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**The Nativity of
 Saint John the
 Baptist
 24 June 2018**

From the Pastor's desk

Although we celebrate the Mass of the Birthday of St John the Baptist this Sunday, Fr Thomas and I decided - for pastoral reasons - that we would continue with the Ordinary Time cycle of Readings at all Masses this Weekend.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The Gospel of the Calming of the Storm from Mark captures the imagination of many. The disciples panic when the gale blows and the waves are breaking over the sides of the boat: they think that the boat is going to be swamped and sink. Despite the miracles they had witnessed and the obvious power of Christ, a single storm leads them to doubt: "Master, do you not care? We are going down!"

We are no different, my friends. We have experienced the love of God in so many ways throughout our life, yet we imitate the disciples and panic whenever the bark of Peter (the Church) comes under attack and appears to be sinking. "Why are so many no longer coming to Church? Why do young people not follow in the footsteps of their parents in practicing their Faith? How can we keep going to Mass when some priests and bishops are sinners? Is the media correct when it says the Church is irrelevant?"

These and other such comments provoke a feeling of despair in us who strive to be faithful to Jesus and the Gospel. Unfortunately, we often allow the negativity of our myopic modern society to influence our thinking and even our practice of our Faith. The Lord responds to us as he did to the Disciples: "Why are you frightened? Have you no faith?" And then he calms the Storm.

Whenever we are tempted to despair about the future of our Faith or of our Church, let's remember that Jesus CAN calm the storms of our lives and lead us to 'the other side' - to the place to which we are going. After all, even if it appears that Christ is asleep, his head still remains on the cushion = the place where the Navigator would sit.

Jesus Christ remains in charge of the boat at ALL times. So no storm, no negativity, no nay-sayers of contemporary life, NOTHING can every separate us from the Love of God poured into our hearts by Christ Jesus.

My friends, let us strengthen each other with the assurances of Faith, stand straight and tall always, and proclaim to a confused world with one might voice our belief that GOD IS IN CHARGE and that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

This Wednesday Deacon Rudy will celebrate and Liturgy of Word with Communion at Holy Cross School at 9am. There will also be a Liturgy of the Word with communion on Thursday at 9am in the Church.

All other liturgies and masses are as normal.

God bless you all

Fr John

Entrance Antiphon

A man was sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.

Readings/Gospel

Job 38:1.8-11
 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
 Mark 4:35-41

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 106:23:26 28:31
 Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 7:16
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

**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."



JUNE		THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
Mon 25	9am - Mass 7:30pm - Bible Study about the Virgin Mary, St Mark's Staff Room 7:30pm - Christian Meditation - Parish conference room		
Tue 26	9am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, benediction to follow		
Wed 27	9am - Mass		
Thu 28	<i>Saint Irenaeus (M)</i> 9am - Liturgy of the word		
Fri 29	<i>Saints Peter and Paul Vigil (S)</i> 9am - Mass and Benediction		
Sat 30	4pm - Bible Study about the Virgin Mary, St Mark's Staff Room		
JULY			
Sun 1	12pm - Baptism - Please pray for Henry, Cruz, Havana		

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

Asst. Priest:

Fr Thomas Bui
✉ FrThomas@john23rd.org.au

Deacon:

Rodrigo Rupac
✉ 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

Finance:

Mila Llamas (Thur)
✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator:

Jill Franco
✉ admin@john23rd.org.au

Business Manager:

John McCartney (*pro bono*)
✉ businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

PARISH NEWS

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

The St John XXIII wall is sold out. The revised costs for our columbarium have been approved. From 1 July 2018, the costs will be:
1st niche \$2 500 (currently \$2 000)
2nd niche \$2 200 (\$1 800)
3rd and subsequent niches \$2 100 (\$1 500)

There are only 8 niches left at the St Mary of the Cross MacKillop wall. If you are interested in purchasing and locking in the current price, please contact John McCartney businessmanager@john23rd.org.au 0414 909178.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new packs of envelopes are available at the church foyer.

This cycle commences on 3 June. If you would like to switch from envelopes to the credit card or direct debit system please call the parish office.

PRAGUE TO DUBROVNIK

(Shrines and Cathedrals of Central Europe)

A Pilgrimage - in the September - October School Holidays

Will be led by Fr John McSweeney from St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope Gardens.

This three-week Pilgrimage will visit Prague, Czestochowa, Krakow, Brudapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Ljubljana and Dubrovnik.... and visit key Shrines and Cathedrals throughout.

For more info contact Harvest Journeys on 1800 819 or info@harvestjourneys.com

WE GIVE THANKS TO.....

Rudy Yap and friends for leading the Zumba marathon. It was truly a sweaty event. A good start to a healthy winter.



Seniors' High Tea

Join us for an afternoon of delightful cakes, pastries and savouries coupled together with a cup of coffee or tea.

There will be fun, laughter and music!

Date: Sunday 12 August

Time: 3-5pm

Location: St. Mark's School Hall

To register, please call Jill on 9852 0583

(If you would like to donate cakes, pastries, sandwiches or other savouries, please also contact Jill.)

DIOCESAN NEWS

Themes of Faith Program 2018

'Themes of Faith' has proven to be really connective and enriching for people of all ages and it's specially structured so as not to cross over with most university pressure times. Last year quite a number in their early 20's had a great experience joining with those in their 30s, 40s and older. We particularly encourage parishes and friends to be confident that this will be enjoyable and motivating for younger people. Please do actively join us in making a priority to invite younger people into this experience.

Participants enjoy 10 Monday evening gatherings (July 23-Aug 20 / Sept 17-24 / Oct 15-29) and one relaxed Saturday morning (Oct 20) to listen, talk, learn and enjoy. No prior studies in faith are required. The small group process aims to maximize discussion and the confidence to share and grow in faith. And there's also the chance to get to know other people as the mentor groups join together to start each gathering with eating and some prayer and finish with a plenary sum-up.

We are now taking registrations for this program which begins on Monday July 23 July at the IFM Blacktown. Evenings kick off with 6.45pm nibbles for a 7pm start.

Cost is \$70 all-inclusive per person
Click the link below where you or others can express interest ASAP in one of the limited places for the 2018 Themes of Faith Program. Alternatively, call or contact us for more information. Fr Paul: 0417 441177

Donnie: 0432 042140 Charbel: 0410 759795
email: connect@ifm.org.au



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

⇒ BIBLE STUDY

The Bible and the Virgin Mary next session "Mother Crowned in Glory"

Monday, 25th June 2018, 7:30p.m. - 9:00p.m. or Saturday, 30th June 2018, 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m. St. Mark's Staff Room
All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

PASTORAL CARE

⇒ Mothers' Prayers Groups

The Pastoral Care ministry is starting a Mothers' prayer and support group for mothers in our parish.

Our first get together is on **Wednesday 4 July, 7.30pm-8.30pm in the church**, beginning with prayers and ending with coffee/cake in the church kitchen.

Mothers' Prayers is an international community set up by two English mothers in 1995 who wanted to offer prayers for their children.

This movement has spread throughout 100 countries, giving mothers all around the world a chance to meet and pray for their children as well as support each other in the challenges of motherhood.

Interested to learn more or join us? Please call or SMS Jill on 0402 172 346.

Did you know??

Our Pastoral Care Ministry can help if you're a senior and require assistance with cooking simple meals and grocery shopping? Or if you would just like some company for afternoon tea or a walk? To find out more, please contact the parish office on 9852 0583.

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

Jun	5	12	19	26	
	Ivon	Richards	Olan	Shalini	
Jul	3	10	17	24	31
	Houghton	Sivapathnam	Thirimanne	D'Souza	Macrohon
Aug	7	14	21	28	
	Gan	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	Jacinta	
Sep	4	11	18	25	
	Ivon	Houghton	Shalini	Olan	
Oct	2	9	16	23	30
	Olan	Sebastian	Pangilinan	Paguinto	Manalo
Nov	6	13	20	27	
	Pangilinan R	available	available	available	

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

It is time once again for our St Vinnies Winter Appeal. We are requesting blankets, socks and beanies in good condition to be distributed to the homeless and the needy. There will also be envelopes provided for cash or credit card donations during the month of June. We thank you for your support and may God bless you for your generosity.

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: 29/06/2018

[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

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.



✉ For all youth ministry enquiries, email us at youth@john23rd.com

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:

Diana McCartney, Christia Yunon, Debbie Long

Deceased:

William Keenan, Antonio Toledo, uelina Angeles,
Danny Wright, Patria Tolsolo Cruz,
Carmen Indolos

Anniversary:

Joseph Calabria, Tjuanti Dyakar, D Corcoran,
MJ Crawley, J Moore, Gregory Patrick Alexander,
Joseph Francis, Domenico Pelle, F Andriskie

Sick:

Ronelle, Sonia Sampaio, Celine van den Bosch,
Carmel Byne, Margaret Iringan, Jesse Perrone,
Giuseppe David LoRusso, Sonia Mikac,
Liezl Sultana, Edmond Rizon, Lolita Diaz,
Ceasar de Jesus, John Wormald, Angie De Lara,
Crisanta Fernando

Thanksgiving:

Ana Marie Cobarrubias, Xavier Sfly,
Theophil Soudriya, Ravi & Bernadette Virwani,
Theodore, Alexander, Teresa, Athan, Alexa Alvarez

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

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary

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

✉ 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

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens
☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

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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