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**The Ascension  
of the Lord  
13 May 2018**

**From the Pastor's desk**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Today we celebrate the great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. This liturgical Feast, based on Luke/Acts, celebrates the understanding that Jesus, having been raised from the Dead, is now seated at God's Right Hand, from where He exercises dominion over 'every Sovereignty, Authority, Power or Domination, or any other name that can be named', that is, Jesus exercises dominion over all the powers and authorities of Creation. And this leads to two ideas that have great relevance for us... 1. Jesus protects his followers, sending the Spirit of God to dwell within us, strengthening us in our following of the Gospel, and 2. We are enabled to imitate the Risen Lord and tell the whole world the Good News of Salvation.

None of this is new, but we still need to hear the message, for we consistently fail to heed it...

1. We often fail to trust in the Lord's presence in our lives. Through our own choices we raise barriers to the Spirit's action. We need to cooperate with God's Grace so that we are strengthened to live the Truths of the Gospel every day. We need to become more aware of the Spirit dwelling within us in our times of prayer and reflection. This will then lead to action...

2. We are evangelists from the day of our Baptism; we need to put into practice the Will of God for us, rather than our own wilful actions. We are enabled by the Spirit to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ in ALL its fullness, and not just those aspects that appeal to our all-too-fallible human likes and dislikes.

In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let's wait with expectant joy for the outpouring of the Spirit upon the whole Church once again at Pentecost!

1. On Friday (18 May) we will celebrate the monthly Mass at Dudley Foord House within the ARV, The Ponds, at 11am. All welcome.

2. There is a Liturgical Ministers' Retreat on Saturday morning starting with 9am mass. Liturgical Ministers: please check with Bob Agbulos about this.

3. Let's continue to pray for the almost 200 children who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion soon.

God bless you all.

Fr. John

**Entrance Antiphon**

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

**Readings/Gospel**

Acts 1:1-11  
 Ephesians 1:17-23  
 Mark 16:15-20

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9  
 God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

John 14:23  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
 Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon**

Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

**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 page

**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."*



MAY	THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
Mon 14	9am - Mass 7:30pm - Bible Study about the Virgin Mary (Session 2), St Mark's Staff Room
Tue 15	9am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, benediction to follow
Wed 16	9am - Mass
Thu 17	9am - Mass
Fri 18	9am - Mass and Benediction 11am - Mass at Dudley Foord House 7:15pm - BLAZE Night
Sat 19	9am - Mass 9am - Liturgical Ministers' Retreat 4pm - Bible Study about the Virgin Mary (Session 2), Parish Conference Room 4:30pm - 1st Holy Communion Children Session #2
Sun 20	12pm - Baptism - Please pray for Brodie, Mia, Ivy, Hunter and Addison 4:30pm - 1st Holy Communion Children Session #2

## OFFICE

160 Perfection Avenue,  
Stanhope Gardens, 2768  
(next to St Mark's College Admin Office)

## MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,  
NSW 2768

## NORMAL MASS TIMES

Mon - Fri 9:00am  
also Wed 9:00am

Holy Cross Primary school term only

Sat 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)

Sun 7:30am, 9:00am,  
10:30am, 6:00pm (Youth)

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism** by appointment

Sun 12:00pm

**Reconciliation (First Rite)**

Sat 5:00 - 5:45pm

And after any weekday masses

## CLERGY

**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)

## PARISH OFFICE

**Office Hours**

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

**Office Contacts**

(02)9852 0580

(0403 766468 AH Emergency)

**Secretary**

Tanya Gatt

✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

**Finance:**

Mila Llamas (Thur)

✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

**Sacramental Coordinator:**

Jill Franco

✉ [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

**Business Manager:**

John McCartney (pro bono)

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

## PARISH NEWS

### COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Thank you to all who have shown an interest in the columbarium project and purchased niches. We have 18 niches left - St John XXIII (6) and St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (12). Our DA has gone to Council so we await their decision. If you are interested in purchasing please contact John McCartney [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au) 0414 909178.

### WE GIVE THANKS TO.....

To all who made contributions for the Cake Angels Stall last Sunday, a tremendous effort.

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

We are happy to announce that a Christian Meditation Group will commence in the Conference Room in the Parish Office at 7.30pm, Monday evening 21st May. All are welcome. If you would like to find out more about Christian Meditation before you come to the group, you can look online at Australian Community for Christian Meditation (ACCM).

The Parish Office is located near the large school/church carpark. You can just turn up on the night or talk to Fr. John or call me on 0417406715. Frances Pegrem.

## DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NEWS

### Catholic Outlook Survey

Tell Bishop Vincent and the Diocese of Parramatta what you think about *Catholic Outlook*. All responses are anonymous and confidential. Take the survey here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/catholicoutlook](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/catholicoutlook)

### 18 May: Mass For Neophytes

The annual Mass for Neophytes (newly Baptised Catholics and those who have been received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church) will be celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and held on Friday 18 May, 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. For further information contact the Office For Worship on 02 8838 3456 or [ingridvergano@parracatholic.org](mailto:ingridvergano@parracatholic.org).

### 20 May: Mt Schoenstatt Golden Jubilee Celebration

Schoenstatt Movement in Australia, will celebrate the Golden Jubilee this Pentecost Sunday, 9:30am - 2pm. Lunch is BYO or purchase from the Multicultural Food Stalls.

### 26 May: Ordination to the Diaconate of Christopher del Rosario

Most Rev Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, will be the principal celebrant



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Deposit for the Pilgrimage is \$800

THE GENUINE EXPERIENCE harvest JOURNEYS

### SUGGESTION BOX

We have a suggestion box in the front foyer and welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.



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

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

## 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 of the church and provide for ministry expenses.

### 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** is available at the church foyer or contact the parish office.

We would encourage instead of the envelope system to either direct debit or credit card deduction.

## Parish Pastoral Corner

### 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"*

#### ⇒ BIBLE STUDY

#### The Bible and the Virgin Mary - Handmaid of the Lord (Session 2)

Mon, 14 May 2018, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at St. Mark's Staff Room or Saturday, 19 May 2018, 4:00pm to 5:30pm at Parish Office Conference Room All are welcome. (Light refreshments served).

### LITURGY

#### ⇒ LITURGY MINISTERS' RETREAT

Attention all Liturgy Ministers: Acolytes, Sr and Jr Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word. We invite you to a spiritual retreat on **Sat, 19th May** from 9am to 1pm. Please diarise this date. More details to follow or email Bob Agbulos on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com).

#### ⇒ JUNIOR ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Do you wish to serve in our liturgies? Are you 10 years old and over? Have you received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Communion? If so, we invite you to join our Junior Altar Server ministry. Application forms are available in the church, from our parish office and parish Facebook page. For further details, email Bob Agbulos on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com).

### COMMUNITY BUILDING



Thank you to everyone who have assisted and patronized the Cake Angels Stall. We raised \$1006.90 which will go to the Parish Ministry funds.

### Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

	1	8	15	22	29
May	Ivon	Shalini	Manalo	Lobo	Lee
Jun	5	12	19	26	
	Ivon	Richards	Olan	Shalini	
Jul	3	10	17	24	31
	Houghton	available	available	available	Macrohon
Aug	7	14	21	28	
	Gan	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	Jacinta	
Sep	4	11	18	25	
	Ivon	Houghton	Shalini	available	

#### ⇒ WELCOMERS

We are still looking for more committed volunteers to be part of this committee. For those interested please contact Techie Sarlabus on 0438 201436 or email [techiesarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:techiesarlabus@gmail.com) alternatively Vanessa Turner (Team Lead) [vbt2k@yahoo.com](mailto:vbt2k@yahoo.com)

#### ⇒ YOUTH MINISTERS

We are looking for committed young people to assist in the facilitation of our BLAZE fortnightly sessions. You will be assisting like minded youth in the development of the younger generation in our parish and help in their spiritual growth. Enquiries can be sent to [youth@john23rd.com.au](mailto:youth@john23rd.com.au).

#### ⇒ ZUMBA MARATHON

For those 12yrs old and over, come and join us for a 2 hour Zumba workout.

When - 24th June Sunday, 2-4pm

Where - St Mark's Hall

Cost - \$20



## YOUTH CORNER

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Philippians 4:13*

### 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: 18/05/2018



[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

## Youth Ministry

### ATTENTION

SJXXIII Youth is looking for volunteer youth facilitators who are can commit to assisting with our BLAZE fortnightly sessions. Any enquiries can be sent to [youth@john23rd.com.au](mailto:youth@john23rd.com.au).

**Devotions & Prayers**

**Novena Masses**

Tue 7:30pm  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
1st Fri 7:30pm  
Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Tue after the 7:30pm novena mass  
1st Fri 6:30pm followed by  
7:15pm Benediction  
Sat 8:00 - 9:00am (Vocations)

**Sacrament of the Sick**

1st Sat 9:00am Mass or upon request

**Divine Office**

Fri After 9:00am Mass and  
Benediction  
Sun 8:15am

**Praise & Worship**

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

**Special intentions**

**Recently Deceased:**

Victor Grech, Lucia Dizon, Gordon Collins

**Deceased:**

Rioelene & Aeldred Weber, Mignelita Ortig,  
Pedro Bernardo, Pacita Bernardo,  
Mignon Weber, Chrisby Koelmeyer,  
Alicia & Hilarion dela Rosa

**Anniversary:**

Tyipto Djohan, Pacita Delgado Jones,  
Sofija Janezic, Ma Regina Ysabel Gatchalian

**Sick:**

Sonia Mikac, Giuseppe David LoRusso,  
Margaret Iringan, Lolita Diaz, Liezl Sultana,  
Jesse Perrone, John Wormald, Angie DeLara,  
Edmond Rizon, Cesar de Jesus

**Thanksgiving:**

Ed & Clare Pineda, Victor Francis

**OUR PARISH SCHOOLS**

**Holy Cross Primary**

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood  
Principal: Marina Hardy  
☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ [bolycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bolycross@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)



**Chairman**  
Bart Sarlabus

**Dep Chairman** Chris Drummond  
**Secretary** Nanette Gamboa

**Members**

Bernadette Virwani  
Gary Lee  
Julienne Crasto  
Nidarshi Fernando

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

*ST JOHN XXIII would like to thank these businesses for their contribution to our parish community*

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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