

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you

like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R**.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**.

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R**.



Second Reading Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

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 <u>mmw.facebook.com/john23rdparish</u>



some to the community of the Catholic Parish of St John 22rd Glenwood Stantope Gan where the Sove of Christ is shining in so many ways.

SUGGESTION BOX We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

To the organizers of the Parish Helpers' Christmas Party. It was indeed a successful, fun filled event that we will remember for a long time. Special mention goes to the following: Nanette Gamboa & Lisa Vallejo for the beautiful decorations and photo booth; Alex & Marcus Vallejo for the beautiful music; Rudi Yap, Bernadette Virwani, Julienne Crasto and Melva Paguinto for the dances, raffles and games enjoyed by all, young and old alike; Chris and Stella Drummond Chefs extraordinaire; Mariliza and as Antonette Aguas for the desserts; for all parishioners who made contributions of prizes and food; and last but not least, Fr John and Fr Thomas for hosting and supporting this event. We are truly blessed as a parish to have generous, creative and passionate people like you serving our community.

DEANERY SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

19th December 2018 - 7:30pm

St Michael's Baulkham Hills

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES

24th DECEMBER

Christmas Eve (All Masses in Church) 6.00pm Family Vigil 9.00pm Vigil 12.00 Midnight Mass

25th DECEMBER

Christmas Day 7.30am 9.00am 10.30am NO EVENING MASS



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 <u>brought to the altar</u> <u>during the offertory procession</u>. The Second Collection will occur after the offertory and will be brought <u>forward during the Holy, Holy</u>.

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.

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 NEWS

Parish Pastoral Corner

FAITH FORMATION

\Rightarrow 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"

\Rightarrow Mass of the Rooster (Misa de Gallo)

Join us for the Rooster Masses at St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope Gardens Date: December 16—24, 2018 Time: 6:00am



LITURGY

\Rightarrow Family Christmas Mass

The Family Christmas Mass will be held at 6pm on 24th December in our church. We will include a short play of the Nativity story before the mass commence as we have done in the past.

We are inviting children to take part in the Nativity play to:

- 1. play characters from the Nativity story,
- 2. narrate the Nativity story,
- 3. read during the Mass, or

4. participate in the offertory procession.

Please contact Bob Agbulos on <u>bragbulos@gmail.com</u> for expressions of interest.

\Rightarrow Seeking Audio/Visual Operators

The Liturgy Team is seeking anyone interested in learning to operate the A/V System. We plan to roster one person for each weekend Mass and especially during January, when choirs usually take a break. You will be required to operate slides & play corresponding CD music. Interested? Training will be provided. Call Bob Agbulos on 0422106525 or email bragbulos@gmail.com

<u>RCIA</u>

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program has been going on every Wednesday in our Parish. We are blessed with eight enquirers in this journey into the Catholic faith. They will be presented in the Rite of *Welcome this weekend at the Vigil and 9:00 am mass.Please welcome Danielle Morias, Rita Ly, Robyn Perera, Tracey McClifty, Kumi Molligodde, Les Flood, Vernon Gnanakan and Louise Savio.*

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

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights										
ec	4	11	18	25						
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Richards	Paguinto M						
5	1	8	15	22	29					
n	Shalini	available	Thirimanne	Olan	Sebastian					
eb	5	12	19	26						
	Manoj	Sebastian	Blasonato	Mira						
ar	5	12	19	26						
	Paguinto R	Jacob	Shalini	Reodique						
pr	2	9	16	23	30					
	Lequin	Olan	Pangilinan E	Sebastian	Shalini					
ay	7	14	21	28						
	Drummond	available	Shalini	available						

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

\Rightarrow 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.

⇒ Vinnies 2018 Christmas Hamper 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 neighboring communities who have no conferences of their own, namely, Quakers Hill and Doonside. Whereas last year we were helping 18 families, this year we now have 70 families on our list. Thankfully, the Quakers Hill community is also helping out by contributing some hampers.

Commencing 01 December, you can help by preparing a hamper for one of the families whose profiles can be found on the index cards attached to the bulletin boards in the church foyer. Take the index card with you and place it with the hamper you bring back. Or you can help fill up some hampers by picking some stars from the Christmas tree and purchasing the item indicated.

Please bring back all your donated hampers or individual items (preferably in reusable shopping bags) no later than 16 December. Thank you very much for your kind generosity.

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

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Dianne Hockings, Ida D'Costa, Sankosh Rampersad, Barbara Pitre, Victor Layden

Deceased:

Charles Briffa, Lolita Ludovice, Rebecca Bautista

Anniversary:

Paul Camilleri, Mrs Soja Anthony, Marie Jayawardena, Craig Drummond

Sick:

Names will normally only be published in the bulletin with an individual or family member's permission.

Ronelle, Giuseppe David LoRusso, Sonia Sampaio, John Wormald, Jesse Perrone, Edmond Rizon, Fe Suderio, Ariel Ignacio, Lolita Diaz, Liezl Sultana, Patricia Maldonado, Kayla Tourner, Jose Mari Samson, Clare Pineda, Inneke Halim, Madz Aguas, Sole Espiritu, Sonia Mikac, Connie Facchin, Nalini Dias, Rosanne Castillo

Thanksgiving:

Ronald, Kristine, Maria, Ramon and Vincenzo Zamora



YOUR SOCIAL NETWORKING RECORD IS TERRIBLE ... TWO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO "LIKE JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR" AND REFUSAL TO PROVE YOUR FAITH WITH A SIMPLE "FORWARD TO TEN FRIENDS"

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary
49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Principal: Marina Hardy

^(m) (02) 8664 7100

^(m) bolycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

^(m) (02) 9852 0500

^(m) stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

^(m) (02) 9852 0585

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

Positions Vacant

Chaplaincy Manager - CatholicCare Western Sydney and Blue Mountains More details at *www.ccss.org.au*

Christmas 2018 Mass Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: *www.parracatholic.org*

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Homeless Young Mothers in our Diocese

CatholicCare's Houses to Homes service, supported by Parramatta Catholic Foundation, gives hope, help, compassion, care and shelter to homeless young mums who have nowhere and nobody else to turn to. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will support the shelter, independent living and parenting skills programs that homeless mums desperately need. Please give generously via the appeal envelopes on the pews or online at *yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/ appeal* - thank you.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage: the journey of the Magi

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-forprofit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and join parishioners in daily Mass, Adoration, prayer, catechesis and fellowship.

To register for all or part of the pilgrimage visit *www.epiphanypilgrimage.org* For updates and to follow the journey see *www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage*

14 DEC - Family Christmas celebration in Marsden Park

All Welcome! Join our Catholic Faith community, in conjunction with St Luke's Catholic College, on Friday 14 December 6.00pm - 8.00pm for Christmas Carols and a Nativity play. There will be LIVE animals, BBQ food and drinks available for purchase, and a possible visit from Santa (if he's not too busy!) Entry via Frontier Avenue carpark. For further details email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Diocesan News

16 DEC - Christmas at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook

Music and Readings for Christmas, a major outreach celebration at St Finbar's Catholic Church, Glenbrook, will take place on Sunday 16th December. This includes St Finbar's organ played by Amy Johansen with opening and closing prayers by Father Jolly. Service commences at 7.30pm. 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook. There will be a request for donations (\$15/\$35 Families). For more information please call 02 4758 6067.

17 DEC - Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Concert Tickets via *www.brandenburg.com.au*/ – More details at *https://stpatscathedral.com.au*

Other News

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 2019: Thirsting for Justice A wonderful opportunity for a faith formation experience for parishioners, leaders, teachers, catechists ... all people in ministry and all people who would like to enrich their faith! Join this pilgrimage group to attend the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 18-30 March 2019. Cost of pilgrimage \$4350 for 12 days with some additional expenses. Please contact Lisa Bright on 9622 1125 orlbright@mqofblacktown.org.au for an information pack.

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@grieftograceaus.org.au* or phone 0478 599241. For more information visit *wnw.grieftograce.org*



For more news check out https://parracatholic.org/#LATESTNEWSEVENTS https://catholicoutlook.org/

ST JOHN XXIII

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND COLUMBARIUM

UPDATE

- The first two walls (St John XXIII and St Mary MacKillop), the altar and the cross are up.
- The next two walls (St Matthew and St Mark) will be completed by the end of November.

With the first two walls sold out, we now invite expressions of interest in the St Matthew and St Mark walls.

The cost of niches (incl GST) is:

- 2500 for the 1st niche
- $2\ 000$ for a 2nd niche
- \$1 800 for 3rd and subsequent niches
- \$1 500 for 5 niches or more

Please email your interest, with your name and the number of niches to *businessmanager@john23rd.org.au*. This is not a commitment, merely an expression of interest. We will hold a formal sales weekend at all masses in the near future.

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.

Thank you to all our generous individuals and families who have sponsored items in the Garden of Remembrance We will formally acknowledge your contributions soon.

Acknowledgement incentive

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

received	l		
1	Sandstone altar	\$ 4 000	Items 1 – 2
2	Cross	\$ 3 000	If you wish, a plaque acknowledging your
3	Lighting & CCTV	\$ 3 000	contribution is included + if you wish, full colour acknowledgment in the parish
4	Plaque – St Mark	\$ 500	bulletin for three weeks
5	Paving	\$ 5 000	Items 3 - 7
6	Turf	\$ 5 000	If you wish, full colour acknowledgment/ad
7	Landscaping	\$ 5 000	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

"I can do all things through Christ u	Youth Ministry	
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 teem. 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 	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 <u>youth@jobn23rd.com.au</u> .
🖾 For all youth ministry enquirie		

Kids' Corner

Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus



	Make a straight path for the Lord																
W	E	Ι	У	Ι	Р	N	С	C	N	Н	Т	U	U	Р	В	W	Х
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	Ζ	0	Н	Κ	R	У	X	S	A	F	Н	Т	J	0	0	Р	D
С	Μ	V	В	Κ	Р	Р	Μ	V	I	U	R	Q	J	F	Μ	E	Q
H	Crooked					desert emperor				forgiven mountain				prophet			

Crooked forgiven desert emperor mountain Ready shouting road rough sins

valley

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

