scattered in the air, land or sea since doing so would give the appearance of "pantheism, naturalism or nihilism," the guidelines said.

It repeated Church teaching that Catholics who choose to be cremated for reasons contrary to the Christian faith must be denied a Christian funeral.

The new instruction carries an August 15 date and says Pope Francis approved it on March 18. It wasn't clear if the guidelines were retroactive or what Catholics should do if they have disposed of their loved ones in ways now deemed improper.

The author of the text, Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, was asked at a Vatican briefing if Francis had any reservations about the text, particularly the refusal to let family members keep remains of their loved ones at home.

"The dead body isn't the private property of relatives, but rather a son of God who is part of the people of God," Mueller said. "We have to get over this individualistic thinking."

While the new instruction insists that remains be kept together, Vatican officials said they are not about to go gather up the various body parts of saints that are scattered in churches around the world. The practice of dividing up saints' bodies for veneration was a fad centuries ago but is no longer in favour.

"Going to all the countries that have a hand of someone would start a war among the faithful," reasoned Mgr Angel Rodriguez Luno, a Vatican theological adviser.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/10/25/vatican-ashes-must-not-be-scattered-or-kept-at-home/>

**Parish Columbarium for more information go to Page 11**

### 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.

### 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.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St Vincent De Paul Society Stanhope Gardens conference would like to thank our very generous parishioners for their contribution to the Christmas Hamper appeal. I am sure very many needy families will be having a pleasant Christmas. God Bless you all.

### PARISH INFORMATION

Do you know we have a website –  
<http://john23rd.com/>



Welcome to the community of the Catholic Parish of St John 23rd Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens where the love of Christ is shining in so many ways.

We also have a Facebook page –  
please Like us - <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>



Catholic Parish



## 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

His name will be Jesus

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

### Find these words

Afraid   confused   Elizabeth   Gabriel   holy   Israel  
 Jesus   Joseph   Mary   Nazareth   servant   son

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

### Positions Vacant

- Youth Minister – St Bernadette’s Parish, Castle Hill
- Accounts Officer – Chancery Office, Parramatta

More details at: [www.parracatholic.org/employment](http://www.parracatholic.org/employment)

- School Maintenance & Outdoor Worker - Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Baulkham Hills. Must have valid Working With Children Check, Commence February 2018, 3 hours/day- 5 days per week , Pre-employment Medical Assessment required, General maintenance experience preferred, 2 Referees, Applicants addressed to: The Principal - [ololbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ololbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### Kid’s Corner

Use the words below to find out what the angel Gabriel and the Blessed Virgin Mary are saying to each other



**Jesus    afraid    happen    servant    Lord    greetings    pleased    son**

St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations. To advertise in this space, please contact the parish office



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**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 Emergency  
 ☒ [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)