



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>



**Fourth Sunday
of ordinary time
3 February 2019**

From the Pastor's desk

Nazara was a village of 300-400 people and it had a small town mentality. The inhabitants were enraged when Jesus found good precedent for extending his saving mission to foreigners outside the community of the Chosen People. Jesus embodied the boundary-breaking nature of God's grace.

Many Christians recite the old formula: 'No salvation outside the Church.' But we Catholics believe that, by responding to God's (often anonymous) grace, a person can lead a good life which prepares them for heavenly glory.

This means that the billions around the world who will never hear the Gospel, or who hear it distorted through the megaphone of an alien culture, can be saved. There is no limit/boundary to the Merciful God's finding a way into the hearts of all human beings.

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for our graced privilege of being members of the Church, nourished within it by the Sacraments and the Gospel, but whose boundaries can never circumscribe the mercy of God.

© Fr Michael Tate

1. Fr Thomas is on holidays for two weeks. We wish him a restful time.
2. While Fr Thomas is away there will be a Liturgy of the Word:

Mon 4, Tues 5, Wed 6
Mon 11, Tues 12, Wed 15
Mon 18, Tues 19

The Tuesday evening Mass and Novena will be as normal.

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/Prayer Group

2nd Sat 7:30pm led by CRL
(Community of the Risen Lord)
3rd Sat 7:30pm led by SJ23rd Prayer Group
Mon 7:30pm Christian Meditation Group in Parish Office Conference Room led by Frances Pegrem (0417 406715).
Fri 6:30pm led by Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group in the Parish Office Conference Room

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."



FEB		THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
Mon	4	9.00am - Mass 10.00am - Plenary 2020 Discussion Meetings 7.30pm - Christian Meditation in Parish Office Conference Room
Tue	5	9.00am - Mass 7.30pm - Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help 8.00pm - Parish Finance Committee
Wed	6	9.00am - Mass 7.00pm - RCIA session 7.30pm - Parish Pastoral Council
Thu	7	9.00am - Mass 7.30pm - Plenary 2020 Discussion Meetings
Fri	8	9.00am - Mass 6.30pm - CCC Prayer Group - Parish Office Conference Room
Sat	9	9.00am - Mass
Sun	10	12pm - Baptism - Please pray for Jaylan, Elvana, Nathanael, William & Sebastian

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you - it is the Lord who speaks.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17

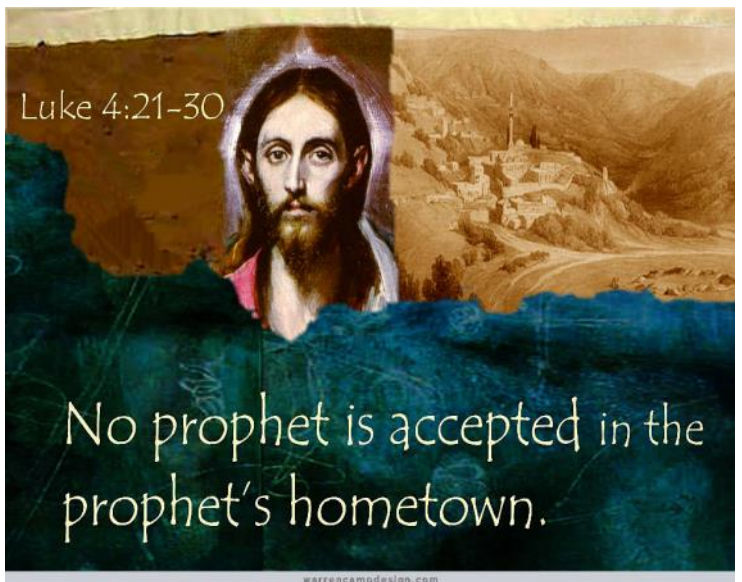
R. I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. in your justice rescue me, free me: pay heed to me and save me. **R.**

Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me; for you are my rock, my stronghold. Free me from the hand of the wicked. **R.**

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, since my youth. On you I have leaned from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my help. **R.**

My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of your help. O God, you have taught me from my youth and I proclaim your wonders still. **R.**



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13

There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge - for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!



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 Stanhope Gardens
where the love of Christ is shining in so many ways.

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments
and constructive suggestions.

Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the Jews.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to the widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

PARISH NEWS

WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

Ethan Zammit for manning the audio/video, providing us with the music while our choir groups are on holidays.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Four more walls now approved

With the St John XXIII and St Mary MacKillop walls sold out, the next four walls are now available for purchase. Yes, the next FOUR walls – Sts Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. St Matthew and St Mark will be completed mid-December and St Luke and St John will be completed in February next year.

Cost for 2019 are as follow:

1st niche 2,750

2nd niche 2,200

3rd & subsequent niches 1,980

We will have a sales weekend at all masses early in the new year but, in the meantime, register your interest with your name and number of niches, via email to businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

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.

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**

"Mary joins us, she fights at our side. She supports Christians in the fight against the forces of evil. Especially through prayer, through the Rosary. Hear me out, the Rosary. ... Do you pray the Rosary each day?" Pope Francis

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.

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

Feb	5	12	19	26	
	Manoj	Sebastian	Blasonato	Sebastian	
Mar	5	12	19	26	
	Paguinto R	Jacob	Shalini	Reodique	
Apr	2	9	16	23	30
	Lequin	Olan	Pangilinan E	Sebastian	Shalini
May	7	14	21	28	
	Drummond	Viola	Shalini	Sebastian	
Jun	4	11	18	25	
	Erasmo	available	available	available	

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).

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 RCIA session resumes on January 30, Wednesday 7pm.

We welcome Sezen, Taylor and Chris. They will join Tracey, Robyn, Danielle and Rita in the journey of knowing and understanding the aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices.

Please pray for our RCIA team and the prospective converts.



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

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:

Marita Agudo, Apolinario Tablan,
Charles Mifsud, Sulaiman Halim

Deceased:

Anniversary:

Domina Fernandes, Kristian Anthony
Cala

Sick:

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

Virginia Santos

Thanksgiving:

Elaine & Audley De Cruz,
Guy Falzon, Emmanuel Francica

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

Diocesan News

Position Vacant

Head of Social Services Operations –
CatholicCare Social Services

More details at www.ccss.org.au

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

Enrolments close 4th February 2019 or until booked out. The Office For Worship is taking enrolments for the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for those who are interested in being Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Bringing Communion to the Sick and Dying, Senior Servers and Acolytes. Our Courses are offered at two locations: Institute for Mission, Blacktown and St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith. Please see your Parish office for an enrolment form or for more information contact ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org or 8838-3456.

IFM Reflective Ministry Program

Are you serving in and through Catholic communities? The Reflective Ministry program offered by the Institute for Mission is a great opportunity to learn and explore ideas of pastoral theology to benefit you and those you serve - and it's now open for registration.

Visit www.ifm.org.au/reflectiveministry for more information and to register online or call 9296 6369 to talk to our friendly team.

10 February - St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains

We will be celebrating a special Mass on Sunday 10 February in Spanish. The Mass will take place at St Canice's Church, Katoomba at 12.00 pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

15-17 February - Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Parramatta is holding a "Restoring Reverence" event. From Friday 15 – Sunday 17 February at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. Further information can be obtained on 0404 093 118 or 0425 607 227. Entry by donation, Children's Ministry available, coffee and tea provided, BYO lunch.

22 February - Ordination to the Diaconate

Most Rev Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, will be the principal celebrant for the Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate of Roque Dias, John Cinya, Thong Nguyen and Roderick Pirotta on Friday 22 February at 7.00pm. The ordination will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Refreshments to follow.

Other News

Walk the Camino Portugués

Walk the Camino Portugués. Catholic Mission are holding 17-day Pilgrimages: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues>

NAPPA Conference 2019

The NAPPA Conference will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2019. You can register via this link:

www.nappa2019.wixsite.com/conference or contact Tanya Quinn on 02 8838 3441.

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 or lbright@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@griegtograces.org.au or phone 0478 599241. For more information visit www.griegtograces.org

For more news check out

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

<https://catholicoutlook.org/>

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Pope Francis has spoken of the need to engage in the world and respond in faith. He said:

"The defining aspect of this change of epoch is that things are no longer in their place. Our previous ways of explaining the world and relationships, good and bad, no longer appears to work. The way in which we locate ourselves in history has changed. Things we thought would never happen, or that we never thought we would see, we are experiencing now, and we dare not even imagine the future. That which appeared normal to us – family, the Church, society and the world – will probably no longer seem that way. We cannot simply wait for what we are experiencing to pass, under the illusion that things will return to being how they were before."

The journey toward the Plenary Council will help us to prepare to listen to God by listening to one another. We invite all people to engage, to be a part of the listening and dialogue encounter in the next two years.

WHAT IS A PLENARY COUNCIL

A Plenary Council is the highest formal gathering of all local churches in a country. Our Plenary Council 2020 is being held so that we can dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Plenary Council will be held in two sessions. The first will be held in late 2020 (possibly October) and the second session will be held in mid-2021 (possibly in May).

Plenary 2020 Discussion Meetings

All meetings are in the parish kitchen unless otherwise advised

	Monday (10 to 11.00am)	Thursday (7.30pm to 9pm)	Sunday (11.30am to 12.30pm)
Feb			3/2 –
	4/2 -	7/2 -	10/2 -
	11/2 -	14/2	17/2
	18/2	21/2 -	24/2
	25/2	28/2	
Mar			3/3
	4/3		

**WATCH
PRAY
HAVE YOUR SAY -
Respond Online**



Plenary Council 2020

Everyone is welcome to attend and share your voice

Time is running out for Plenary Council 2020

Submissions to Plenary Council 2020 close on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

YOUR voice matters! Make a personal submission now or join a small group. Our question is for everyone: "What you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" To make a submission or to find out more visit

<https://parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/>

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

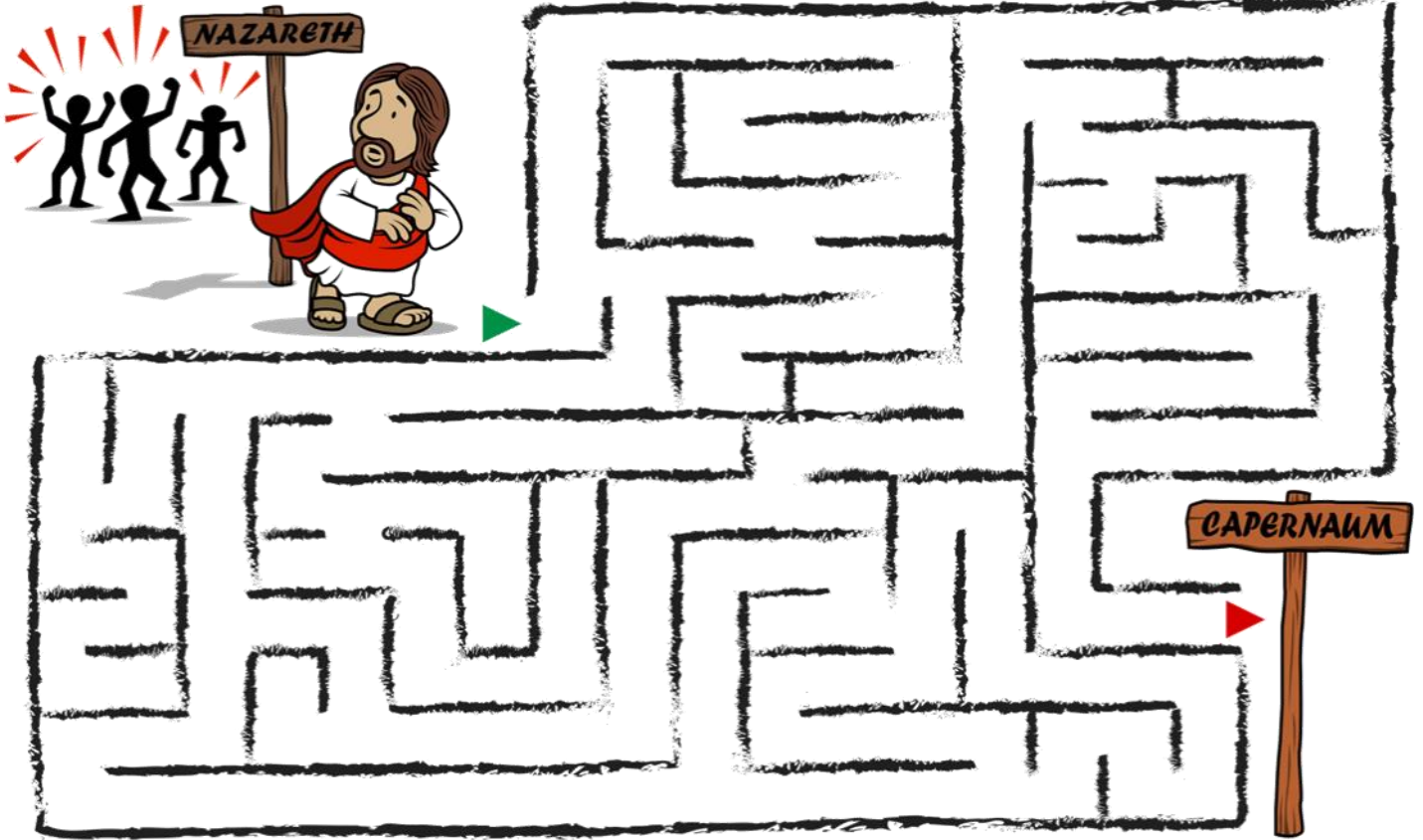
Youth Ministry

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

Help Jesus travel to Capernaum after being chased from his home from town of Nazareth.



No prophets are liked by the people in their own town

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

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crowd
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doctor
threw

dragged
wonderful

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