

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**17 - 18 March 2018**



**PLANTING OUR  
LIVES INTO THE  
GROUND**

MAR	PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR
Mon 19	<i>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)</i>
Tue 20	7:30pm - Novena OLPH
Wed 21	7:30pm - Joint choir practice for Easter Vigil
Thu 22	
Fri 23	7.30pm - Stations of the Cross
Sat 24	
Sun 25	

**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

The Prophet Jeremiah speaks of the promise of a New Covenant, one written on the hearts of the faithful (that is, in the core of their being). This promise finds fulfilment in Jesus' Gospel of Peace and Reconciliation

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us how this New Covenant came about: the Son was willing to surrender to weakness, identifying with us weak human beings; and thus, through obedience to the Father's Will, Jesus could take us to a new existence with Him.

And the Gospel from John tells us that Jesus is ready to follow the Will of God in all things, including to die in order to be raised for our salvation. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies..."

All three texts speak of dying to the old ways in order to begin something new. This is our continual calling as Christians, which is highlighted during our Lenten Season: we must die to sin and be raised to a new and sinless existence in Christ. "Create a Clean Heart in me, O God".

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1. Masses are as normal this week.

2. We are commissioning our SRE Teachers at the Vigil Mass this weekend. We encourage you to consider joining them in this ministry of teaching the 'little ones'. And we thank most profusely those who are retiring after so many years of service.

3. Please note:

**Reconciliation Times in preparation for Easter:**

- i) *Second Rite* at **Winston Hills on Monday 26th March, 7pm.**
- ii) *Second Rite* at **Kellyville on Tuesday 27th March, 7pm**
- iii) *Extra First Rite* at **Stanhope Gardens after Saturday morning Mass on 24th March.** Both Fr Thomas and myself will be available.

It is important that we try to receive Reconciliation between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday every year.

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**Gospel Reflections**

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I can observe a baby, but the parents 'see' their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response.

This Gospel passage begins with a request from some Greeks 'to see Jesus', surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response.

And there was a response full of allusions to the future.

Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground.

Our Lord says of that scene: 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.' How were people drawn to this scene?

People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life.

We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

© Fr Michael Tate

## 2018 Lenten Message from Bishop Vincent

To read Bishop Vincent's Lenten Message in full & watch the video please visit [goo.gl/2F77m9](http://goo.gl/2F77m9)

## Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Lecture Series

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of Mark. Venue: IFM, Marion St, Blacktown. Time: 10 am - 2pm. Dates: Friday 23 March, Friday April 6, 13. All are welcome. BYO lunch. RSVPs to Maree 02 9890 4731

## POSITIONS VACANT

Credo Youth Group Coordinator- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. For further info, please visit [www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

## 25 March - Palm Sunday Procession

Catholic Youth Parramatta are hosting the annual Palm Sunday Procession. Starting at Parramatta Town Hall on Sunday 25th March at 5:15pm and walking to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Details at [parracatholic.org/cyp](http://parracatholic.org/cyp)

## 30 March - Good Friday Night Walk

Catholic Youth Parramatta are hosting the annual Good Friday Night Walk. Starting Friday 30th March at 10:00pm from St Patrick's Church, Blacktown and finishing at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Details at [parracatholic.org/cyp](http://parracatholic.org/cyp)

## 8 April - First Mass at St Luke's Marsden Park

The new St Luke's Catholic Faith Community, Marsden Park invites you to join them as Bishop Vincent Long, assisted by Deacon Tony, leads their first Mass at St Luke's College, Frontier Avenue, Marsden Park on 8 April at 10am. More info at: <https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au>

## 6 May - The Permanent Diaconate

The discernment program for those who are interested in finding out more about this Vocation will be held at St John 23rd Parish, 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens 2768. Come and learn more about vocations to the Diaconate and have a chat with our team members. We are looking for men aged between 35 to 55 and residing in the Diocese of Parramatta. Our discernment program consists of five sessions, with each session dealing with different aspects of the Diaconate. The meetings will commence at 3.00pm until 6.00pm followed by the Parish Mass and Fellowship. The 2018 dates on Sundays: 8 July, 9 September, 4 November. For further information visit [www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate](http://www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate) or please contact any of the following deacons: Deacon James – 0425 213 832, Deacon Tan – 0407 270782, Deacon George – 0408 440769

## Other News

## POSITIONS VACANT

- Digital Content Producer - Archdiocese of Sydney
- Multimedia Journalist - Archdiocese of Sydney
- Executive Officer, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry - Archdiocese of Sydney
- Kitchen Hand/Cleaner, The Seminary of the Good Shepherd - Archdiocese of Sydney
- University Chaplaincy Co-ordinator, Sydney University Chaplaincies (Closes: 23 March 2018)

For further info, the advertisements for these positions can be viewed at [www.catholicjobsonline.com.au](http://www.catholicjobsonline.com.au)

## Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

## Communion Antiphon

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

## First Reading

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 50:3-4, 12-15*

**R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. **R.**

## Second Reading

*Hebrews 5:7-9*

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



*Will bring you into a wonderful place of rest in faith.*

## Gospel

John 12:20-30

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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

### **19 Mon St Jopseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)**

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:4-5. 12-14. 16

Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29

2nd Reading Romans 4:13. 16-18. 22

Gospel Matthew 1:16. 18-21. 24

### **20 Tues 5th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm Ps 101:2-3. 16-21

Gospel John 8:21-30

### **21 Wed 5th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25. 28

Psalm Daniel 3:52-56

Gospel John 8:31-42

### **22 Thu 5th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading Genesis 17:3-9

Psalm Ps 104:4-9

Gospel John 8:51-59

### **23 Fri 5th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalm Ps 17:2-7

Gospel John 10:31-42

### **24 Sat 5th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:21-28

Psalm Jeremiah 31:10-13

Gospel John 11:45-56

Full weekly readings can be found in the parish  
website [http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-  
reading/](http://john23rd.com/our-parish/daily-reading/)

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### NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish community!  
Please take a welcome envelope pack from  
the front entrance.

Please also check out our website and  
Facebook pages

Fr John McSweeney, Parish Priest

**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:

Ariz Inigo, Ricardo Crame, Ronald Allan Songco, Dora Agustiyam Wanahita, Nicola LoRusso, Audrey Dias, Arlene Munoz

### Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner, Victor Francis, Mark De Jesus

### Anniversary:

Antonia Cremona, Emanuel Victor Angelo, Victoria Cremona,

### Sick:

Sonia Mikac, Giuseppe David LoRusso, Margaret Iringan, Romy Masangkay, Lolita Diaz, Liezl Sultana, Edmond Rizon, Jesse Perrone, Margaret Iringan, John Wormald

### Thanksgiving:

Abigail Pragasam, Ravi & Bernadette Virwani

## Paying our debt together

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

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

And to pay for staff salaries and superannuation and priests' car expenses, loan interest and loan repayment. Also, used to provide for our pastoral and outreach ministry activities of the parish.

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

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

For parishioners are already part of the program, we would encourage you to change from the envelope system to either direct debit or credit card. If you wish to change your pledge please contact the parish office.



## PARISH INFORMATION

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

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



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



**SUGGESTION BOX - We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.**

“See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.” — 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					
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
	Ivon	Shalini	Manalo	Lobo	Lee
Jun	5	12	19	26	
	Ivon	available	Olan	Shalini	

### ⇒ Silent adoration/prayer/meditation

**"So, Could You Not Stay Awake With Me One Hour?" Matthew 26:40**

The Faith Formation Committee would like to invite all the members of the community to spend at least one hour in **silent adoration/prayer/meditation** at the **Altar of Repose, St. John XXIII Parish, between the hours of 8:00p.m. and midnight on Holy Thursday, 29 March 2019**. An hour spent in the dimly lit church in silence before the Altar of Repose can give you so much inner peace.

Will you keep watch with the Lord during His hours of agony in the garden?

## LITURGY

### ⇒ Choir practices for Holy Week liturgies

Choir practices are scheduled for the following dates and times:

**21 Mar, Wed** - 7.30-9.30pm for Easter Vigil

**23 Mar, Fri** - 8-10pm, for Holy Thursday

**28 Mar, Wed** -7.30-9.30pm, where required

We hope to see every member from all Parish choir groups. We also encourage any new musicians and singers to join us. If you have any queries, please refer to Bob Agbulos, Liturgy Coordinator on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com).



## ⇒ WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross practice is Saturday at Holy Cross Primary School from 3-5pm. We are still looking for volunteers to take several roles like Mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, Veronica, Pontius Pilate, John the Beloved, Simon of Cyrene, Joseph of Arimathea & 3 Roman soldiers. If you or anyone you know is available, please contact Bob Agbulos on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com).

## PASTORAL CARE

⇒ We have a Parishioner who lives in Glenwood that needs a lift to attend any Sunday Mass. If you are able to assist please call Parish Office.

## ⇒ Pastoral Care: Retirement home visits

The Pastoral Care team visits the elderly at Dudley Foord House (Anglican Retirement Village) in Stanhope Gardens every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10.30am-11.30am. For one hour, we spend time talking to the residents, playing games or doing arts and crafts with them.



## SRE

### ⇒ BECOME A CATECHIST

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 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814

22  
years

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## *From the Bishop*

The passing on of the Catholic faith to younger generations, especially in public schools, is an exciting task for our Diocese. The role of the Catechist in passing on our living faith is crucial. This role of service to the youngest members of our community brings much to the lived experience of faith, not only to the students of our state schools, but also to the catechists themselves.

I encourage you to consider if you may be called to this role and bring God to the ones whom Christ taught that the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

*Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM  
Conv. Bishop of Parramatta*

## HOW TO PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 24, 2017 By Gretchen Filz

*The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, or Via Dolorosa (Sorrowful Way), is a popular Lenten devotion. Many parishes join as a group and pray the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent to call to mind the Passion of Christ, that is, the journey Jesus took from his condemnation to his death.*

### ***The History of The Stations of the Cross***

The Way of the Cross has its origins with the Blessed Mother. It is said that she, who pondered all the mysteries of Christ in her heart, retraced the steps of her Son's Passion and the significant events that happened along the way, keeping in her memory, and for the memory of the Church, the sacred path on which the Son of God trod to accomplish our redemption.

Later in her life, when she was no longer living near Jerusalem, it is said that Mary continued this devotional practice by creating a similar outdoor path near her home with stone markers, along which she would walk, pray, and meditate on those things that happened to her Son on his Sorrowful Way.

For centuries, pilgrims to the Holy Land have walked the steps of Our Lord's Passion in Jerusalem, with "stops" along the way to pray and venerate near the places where a significant event is believed to have occurred (*such as the place where Jesus met his Mother, where Jesus fell, and where Veronica banded Jesus her veil, etc.*).

This devotional walk, known as the Stations of the Cross, became one of the most popular and useful ways for the devout to meditate on Christ's Passion. The Franciscans, a religious order with special custody of the sacred places in the Holy Land since the Middle Ages, brought this tradition to their churches in Europe in much the same way that the Blessed Virgin erected an imitation of the Sorrowful Way near her home.

Pilgrims who could not travel to Jerusalem could experience in a virtual way the Stations of the Cross by following a signposted path around the inside and/or outside of the church. Here the faithful would walk and pray and meditate on the sufferings of Jesus as if they were walking the real places in Jerusalem. Special indulgences were granted to those who made this virtual pilgrimage.

From the 18th century, by Papal decree, all Catholic churches were permitted to erect the Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary, with the number of Stations fixed to fourteen. A specific way of praying the Stations also developed, two of the most popular being the method of St. Francis of Assisi and the method of St. Alphonsus Liguori.

### ***The Fourteen Stations of the Cross***

Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus takes up his Cross

Jesus falls for the first time

The Virgin Mary meets Jesus

Simon of Cyrene is made to help Jesus bear the Cross

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Jesus falls for the second time

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Jesus falls for the third time

Jesus is stripped of his garments

Jesus is crucified

Jesus dies on the Cross

Jesus is taken down from the Cross and laid in the arms of Mary

Jesus is laid in the tomb

### ***How to pray The Stations of the Cross***

Although most popular during Lent, this season is not the only good time to pray the Stations of the Cross. It is always recommended to the faithful to meditate on Christ's Passion frequently, especially on Fridays as a perpetual day of penance, to obtain graces and grow in holiness.

*"But especially I commend earnest mental prayer to you, more particularly such as bears upon the Life and*

*Passion of our Lord. If you contemplate Him frequently in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with Him, you will grow in His Likeness, and your actions will be moulded on His. He is the Light of the world; therefore in Him, by Him, and for Him we shall be enlightened and illuminated.” -St. Francis de Sales*

There are many ways to pray the Way of the Cross, especially by making use of the Stations of the Cross devotional tools mentioned below.

1. Attend a guided Stations of the Cross with your parish on the Fridays of Lent.
2. Using the Stations of the Cross inside your parish, spend a few minutes prayerfully meditating on each station (*usually there will be an image depicting each station to help guide your time of mental prayer – so you don’t necessarily need to carry a book with you*).
3. Use a traditional prayer format (*with a Catholic prayer book which includes the Stations, or with a separate Stations of the Cross booklet*) to pray the Stations at home.
4. Pray the Stations with a Stations of the Cross rosary
5. Pray the Stations virtually with the Via Dolorosa Experience DVD (*video of the guided Stations tour in Jerusalem with the Franciscan Friars*).
6. Pray the Stations with an audio CD at home or while commuting.
7. Pray with your children using children’s Way of the Cross multi-media tools.
8. Design and erect your own Stations of the Cross for your home or garden. Get creative!

There were many saints who were devoted to Christ’s Passion, for example St. Catherine of Siena, St. Paul of the Cross, St. John of the Cross, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Gemma Galgani, and St. Padre Pio, to name a few. Meditating on Christ’s Passion is a sure way to become a saint like them!

*“There is no practice more profitable for the entire sanctification of the soul than the frequent meditation of the sufferings of Jesus Christ.” – St. Alphonsus de Liguori*

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/how-to-pray-the-stations-of-the-cross/>

## FAITH FEED

The FaithFeed Live Studio Audience is an initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta’s Institute for Mission, and they are holding the first studio audience for 2018 on Friday 23rd of March. The time is from 7pm to 9pm. The cost is \$5 however that includes access to the event, food and drinks + \$1 beer/wine – sure to be a cheap date night! ☺

The link to the registration is <http://www.tinyurl.com/studioaudience>. As a follow up to our recent mass announcements, we genuinely encourage you and your friends, especially those that are between 25 to 39, to consider attending this function if you are able to.

You can also keep track of the IFM Faith Feed initiatives and connect with the stories by liking, following and subscribing to their channels:

### YouTube - subscribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFaithFeed>

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/thefaithfeedp>

### Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/thefaithfee>

### Website:

[www.thefaithfeedparramatta.com.au](http://www.thefaithfeedparramatta.com.au)

### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/thefaithfeedPA>

## 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



### 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**.

**Next Session:** 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

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

Word Find

The grain that dies gives much wheat

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

*Find these words*

Certain	disciples	fall	Father	grain	ground	lose
Love	more	one	servant	wheat		

## 21 March - Redfield College Open Day

Redfield College Term 1 Open Day will be held on Wednesday, 21 March 2018 from 12:00 to 2:30pm. You are most welcome to attend a tour followed by the Headmaster's Talk at 1:00pm. Contact Angie Celis on 02 9651 0381 or [angie.celis@redfield.nsw.edu.au](mailto:angie.celis@redfield.nsw.edu.au) for more info. Enrolments are open for Years 2 to 12.

## 5 April - Holy Hour for Vocation

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite YOUTH (age 18-35) to join us for Holy Hour for Vocations on Thursday, 5 April at 7:00 pm. Join us also for the pizza at 8:00pm, Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton.

RSVP: Sr Paula by 1st June, e-mail [vocationscfm@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscfm@gmail.com) mob: 0449 656406

## 8 April - Nigerian Mass in Igbo

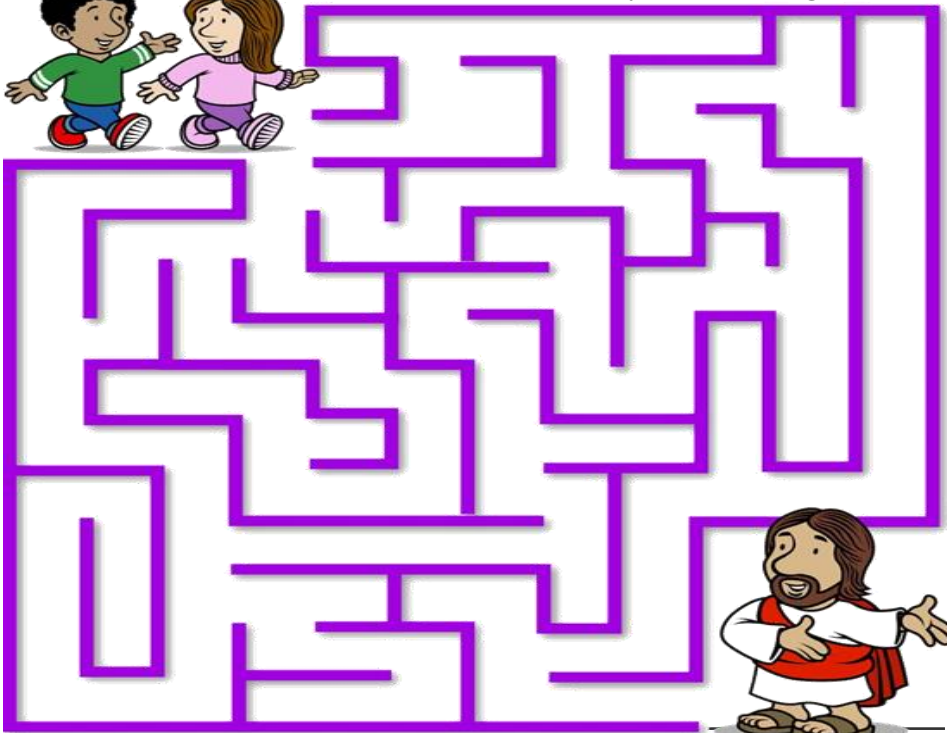
Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, will celebrate Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Contact Fr Akamadu tel 0451 174438, Stella Nwosu 0405 478472.

## 8 - 13 April - Grief to Grace

Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. To request an application contact Anne by emailing [info@griegtograceaus.org.au](mailto:info@griegtograceaus.org.au) or phone 0407704539. For more info visit [www.griegtograce.org](http://www.griegtograce.org)

## Kid's Corner

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**Parish Priest:** Fr John McSweeney  
**Asst. Priest:** Fr Thomas Bui  
**Deacon:** Rodrigo Rupac

✉ [FrJohn@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
 ✉ [FrThomas@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrThomas@john23rd.org.au)  
 ✉ [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)  
 Sacramental Co-ordinator: Jill Franco  
 (Tues, Wed & Fri)  
 ✉ [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)  
 Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

## 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)

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