



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens
<http://john23rd.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>



Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time 4 November 2018

From the Pastor's desk

Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love.

Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself?

Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way.

Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'

© Fr Michael Tate

Dear Friends

We prayed for you all at the Shrines & Cathedrals of Central Europe. I trust that you supported Father Thomas in my absence; he has done a great job!

God bless you all!

Fr John

Mass Times

Mon - Fri 9:00am
 also Wed 10:00am
 Holy Cross Primary *school term only*
 Sat 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)
 Sun 7:30am, 9:00am,
 10:30am, 6:00pm (Youth)

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

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."



NOV		THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
Mon	5	9.00am - Mass 7:30pm - Christian Meditation Group	
Tue	6	9.00am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass with Benediction 7.30pm - PFC	
Wed	7	9.00am - Mass 7:00pm - RCIA session 7.30pm - PPC	
Thu	8	9.00am - Mass	
Fri	9	<i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (F)</i> 9.00am - Mass	
Sat	10	<i>Saint Leo the Great (M)</i> 9.00am - Mass 7:15pm - Worship Night - Youth and Young Adults	
Sun	11	REMEMBRANCE DAY: Centenary of the end of WWI 12pm - Baptism - Please pray for Chloe, Chelsea, Richard	

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong
salvation!

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.



OFFICE

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

MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,
NSW 2768

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

(0423 160 567 AH Emergency)

STAFF

Secretary

Tanya Gatt

✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au

Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator:

Jill Franco

✉ admin@john23rd.org.au

Business Manager:

John McCartney (*pro bono*)

✉ businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish
community!

Please take a welcome envelope
pack from the front entrance.

Also visit our website or like our
Facebook page

www.facebook.com/john23rdparish



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.

SUGGESTION BOX
We welcome your comments
and constructive suggestions.

PARISH NEWS

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

- First the **GOOD NEWS**, our Council approval is now for four walls, not two.
- The first batch of temporary ceramic plaques has been delivered. Two more batches are being manufactured
- Permanent bronze plaques are also in production for those who ordered them
- Columbarium urns have been delivered and are available free of charge for those needing them
- The construction of four granite walls has commenced overseas – each is shipped in one piece and placed directly onto the foundations
- The foundations/footings for the walls will be laid as soon as the rain stops
- We have approved the altar and cross, and manufacturing has commenced
- Offers of donations for the items listed on page 6 of the bulletin are coming in
- Security lighting, CCTV cameras and sound have been or will be installed in the coming weeks
- We have one single niche left in the St Mary MacKillop wall in the parish Garden of Remembrance (not North Sydney)
- **Not so GOOD NEWS**, with the recent rains and the approval delays by Council back in June have delayed the official blessing of our Garden of Remembrance and Columbarium by Bishop Vincent. We have postponed his visit until a time when we are sure all the walls are completed and the gardens are in a reasonable condition.

SUGGESTION BOX RESPONSES

Our suggestion box in the foyer gathers a number of comments and suggestions from parishioners. As most are anonymous we aren't able to respond directly, so in this new column we will endeavour to address many of those contributions.

COELIACS Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion with a gluten low host. Please inform the acolyte before Mass.

Changes to our collection

First Collection will occur after the Homily and which will be brought to the altar during the offertory procession. The **Second Collection** will occur after the offertory and will be brought forward during the Holy, Holy.

Paying our debt together

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

Second Collection – for the parish. This is used to meet our parish running costs of the church and provide for ministry expenses.

ATTENTION ALL WOODWORKERS

There are a number of disused pews and parts of pews available free to anyone who would like reasonably good quality timber to work with. Others may be interested in just taking a pew and refurbishing it for your home.

Please contact John McCartney,
businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

NOVEMBER BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The November Book of Remembrance has again been placed in the sanctuary to enable you to write the names of your departed family and friends. This is more personal than the previous envelope system as you will be able to personally inscribe the names. Please place the envelope with your November mass offering in the Special Needs mailbox at the back of the church (at the sacristy door) – do not leave envelopes with money on the Book of Remembrance table.

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.

FAITH FORMATION

⇒ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

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.

"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"

⇒ **Christian Meditation Group**

Christian Meditation Group held every Monday at 7.30 in the Conference Room for further enquiries call Frances Pegrem on 0417 406715.

⇒ **Praise and Worship**

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

Nov	6	13	20	27	
	Pangilinan R	Cabug-os	Gan	Cano	
Dec	4	11	18	25	
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Richards	Paguinto M	
Jan	1	8	15	22	29
	Shalini	Lequin	Thirimanne	Olan	Sebastian
Feb	5	12	19	26	
	Manoj	Sebastian	Blasonato	Mira	
Mar	5	12	19	26	
	Paguinto R	Jacob	available	available	
Apr	2	9	16	23	30
	available	Olan	Pangilinan E	Sebastian	

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

⇒ **Food Pantry**

Vinnies Stanhope Gardens Conference is starting a **"Non-perishable Food Drive"** to help feed the needy in the community. When we get calls for assistance with food, we help out with a bag of groceries and a food voucher to buy fresh meat etc. At the moment, our cupboard is looking bare for some items and we are asking for help. We believe that if every family was to contribute one item of **non-perishable food a month** our cupboard would never go bare. At present, we need **long life milk, cereal, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, tinned meat and tinned fish**. We will have a labelled plastic bin in the church foyer for your donations. We will advise you every month as to what food item is running low. Thank you very much for all the help you have given our Vinnies Conference so far. God bless you all.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) sessions have started. Sessions are on Wednesdays at 7.00pm during school term. If anybody is interested in getting to know more about the catholic faith, please feel free to join us.

For any queries, please email: rcia.sj23rd@gmail.com or call Parish Office (Tues - Fri) on (02) 9852 0580

We request the Parish community to pray for the enquirers and the RCIA team.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

⇒ **Cake Angels**

Save this date, Sunday 25th November.

Our Cake Angels would like to thank all our parishioners who have supported their cake stalls throughout the year. As a sign of gratitude, they will be treating parishioners to some sumptuous mini cakes on 25th November after the morning masses.

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Antonio Mondass

Deceased:

All in our November Book of Remembrance!

Anniversary:

Nguyen Thi, Virgilio Alarcon, Manuel Alarcon

Sick:

Jaxon Tounour, Ceasar de Jesus, David Lanza, Angie De Lara, Genevieve Goco, Leticia Carpio, Stella Cristobal, Margaret Iringan, Jaroslava Knotek, Roland Sampy, Ronelle, Giuseppe David LoRusso, Sonia Sampaio, John Wormald, Jesse Perrone, Edmond Rizon, Fe Suderio, Ariel Ignacio, Lolita Diaz, Liezl Sultana, Sonia Mikac, Madz Aguas, Patricia Maldonado, Clare Pineda, Inneke Halim

Thanksgiving:

Xavier Gana Sekar Family

Diocesan News

Save the Date – Seminar for Couples Hoping to Conceive

Date: 11 November 2018. Waiting for Gabriel is an information afternoon. You'll hear testimonies & learn about natural options which assist fertility. For more info contact Natural Fertility Services, 0400 427 605

Diocese of Parramatta
catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org

Lawn and Garden Services: Help CatholicCare to Help Disabled Workers

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains (CatholicCare) is the diocesan social services organisation. Our Mamre Garden Services employed disabled people in a lawn and garden service lawns for both residential and commercial clients. The team of workers is supervised by our Garden Crew Supervisor. Each job is quoted separately and you will not be disappointed with the quality of the work. If you're interested in having your lawns and/or gardens serviced by CatholicCare or would like more information, please contact 02 8843 2500 or visit our website www.ccss.org.au

Liturgy Conference 2018

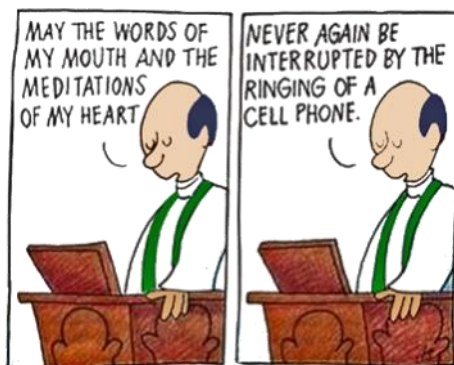
Date: 10 November 2018. Keynote Speaker: Fr Peter Williams Vicar General from the Diocese of Parramatta. Tickets are now on sale. For tickets & a full list of workshops parracatholic.org/liturgyconference2018 Cost \$30 - includes lunch.

Other News

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse

This is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26–31 2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more info visit www.griegtograce.org

Church Funnies



OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ 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

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

HELPERS PARTY

To all parishioners who volunteer their time and effort to make our parish what it is today, we thank you.

Thank you so much for your enthusiasm and dedication in assisting in everything be it as working bees, event helpers, collectors etc.

As a sign of gratitude, we are going to have a Helpers' Christmas Party on the 1st Dec after the vigil mass.

Email invitations have been sent out and if you were missed please let us know.

It is imperative to RSVP for catering purposes. Further details will be communicated via email.

Contacts as follows:

Techie - 0438 201 436

techies@bigpond.com

Nanette - 0404 465 600



Chairman	Members
Bart Sarlabus	Members
Dep Chairman	Bernadette Virwani
Chris Drummond	Gary Lee
Secretary	Julienne Crasto
Nanette Gamboa	Nidarshi Fernando

For more news check out

<https://parracatholic.org/#LATESTNEWSEVENTS>

<https://catholicoutlook.org/>

ST JOHN XXIII GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND COLUMBARIUM

Official Certificates of Purchase are available at the church foyer.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A. Sponsorship and promotional opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for parishioners and suppliers to contribute to the construction of our columbarium, either by way of monetary donations or provision of materials or labour.

Here are a few ideas – the smallest contribution will be gratefully received

1	Sandstone altar	\$ 4 000
2	Cross	\$ 3 000
3	Wooden bench (6)	\$ 300 each
4	Lighting & CCTV	\$ 3 000
5	Plaque – St John XXIII	\$ 500
6	Plaque – St Mary MacKillop	\$ 500
7	Water feature	\$ 900
8	Paving	\$ 5 000
9	Turf	\$ 5 000
10	Landscaping	\$ 5 000
11	Lighting & CCTV	\$ 3 000



Acknowledgement incentive

Items 1 – 3

If you wish, a plaque acknowledging your contribution is included + if you wish, full colour acknowledgment in the parish bulletin for three weeks

Items 4 – 11

If you wish, full colour acknowledgment/ad in the parish bulletin for three weeks

B. Give of your time as a working bee

There will be a number of working bees, not just for the Garden of Remembrance, but the church gardens generally, for example planting a hedge and other shrubs and plants

C. Gardening or Housekeeping

Offer your time to look after a small garden area or to take care of the Garden of Remembrance eg general tidying up

Contact: John McCartney - businessmanager@john23rd.org.au or 0414 909 178

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.**

[CRL \(Community of the Risen Lord\)](#)

When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays
Praise & Worship

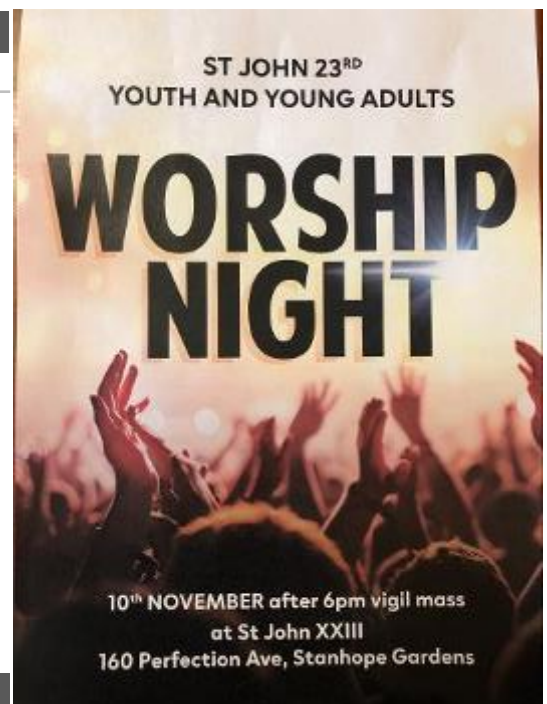
Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

[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

Kids' Corner

Fill in the missing words to complete the story.

love
second
God
answered
yourself
teacher
heart
first
asked
commandment

An expert in the Jewish law _____ Jesus, "_____, what is the most important _____?"



Jesus _____: "Love the Lord your _____ with all your _____, soul and mind." This is the _____ and most important commandment. The _____ is like it: "_____ your neighbor as much as you love _____".



Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbour

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

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